

Farviews – Pattee Canyon Neighborhood Council

Social and Neighborhood Council General Meeting

Thursday, July 7, 2016, 6:00pm

Whitaker Park

Minutes

1. The meeting was preceded by a social that began at approximately 6:00 PM. Brats, Hotdogs, Chips/Salsa, and Ice Cream were provided by the Farviews – Pattee Canyon Neighborhood Council, Pattee Creek Market, and the Office of Neighborhoods. Approximately 120 individuals were served.
2. During the social and meeting the entrance to the Forest Service Building was open for observation of the interior.
3. The neighborhood council meeting began at 6:30 PM with the introduction of the leadership team (Ray Aten, Mary Marry, John O'Connor, Bobbie Prange), Ward 4 City Council representative John DiBari, and Office of Neighborhood staff, Jane Kelly. Leadership team members, Gary and Mary Barnett, and City Council representative Jon Wilkins were unable to attend.
4. John O'Connor gave a brief review of the process that resulted in the new playground for Whitaker Park and introduced John DiBari who officially opened the playground by cutting a ribbon.
5. Ray Aten provided a brief review of the Lewis and Clark School PTA's request to Missoula County Public School's administration to provide a Crossing Guard at SW Higgins and Agnes Ave or Sentinel St. A motion was made, and seconded, that the Farviews – Pattee Neighborhood Council prepare a letter supporting the crossing guard request and present it to MCPS administration. The vote for the motion was unanimous.
6. John O'Connor provided a history of the Whitaker Park Forest Service building, an overview of its present condition, and several options to be considered for its future. John then led a discussion. Observations and questions included: Could the building be moved to Fort Missoula historical area or traded? How much would it cost to bring the plumbing and electricity in the building back into service? How much are the lead, asbestos, etc mitigation costs? Could a grant fund the determination of the costs? If a shelter replaces the building could some historical structures and interpretative materials be part of the shelter? What kind of financing is available for renovations? What is the process for determining whether the building could be demolished? (The building is not recognized by the federal government as a historical building but is by the state.)

John O'Connor proposed the formation of a Whitaker Forest Service Building committee to address the issues and to develop a proposal to be presented at the next Farviews – Pattee Canyon neighborhood council meeting. Attendees Rob Decker, Barb Seekins, and Celeste River offered to join John O'Connor on the committee.

7. Ray Aten led a discussion of a proposal by Beau Larkin, 115 Takima Dr, that a roundabout be installed at the intersection of SW Higgins and Pattee Creek/Pattee Canyon. There were many and varied views expressed (No roundabout, Expensive, More Lighting instead, Traffic signal instead (the electrical support may already be in place), a roundabout will increase traffic speeds on Takima).

Due to the difficulties the attendees were having with hearing all the comments Ray Aten proposed that the discussion be tabled until the next neighborhood council meeting. The proposal was accepted.

8. John DiBari discussed what the pressing issues were for City Council and encouraged all to get involved in the budget deliberations.
9. Public Comment: Celeste River requested that there be a discussion about the Gateway Park (the area including the holding pond at the corner of Higgins and Pattee Canyon Drive) at the next neighborhood council meeting.
10. Announcements: Jane Kelly noted that Neighborhood Project Grant application process for the fiscal year has begun and will commence with a workshop for applicants.
11. Adjournment: approximately 7:30 PM.

Submitted by: Ray Aten