

Joint Moose Can Gully / South 39th St. Neighborhood Council

General Meeting Notes

Date: June 27, 2018

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Playfair Park Picnic Shelter at 3001 Bancroft Missoula, MT

Approximately 55 people in attendance

Start: 6:00pm End: 8:10 pm

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- 1) Welcome and Food – Meeting Moderator, Paul Kilzer of South 39th Street Neighborhood Council
- 2) History of Neighborhood Councils – Jane Kelly, Neighborhood Coordinator
 - a. 1972 Constitutional Convention for the State of Montana. There were over 100 people to create the constitution.
 - b. All 100 signed the Montana Constitution.
 - c. One of the big goals is Transparency with Government and more control to the citizens.
 - d. There were three important topics, and the third important topic formed by this group was neighborhood councils.
 - e. There are 20 neighborhood councils in Missoula, where the neighborhoods exchange ideas and advise the city government.
 - f. There are neighborhood priorities in the back. Please vote on the topics that you want covered. City council and the mayor get these items. The council will also work to address these issues.
- 3) Neighborhood Watch – Susan Reneau, board member
 - a. You can be a member, and there is not a lot of work.
 - b. There is no patrolling or police work, but the neighbors are keeping an eye out for anything suspicious
 - c. \$2 per family per year to be a part of the neighborhood watch, signs are \$18
 - d. Neighborhood watch sheet handed out
 - e. Meet once every 3 months; next meeting is in mid-September
- 4) Smart 911 – Nick Holloway, OEM Projects Coordinator
 - a. Works in the Office of Emergency Management (OEM)
 - b. Flyers provided to anyone who would like one
 - c. FEMA created a plan for preparedness: talk and plan for emergencies, know the threats and emergencies for your area, have a go kit, get involved and help.
 - d. Sign up at missoulacounty.us; there is a whole page on being prepared.
 - e. SMART 911 – This is a way to start your emergency plan.
 - f. There are three important components:
 - i. Creating a Safety profile: allergies, medications, where the utility shut offs are located, pictures of your family members, if there are animals in the home, what you want the responders to know about you. These items will pop up to the responders in route.
 - ii. Smart Prepared: Share your information with the Office of Emergency Management; this allows OEM to search the system for people who have special needs for evacuations. The system also allows OEM to look for people who need medical devices and when power is out for long periods of time.
 - iii. Emergency Alerts: Alerts for missing children, armed suspects. These alerts are significant and timely.

- g. SMART 911 is portable. If you move, it goes with you as you are traveling or if you move. You need to update every 6 months to stay active. SMART 911 will never ask for any financial information. SMART 911 is paid through taxes and grants. It is a tool to help your family in an emergency.
- 5) Missoula Water – Dennis Bowman, Superintendent
 - a. Goal of tonight is to fill you in on the transition
 - b. Missoula took over the water system on June 23, 2017.
 - c. Overall the financial situation was an issue when Missoula took over.
 - d. Another issue was the billing system. It took a lot of time to get the information for billing. On August 28th, Missoula Water received data for all billing issues.
 - e. Missoula Water is doing a variety of things to the system
 - i. Fixed booster pumps on the hills, replaced them
 - ii. Replaced wells
 - iii. Upgrading wells on South Ave, wanting them to be more efficient
 - iv. Rebuilt and maintained the generators
 - v. There are also water main projects that will be occurring in 8 different locations and 8 new hydrants.
 - vi. There is a 1914 main that runs near Scott Street. There will be a new main to create more efficient water lines through this area and avoid the 1914 main.
 - f. Overall, Missoula Water has spent \$14.1 million on payroll, fixing issues, capital improvements, and billing.
 - g. Missoula Water has not raised rates. The rate has stayed low since 2016.
 - h. Missoula Water is trying to hold rates for 3 years, but wants to maintain and fix systems.
 - i. Between the mains and customer service lines, which the City doesn't own, the system is leaking almost 40% of water.
 - j. Budget for fixing is \$16.2 million, and we are under that value.
 - k. Question: Do they inspect the tanks in the South Hills? What precautionary measures are being done?
 - i. Need new piping, looking at what type of maintenance needs to be completed, sent yearly.
Mowing is continually being done, trying to keep up with overall maintenance. Tank inspections are done with divers.
 - l. Question: What about the noisy generators?
 - i. Missoula Water is recognizing the issues and trying to get more efficient generators
- 6) Trees: Cutting, planting and tree report – Chris Boza, Missoula Urban Forester
 - a. Chris is responsible for all of the Missoula trees. There are over 30,000 trees in Missoula.
 - b. There are 3-4 thousand that need to be assessed; urban forest will be about \$120 million.
 - c. Urban Forestry staff maintains trails, about 49 miles of greenways, irrigation ditches, and bridges.
 - d. Some projects Missoula Urban Forestry staff are working on:
 - i. Pruning trees on Brooks from Mount to Higgins
 - ii. Looking at different types of planting programs for old and new neighborhoods
 - e. Middle 11 neighborhoods are missing urban forest canopy, which would reduce the heat island effect. There is a plan to increase foliage in the area.
 - f. Janet worked on planting plans for Moose Can Gully and has a list of plants for the neighborhood.
 - g. Question: What about eco-compost? Are the trees being used for anything?
 - i. When we chip up our materials, we take the compost to Missoula City Compost. They mix the sludge with compost.
 - ii. Trees in the back are there for wastewater mitigation program. This happens to decrease wastewater going into the river.
 - h. Question: How do you choose vegetation for the area?
 - i. We look at the water levels, vegetation for the area amongst other things.
- 7) Russell Street Project – Katie Klietz, Big Sky Public Relations Account Executive

