University District Neighborhood Council
General Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2013
UM Golf Course Clubhouse

Welcome: Dave Chrismon welcomed attendees to the General Meeting. Approximately 50 people were in attendance including Jane Kelly, the City of Missoula Neighborhood Coordinator, and members of the press.

Public comment on non-agenda items:
Public comments were made by the following attendees:
      (1) Don Nicholson commented on the efficiency and frequency of the Mountain Line bus services travelling down Arthur Street.
      (2) Louis Schneller from the Franklin to the Fort Neighborhood Council commented on how glad he is that the UM Golf Course is remaining open space.
      (3) Jon Wilkins stated that he is running for City Council Ward 4 in the next election.
      (4) Katherine Brady from ASUM introduced the Neighborhood Ambassador Program and upcoming events and outreach programs.
      (5) William Grant from Missoula's Historic Preservation group introduced himself to the attendees.
      (6) Dick Haines from Ward 5 commented that he was attending the meeting to hear more about the urban deer issue.
      (7) Ellie Hill commented about the City's tree removal program and inquired after the tree replacement program and hopes for future discussion on this issue.

Announcement by Leadership Team:
Jerry Ballas mentioned that he too thought it would be a good idea to learn more about City tree removal and replanting. Additionally it was said that this issue should be discussed further at an upcoming General Meeting.

Nominations and Elections of Leadership Team:
Jerry Ballas conducted nominations and elections for the University District Leadership Team (LT). He explained the number of spots available on the LT and asked for nominations.
Nominations included:
      (1) Katie Sullivan
      (2) John Sullivan
      (3) Tyler Smith
      (4) Hannah Toliver
All four nominees were unanimously elected and are now members of the LT along with Jerry Ballas and Dave Chrismon bringing the LT membership to six total.

Neighborhood Signal Boxes:
Dave Chrismon discussed how the University Neighborhood has several signal boxes which have not yet been painted. He discussed how a grant application has been submitted to pay for the decoration of additional signal boxes in the area.

Neighborhood Survey:
Katie Sullivan introduced the Neighborhood Survey found online and asked attendees to please fill out the survey and tell their friends. She explained that the comments would help the LT determine the needs of the neighborhood community.

Urban Deer:

Jon Wilkins of Missoula City Council introduced the idea of urban deer management. He discussed three options: (1) culling the deer similar to that of Helena, MT, (2) darting the deer with birth control, and (3) doing nothing now and addressing in the future. Mr. Wilkins explained the costs associated with each option. He further discussed how a count on the number of urban deer is still needed. He asked for attendees to contact their City Council members so that public opinion on the matter could be better understood. Comments and questions from the audience were taken.

Mr. Wilkins also educated the attendees on what to do if a dead deer is found in the neighborhood. Additionally, it was suggested that there be a special future meeting for residents to learn how to garden and fence properly to deter deer. Jerry Ballas asked attendees to raise their hands to show that there was some interest in continuing the discussion on deer in the future. Many attendees raised their hands.

Neighborhood Watch:
Rob Scheben, a Crime Prevention Officer from the Missoula Police Department, introduced the Neighborhood Watch program. He discussed what the program involves, and how to start the program in a neighborhood. Mr. Scheben further discussed the cost of the program and its benefits.

Ward 3 City Council Candidates:
City Council candidates Emily Bentley and Paul Bohan participated in a candidate's forum facilitated by Stephan Edwards of the Community Dispute Resolution Center. Each candidate was allowed time to introduce themselves to attendees, and then answer two questions presented by the facilitator. Afterwards, attendees were allowed to ask the candidates questions of their choice.

Adjournment