

Minutes from Upper Rattlesnake Neighborhood Council (URNC) General Meeting

Wednesday, August 23rd, 2023. 6:00 – 7:30

Pineview Park, 1010 Pineview Drive

1. URNC Co-chair Terri Roach welcomed everyone to the ice cream social and general meeting and introduced the Leadership Team members to the attendees.
2. Montana State Representative Connie Keogh informed everyone that there is a new voting map due to redistricting, which will bring some changes.
3. Terri Roach stated that the URNC revised its bylaws, which have been available for online viewing since the last general council meeting. The council voted to approve them.
4. Terri Roach introduced Nick Holloway with the Missoula Office of Emergency Management, who spoke about the Smart911 program and how important it is. When he asked for a show of hands, over half the audience indicated that they knew about this service, but many fewer had signed up for this free service. Mr. Holloway urged people to be ambassadors for this service and to encourage people to go to Smart911.com to sign up. As he said, "If you only do one thing, this is the one thing you should do." And information should be updated every six months.
5. Co-chair Andrea Stierle introduced Jamie Jonkle, a bear expert with Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and MissoulaBears.org. He encouraged everyone to check out their website, which has a new design. He reported that there has been hardly any bear activity in the Lower Rattlesnake so far this summer, but reminded the audience that the entire Rattlesnake is within the Bear Buffer zone. And of course, he stated the importance of containing your garbage and he discouraged the feeding of birds.
6. Deer expert Ryan Klimstra with Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks was the next to speak. He mentioned that it is impossible to tell how many deer there are in Missoula, since they come and go with the seasons. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is not an issue so far in this area. He stated that any ideas about deer management should be decided by the community, but mentioned that trap and kill has had the most success across the U.S., including in Helena. He does get calls about aggressive and dangerous deer and reminded people to contact Fish, Wildlife, and Parks if they see an injured deer. He stated that Republic Services no longer wants to pick up dead deer. He added that there is no evidence so far that deer are transmitting Covid to humans.
7. Mountain Lion expert Eli Hampson, also with Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, spoke about how the Rattlesnake is a great habitat for lions, especially since there are so many deer here in the winter. He encouraged people to call Fish, Wildlife and Parks or post a message on Missoula Bears as necessary and reminded us that cats do not hibernate, and they can give birth year-round. Any lion sightings must be reported.
8. Andrea Stierle thanked all the experts for their great presentations.
9. The meeting adjourned at 7:30