

Moose Can Gully Neighborhood Council

Spring Meeting Minutes March 25, 2009

Meeting was called to order by Lyle Geurts. 17 people were present.

I. Election of a new Leadership Team

Offices that needed to be filled were:

Two Co-Chairmen

Secretary

Treasurer

Alternate Community Forum Representative.

Jo Kimery was nominated for Secretary and elected by acclamation;

Mary Lou Chigbrow was nominated to continue as Treasurer. Although she has already served two terms, bylaws allow that when there is a shortage of willing persons, an office may be held for another term. Therefore, Mary Lou was elected by acclamation.

Linda Frey volunteered to serve as one Co-Chairman, and was elected by acclamation.

There was no nomination for CF Rep; Jo said she would help out in that area.

Lyle also reminded the group that the bylaws call for a “school-aged youth” to be a member of the leadership team, and invited us to search for a willing and able participant.

II. City Council Members’ Presentation

Dick Haines and Renee Mitchell provided their views on the current zoning updates taking place. The Planning Commission has been conscientiously working on a “zoning rewrite” trying to make zoning codes more efficient and workable. They shared that as the commission has been presenting their ideas, (the same) seven out of 12 city council members have been absent for the meetings....because these folks apparently feel the draft of the codes should be adopted without changes, and have the majority voting power to make that happen. Dick, Renee, and three other council members feel that some of the draft ideas need changes, and feel that the public is not adequately informed about the contents of the draft. They shared with us that if 25% of property owners document that the draft should be looked at more critically (by signing a petition), then the issue would have to have a vote of 8 council members to pass. Petitions were provided in our meeting, for interested persons to sign.

III. Infrastructure Funding

LaNette Diaz from the Office of Neighborhoods presented information concerning some new ideas for funding our streets and parks in Missoula. Presently, our taxes take care of street and park maintenance, but there is nothing extra for improvements. In addition, the money for these needs sits in the general fund, and if money is tight these needs often take a back seat to more pressing items, such as law enforcement.

The city has been studying how other MT cities fund their infrastructure improvements, and found that nearly all use “maintenance districts.” In this plan *everyone* in town pays for *all*

improvements through a small amount yearly (\$30-50?) Thus large SIDS are avoided. [I am over-simplifying, but you get the drift.]

LaNette provided us an opportunity to fill out a survey which asked our input concerning our satisfaction level with our park and street maintenance, and how the city can do the job better. We had a lively discussion on this topic.

IV. Neighborhood Hike

Lyle announced that there will be a hike for those interested outdoor folks, on May 3rd at 2:00 p.m. We will meet at the parking lot of Chief Charlo School, and walk 2 miles of the steep South Hills trails. We hope to get more people acquainted with the trails and each other, and invite everyone to come!

Meeting was adjourned by Lyle, and we enjoyed snacks afterward.