

# Upper Rattlesnake Neighborhood General Meeting Minutes

Sunday, January 29, 2023

6:00 pm

Rattlesnake Elementary School, 1220 Pineview, Old Gym

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Upper Rattlesnake Leadership Team Members present: Bill Ruediger (Co-Chair), Terri Roach (Co-Chair), Bev Young, Andrea Stierle, Kathy Gaskill (Secretary)

Missoula Neighborhood Office Staff present: Kelly Elam and Kalina Pritchard

An estimated 61 people were in attendance.

The meeting was opened by Bill Ruediger and the following topics were covered.

1. Brook Bauer from the Watershed Education Network (WEN) presented various programs WEN offers including Citizen Science participation in monitoring watershed health and recreation use of the Rattlesnake Recreation Area: youth and school programs that teach about watershed and riparian health and backyard citizen scientists who do independent monitoring and report observations.
2. Jamie Jonkel, FWP Wildlife Management Specialist, spoke about the challenges of managing bears and mountain lions in the Upper Rattlesnake. Missoula's current Bear Management Plan, among other things, encourages use of bear resistant trash containers and putting the container out the night before or morning of trash collection. Jonkel also mentioned that due to the high deer population in the Rattlesnake mountain lions have been making kills.
3. Ladd Knotek of FWP provided information on the health of fish populations in Rattlesnake Creek and the effects of the dam removal. Benefits resulting from the dam removal include enhancing connectivity for fish populations and improving fish habitat. He also addressed the ongoing study of the seven lakes and dams in the Rattlesnake Wilderness area that previously provided water to Missoula residents. The earthen dams are deteriorating so consideration is being given to repairing or decommissioning some or all of them.
4. Dan Doyle gave an update on the work of the Rattlesnake Transportation Committee that works on safety issues for all modes of transportation. They updated the Rattlesnake Transportation Plan in 2022, reflecting changes in use and volume since the last plan was adopted over ten years ago. The committee's website is [www.rattlesnaketransportation.org](http://www.rattlesnaketransportation.org). An upcoming project under consideration by Missoula County is rehabilitation of the Lolo Street Bridge.
5. Bill Ruediger gave an update on the Barrow Pit Trail Project. The scope of the project is to make the trail safer and more user friendly by widening, leveling, and putting down gravel. The estimate for the cost of gravel is \$7,500. Bill has been circulating a petition to exhibit resident's support of the project as well as working to get support from Heidi West and Jennifer Savage, Upper Rattlesnake City Council representatives.

6. Elections were held to replace several Leadership Team members who have termed out. Jeani Alonzo-Adams and Kevin Hunt were elected as new members. Terri Roach, Andrea Stierle and Kathy Gaskill were re-elected to another term.
7. Based on a request from the City, the Bylaws governing the Upper Rattlesnake Neighborhood Council were revised. The changes made were read. A vote was taken to accept the changes and unanimously approved. These amended bylaws will be forwarded to City Council for acceptance assuming there are no further comments after the required 2 weeks posting at the Missoula Neighborhoods website.
8. Upper Rattlesnake City Council representative Heidi West came to answer resident's questions and concerns, Jennifer Savage was unable to attend. Concerns raised regarded the city's plan for future housing density and whether it would be possible to put up a light on Van Buren and Duncan Dr. to alert travelers when a train is on the crossing on Duncan Dr. Heidi said the housing density issue is an ongoing discussion. Heidi also mentioned the City is in the process of adopting a bear plan and revising electric fence guidelines. She said there are not any major projects forthcoming in the Upper Rattlesnake.
9. Public Comments addressed whether there was a plan to build a road across Creek Crossing in case of an emergency evacuation and if it would be possible to get enhanced bus service on the west (Duncan) side of the Upper Rattlesnake. A road across Creek Crossing would need to be addressed to the City of Missoula. Dan recommended the bus service request be presented to Mountain Line Transit Service.

After conclusion of public comment Bill motioned the meeting be adjourned.

## **RATTLESNAKE TRANSPORTATION RESOURCES AND INFORMATION**

### **CITY OF MISSOULA**

Phone: 406-552-6000, TTY: 406-552-6131

Official website: [www.ci.missoula.mt.us](http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us)

To report a concern, go to the top of the web page and click the tab marked "HOW DO I?"

Look for the section titled "Report a Concern"

- abandoned vehicles
- bike lane hazards
- vandalism on a trail or at a park
- potholes
- traffic safety concerns
- sidewalk snow/ice
- street tree debris

**Missoula Office of Neighborhoods:** [www.ci.missoula.mt.us/298/Neighborhoods](http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/298/Neighborhoods)

**Kalina Pritchard**, Neighborhood Specialist ([pritchardk@ci.missoula.mt.us](mailto:pritchardk@ci.missoula.mt.us) or 406-552-6081)

**Kelly Elam**, Neighborhood Coordinator ([kelam@missoula.ci.missoula.mt.us](mailto:kelam@missoula.ci.missoula.mt.us) or 406-552-6084)

### **Rattlesnake Transportation Committee**

This committee is subcommittee of the Upper and Lower Rattlesnake Neighborhood Councils

**Rattlesnake Transportation Plan 2022:** [www.rattlesnaketransportation.org](http://www.rattlesnaketransportation.org)

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM at Break Expresso (432 N Higgins Ave, downtown)

**Missoula Bicycle and Pedestrian Office:** [www.ci.missoula.mt.us/404/Bicycle-and-Pedestrian-Office](http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/404/Bicycle-and-Pedestrian-Office)

**Ben Weiss**, Senior Transportation Planner ([bweiss@ci.missoula.mt.us](mailto:bweiss@ci.missoula.mt.us) or 406-552-6352)

Information about walking and biking: bike maps, rules of the road for bikers, bike registration, safety videos, bike racks for businesses, sidewalks and snow, traffic safety concerns

### **Mount Jumbo Saddle Recreation Trails Plan Update**

You can read the plan, ask questions or provide comments at:

[www.engagemissoula.com/lincoln-hills-trail-plan](http://www.engagemissoula.com/lincoln-hills-trail-plan)

## **MISSOULA COUNTY**

Phone: 406-721-5700

Official website: [www.missoulacounty.us](http://www.missoulacounty.us)

To make comments or voice concerns about roads in areas in the Rattlesnake Valley that are under county jurisdiction, click on the "Help" tab at the top of the web page and look for the section that says "I want to..."

You can also contact the Missoula County Public Works Roads Division by calling 406-258-4753 or by emailing [mcpw@missoulacounty.us](mailto:mcpw@missoulacounty.us)

To read about and comment specifically on the **Lolo Street Bridge**

**Rehabilitation Project**, find the Lolo Bridge Project link at:  
[missoulacountyvoice.com/lolo-street-bridge-rehabilitation](http://missoulacountyvoice.com/lolo-street-bridge-rehabilitation)

## **OTHER RESOURCES**

**Missoula in Motion:** [www.missoulainmotion.com](http://www.missoulainmotion.com) or call 406-552-6675

Missoula in Motion promotes sustainable transportation and provides information, resources and reward programs for Missoulians who walk, bike, use transit, carpool, or vanpool.

**Mountain Line transit system:** [mountainline.com](http://mountainline.com) or call 406-721-3333 (TDD: 406-721-2848)

Contact customer service for transit and paratransit information, schedules and maps, safety concerns, bus stop snow problems, and the transit app and bus track.