- a. Hired by Montana Department of Transportation
- b. Provided magnets and fliers with contact information to stay current on projects
- c. Goal is to complete the Russell Street Project in about 1 ½ years from now. There will be bike lanes, crosswalks, turn lanes, and four lanes, while also working on new walking trails, creating underpass for bikes and walkers.
- d. There are no complete closures planned.
- e. Bridge work will start in two weeks.
- f. Currently working on the east side. Plan is to have the east side open this winter.
- g. Question: How much is this costing and who is paying for it?
 - i. About \$20 million and is a federal gas tax, 83%, and other groups will help pay for this project.

8) Hillview Crossing Townhome Exemption Development – Paul Forsting, Territorial Landworks, Land Use and Environmental Planner

- a. Here to discuss the development we are planning called the South Hill Crossing.
- b. The proposed development consists of 68 dwelling units in 34 duplex type buildings. Current zoning allows 3-11 units per acre; we are at 3 units per acre.
- c. There is a public process and you can contact the city, planning office. We work to meet the city standards, engineers, parks, fire department.
- d. Below the Tonka Trail, there will be public access. Trails will be made, and the old start into Tonka Trail will be reconfigured.
- e. Question: What will the units sell for?
 - i. Would love to sell for less than \$300,000, but with construction costs, the houses will more likely be sold for more than \$400,000.
- f. Question: What is the plan for sewer?
 - i. Plan is to connect with the gravity flow sewer in the south east corner.
- g. Question: Where will the cars park?
 - i. Four spaces per house, two car garages and one side of the street parking.
 - ii. Statement from Public: One attendee commented that it looks like too many homes and too few parking spaces.
- h. Statement from Public: Dumping more homes into an already crowded area is not a good idea.
- i. Question: That is a pretty steep hill. What about storm water coming down the hill?
 - i. Storm water will go into a controlled area, the cities storm water collection system.

9) Update on Bancroft Ponds Steering Committee – Collen Biehl

- a. Here to discuss what is happening in their neighborhood. Creating a steering committee for the Bancroft Pond and a drainage field from Pattee Creek and South Hills area. Plan to revamp the park to a natural habitat. There will be no playground equipment, but there will be an outside style classroom.
- b. We want it to be a special place for people with disabilities and kids.
- c. Grant to sign the area, dog poop bags, and stones will be put in.
- d. We are working in collaboration with the Missoula Parks and Recreation, school district, and coalition.
- e. Question: Where is it located?
 - i. Behind Pattee Creek Market, six blocks from Splash Montana

10) Election of Leadership Team members – Jane Kelly

- a. We need more people on the Leadership Teams. Would anyone like to join?
 - i. Randy Rasmussen would like to join South 39th.
 - ii. Carol Garlington, Betsy Weber, and Jennifer Stephens would like to join Moose Can Gully.
- b. Jeff Stevens has motioned to accept and vote on the nominees; Anna Klene seconded the motion. The votes were all in favor, with no dissenting votes.

11) Q & A with City Council – Stacy Anderson

- a. Here to discuss what she is doing with the City Council.

- b. Right now, we are in the middle of a budget cycle and will wait for department of revenue. While waiting for the finances, we are listening to requests and will be finalizing items in August when the department of revenue provides it.
 - i. One request: Police Department asked for 3 new officers, added new people to the downtown areas, but not increased overall
- c. Budget meetings are open to the public and recorded online. Please take a look or come to a meeting.
- d. Question: Who is picking up the taxes for city water? What about the legal fees? Taxes loss due to city owning the water system now?
 - i. I do not know the answer to this and will get more information about it.
- e. Another item I am working on is renegotiating with Charter and Spectrum. Pay a small fee, fee goes to general fund and public access (MCAT).
- f. The last big item I am working on is human trafficking. It is happening here in Missoula. Working on prevention and education.
 - i. Guy Baker is the task force leader for Missoula and a larger area.
- g. Question: Is it true that the city attorney's office wants to hire two more people?
 - i. This is a wish list item.
 - ii. Statement from the Public: I am not in support of this move.
- h. Question: How many police officers are there?
 - i. More than 100. With a population of 73,000, Missoula Police struggle to keep 5 on duty per shift, with 3 shifts a day. We should fund public safety.

12) Neighborhood Priorities – Jane Kelly

- a. Attendees were invited to add to a list of problems and concerns and to use adhesive stickers to vote for their priorities on this list. The results will be sent out to Moose Can Gully and South 39th Neighborhood Councils. The groups will work on these issues over the next year.
 - Street maintenance
 - Homelessness/transients
 - Weeds
 - Urban deer
 - Recycling
 - Animal waste in parks
 - Parks and open space
 - Bike trails

13) Public comment on non-agenda items

- a. One attendee commented that traffic is a problem, particularly on Reserve Street.

14) Announcements:

- a. None