

Lower Rattlesnake Neighborhood Council General Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2017

Time: 6:00 pm-8:30 pm

Location: Missoula International School

**1100 Harrison St
Missoula, MT 59802**

Leadership Team Members Present: Bob Giordano, Peter Lesica, Katherine Auge, Kathy Tonnessen, Paul Hendricks

Others Present: Jane Kelly, Office of Neighborhoods; Karen Gasvoda, Neighborhood Office Assistant; Bryan von Lossberg and Heidi West, City Council Ward 1, about 70 residents of the Lower Rattlesnake Neighborhood; presenters indicated below.

6:00-6:20 Pizza and Welcome. Jane Kelly did an overview of the history of Neighborhoods in Missoula, and handed out copies of the City Charter.

6:20-6:30 Election of Leadership Team for Lower Rattlesnake Neighborhood for 2-year Terms. Jane Kelly announced the slate of candidates, who were then approved by the Neighborhood Council. Reelected were Bob Giordano, Peter Lesica, Katherine Auge, Kathy Tonnessen, Paul Hendricks. Two new members were elected by a unanimous vote: Danni Moore and Neil Michelson.

6:30-6:45 Greenough Park and Mount Jumbo updates. Morgan Valliant, Conservation Lands Manager for the City of Missoula, did an update on the 4200 acres of Open Space lands in Missoula. Activities include a winter program to estimate elk populations on Mount Jumbo (elk-spotters), an inventory of trails on the conservation lands, work on revegetation and weed control in open space and a project using vegetation exclosures to determine the browsing pressure by deer on open space. Domestic sheep will not be grazing the southern portion of Mount Jumbo in 2017.

6:45-7:00 Update of Van Buren Phase III. Doug Harby, Missoula City Engineer, discussed the project to improve bike lanes, parking and sidewalks on the stretch of Van Buren between Cherry St. and Missoula Ave. This work will probably be done in 2018, and will require a shutdown of Van Buren during some parts of the project.

7:00-7:20 Van Buren Roundabout Update. Ivan Ulberg, Missoula Department of Transportation, Helena described the design and schedule of the "double dog-bone" roundabouts that are going in along Van Buren,

between Broadway and Vine Street. Contracts should be let this winter, with construction to begin in 2018. Lots of design features were included based on requests by Missoula residents, including sidewalks on both the east and west sides of the project area.

7:20-7:40 Sound Wall. David Selvage, Missoula Parks and Recreation, described the design and maintenance of the sound wall to be installed on the north side of I-90 to attenuate noise from the freeway. Shane Stack, Montana Department of Transportation, assisted with questions from residents about the design and construction of the wall. Stack stated that MDT did conduct a study that determined the noise wall was justified.

7:40-7:45 Update on Madison Street Bridge. Shane Stack, Montana Department of Transportation, gave an update on the schedule of the rehabilitation of the Madison Street Bridge, across the Clark Fork. The contractor, Frontier West Construction, is completing work on the northbound lanes of the bridge. In May they will start work on the southbound lanes, which will require that the pedestrian/bike "underbridge" be closed until August.

7:45-8:00 Update on Transportation Subcommittee. Bob Giordano, Lower Rattlesnake Leadership Team, and chair of the Upper and Lower Rattlesnake Transportation Subcommittee, discussed the work of the committee, and gave out a list of transportation issues that the group is tackling. The next meeting of the group is on May 9, 2017, 5:30-7:00 pm at Rattlesnake Market and Café. Agenda and minutes of their meetings can be found at <http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/Archive.aspx?AMID=119>

8:00-8:10 Conversation about the future of Prescott School building. Bob Giordano opened the discussion of ideas for the use of the Prescott School, once the Missoula International School moves to a new location in the Riverfront Neighborhood. Mark Thane, Superintendent of the Missoula County Public Schools, provided some information, but was at the meeting to hear residents' suggestions. Some neighbors would like to see this property converted into a mixed-use community center, while others would like to see the building continue being used as a school.

8:10-8:20 Q&A with City Council members. Bryan von Lossberg and Heidi West, City Council Ward 1, took questions from the residents. Topics included: deer control, sidewalk construction, and transportation issues associated with Van Buren construction projects.

8:20-8:30 Public Comment on non-agenda items. Representatives from the Upper Rattlesnake Neighborhood Council invited the Lower Rattlesnake residents to their General meeting, April 30, 2017, 6:30 pm at Messiah Lutheran Church.