MISSOULA NEIGHBORHOODS

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WWW.MISSOULA-NEIGHBORHOODS.ORG
1972 Montana Constitutional Convention

- 100 delegates elected
- Varied backgrounds
- 24 lawyers, 19 farmers, 14 educators, 11 housewives, 5 ministers, 1 FBI agent, 1 beekeeper
- 19 women—most to ever sit in a state constitutional convention; ages 24-73
Women of the Convention
Themes of the Convention

- Improve education
- Protect the environment
- Guarantee equal rights to all
- Ensure a strong responsive government
- Guarantee the public’s right to know and be involved in government
- Extend home rule (increased self-government for cities and counties)
Primary election-local government review?
If yes-candidates run in November election for member commission
1994 began studying
June 4, 1996 approved City Charter
- Missoula self governing with a charter
- Neighborhood Council system as part of City government
- City elections nonpartisan
Neighborhood Council System
Neighborhood Councils

- Leadership team—5 to 7 members elected (one CF member)
- Meet yearly minimum
- Budget-$800 plus mailing supplement
- Elected officials—open meeting and public participation laws
Neighborhood Councils

Purpose:
- Strengthen neighborhood participation
- Advise City Council and the Mayor
- Provide a structure for increased participation
- Build cooperation
- Improve communications
Community Forum

Purpose of CF:
- Forum for NCs to come together—1 rep each NC
- Share information
- Make recommendations on city-wide issues

NCs and CF and the City shall work together in partnership, bridging the gap between citizens and government
Office of Neighborhoods

- Outstanding Neighborhood Volunteer
  - Dave Chrisman—individual
  - Thoughtful Neighbors aka Ice Cream Socialists—group

- Candidates’ Forums

- Training

- Weekly digest
Annual Bus Tour
Neighborhood Project Funds

- Expanding Neighborhood Toolbox at Free Cycles
- Traffic Signal Box Artwork
- Play it Missoula! Piano Project
- Playgrounds
- Pocket Parks/Trees
- Art Park Water Station
- Murals
- Trails
- Improved Amenities for Bus Riders
Adopt a Traffic Circle Program
Some added benefits

- Citizens work together on neighborhood issues and projects and get to know each other
- Effect change in neighborhoods
- Exposure to diverse views and expertise
- Citizens learn leadership
- Increased volunteerism
- Increased awareness of community/government
- Many have gone on to be elected officials
Questions?