

Lower Rattlesnake Neighborhood Council Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

Date: August 14, 2015

Time: 1:00 PM

No Quorum

Location: Rattlesnake Gardens
2501 Rattlesnake Dr.
Missoula, MT 59802

Leadership Team Members in Attendance: Kathy Tonnessen, Bob Giordano, Martha Newell

Others Present: Jane Kelly, Neighborhood Coordinator, Cass Chinske

1. Consideration of support of the attached letter by Robin Carey related to the Rattlesnake Neighborhood Plan and the Missoula Growth Policy – Tabled. This letter will be considered at the next leadership team meeting.
2. Update on Joint Transportation Committee – Bob Giordano gave an update on the Joint Transportation Committee.
3. Round-Up Use in Greenough Park – Bob Giordano – there was a discussion on Round-Up and other chemical use in City Parks.
4. Options to deal with the toxic coating material on the Greenough bridge – Bob Giordano – Bob will present this at the next general meeting.
5. Planning for September 16 General Meeting

5:30 set up

5:45- 6:00 Leadership Team meeting to consider letters about

- A. Rattlesnake Neighborhood Plan
- B. Concerns about Roundabout Design (Orange St & Van Buren)

6:00- 6:15 Pizza

6:15- 6:35 Ward 1 Candidate Forum—Heidi West & Bill Murray

6:35-6:55 MCPS School Bond Presentation w/Q & A

6:55-7:10 Future of Prescott School Building

7:10-7:15 Update on Penta use in Greenough Park

7:15-7:30 Presentation of letters about Rattlesnake Neighborhood Plan & Concerns about Roundabout Design (vote to approve letters)

7:30-7:40 Q & A with current City Council Representatives: Bryan von Lossberg & Jason Weiner

7:40-7:45 Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Jane is inviting speakers, Martha is ordering pizza, Peter Lesica and Paul Hendricks will send out post cards, Paul will report to the Missoula City Council on Mon Sept 21

6. Discussion of the possibility of a joint meeting on the school bond issue – there will be a presentation by MCPS on the bond issue at the general meeting.
7. Community Forum Report – Bob Giordano gave a report of the last Community Forum Meeting.
8. Office of Neighborhoods Report – Jane Kelly, Neighborhood Coordinator gave an update on the Office of Neighborhood's activities.
9. New Business - None
10. Public comment on non-agenda items - None
11. Announcements - None

The Upper Rattlesnake Neighborhood Council Leadership Team approved the following statement on July 10, 2015:

The Rattlesnake Comprehensive Plan was developed through many hours of deliberation and work by a broad spectrum of residents in the upper and lower Rattlesnake. It has been adopted into every iteration of the county and city Growth Plans since 1988. The 1995 update of the Rattlesnake Plan, as currently incorporated into the Missoula Growth Plan, was arrived at through an extensive public planning process that included citizens groups, university and middle school students, the City Council, the Board of Commissioners, the Mayor's office, the Consolidated Planning Board, the Office of Community Development, the Public Works Department, and others. It was the subject of five public hearings. (View it at <http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/documentcenter/view/22425>)

The county and city officially incorporated the 1995 version of The Rattlesnake Comprehensive Plan into the Missoula County Growth Policy in 2002, and reaffirmed it in a 2006 update to the Missoula County Growth Plan. As such, it is not a dated policy document. Indeed, in the recent citizens' suit brought against the city of Missoula regarding the Sonata Park Subdivision, both the District Court and the Montana Supreme Court cited the 2002 incorporation and the 2006 reaffirmation as relevant to their decisions favoring the citizens. The Sonata Park subdivision was denied by the courts specifically because it did not "substantially comply" with the Rattlesnake Comprehensive Plan.

(See <http://searchcourts.mt.gov> then click Supreme Court Case Number, then enter case number DA 10-0142)

The plan was written to reduce problems associated with unplanned and uncoordinated growth. Its "Goals and Guiding Principles" brim with words such as "provide," "protect," "preserve," "continue" and "enhance." It is a lengthy document with detailed analysis of soils, slopes, wildlife, vegetation, geology, utility corridors, water and sewer services, public transportation corridors, existing land use, proposed land use, proposed densities, flood plain areas, historic and cultural features, and more. As such it is an invaluable public document expressing the unique character and vision of our Upper and Lower Rattlesnake neighborhoods. **We strongly believe that it should be included in the current rewrite of the Missoula Growth Plan with public input and comment as part of the process.** We also believe that any attempts to discard it should be subjected to the same rigorous and extensive public review that accompanied its adoption.