

Upper Rattlesnake Neighborhood Council Meeting
June 18, 2009
Messiah Lutheran Church

7:00 The meeting was called to order by co-chair Mary Louise Zapp-Knapp. The minutes were approved as printed.

Andrea Stephens was nominated and elected to the leadership team. There were 32 people present plus two presenters.

7:03 The meeting was opened for Public Comments.

Olivia Riutta, representing the off-campus Renter Center described her responsibilities and asked that she be called in case of concerns relating to students renting off campus. She made her cards available.

Harold Hoem announced that there will be a Public Hearing on the new zoning proposals in the City Hall Council Chambers on Monday, June 22. It is suggested that interested persons arrive early as the Chambers will be crowded.

Marty Rehbein, City Clerk, introduced herself and clarified the location and time of the meeting.

Brian Derry stated that some of the zoning issues had been covered recently on the *Missoulian* Op Ed page.

7:25 Mary Louise Zapp-Knapp introduced the Agenda Item concerning notification and communications of the Upper Rattlesnake Neighborhood Council. It was decided that the attendance sheets will not be posted on the Neighborhood Councils' Web site. The Leadership Team's addresses, emails, if applicable, and phone numbers will be posted as well as meetings' locations and times, agendas and decisions. Those persons wishing to be notified of specific City Committee meetings can make their requests at www.missoula-neighborhoods.org. The communications concerning particular Upper Rattlesnake discussions and plans will not be posted.

7:35 Harold Hoem reported on the Transportation/Infrastructure Committee meeting with an emphasis on the bicycle/pedestrian issues. Harold noted that one of our council persons, Dave Strohmaier, will work with the committee.

Steve King, one of our presenters from the Public Works Department, gave a short update on some infrastructure work scheduled for the Rattlesnake area with the benefit of Federal Stimulus money. He said that there would be improvements, especially around the Rattlesnake School plus a school zone. There will be a speed limit change from 35 to 30. There will be sidewalks and bike lanes on both sides of the street on Lolo St. to Rattlesnake Drive and on one side of the bridge. There will be sidewalks on the east side of Rattlesnake Dr. from Pineview to

Stanley. There will be a chip seal maintenance project this summer from Creek Crossing to Wild Cat Rd.

8:00 The Co-Chair introduced Steve King and Greg Woods from the Public Works Department who presented an overview of the New Proposed Sewer SID 544.

Steve King framed his comments into two major issues: Opportunity and Motive. Under Opportunity, he stressed that in the project area 1/3 of the septic systems had already failed and 2/3 would likely fail in the next 20 - 25 years. Under Motive, he listed the availability of grant money and Federal Stimulus money. He also stressed that both the fund sources were time limited. He also emphasized two public benefits under the Motive issue: Environmental benefit to our aquifer; and the Equity issue (the maintenance of the sewage treatment system is a public benefit.)

Letters to the affected properties were mailed certified. Of the 316 properties, 4 owners have opted out. There will be a public hearing on July 13. Protests must be received in writing by 5:00 p.m. on July 6. If the protest is 75% of the property owners' valuation, the SID fails. The cost of the project is \$4 million. The SID is set up on 20 year financing with 3.75% interest. A property owner may defer connection to a time when the septic system fails or the property sells. For low income persons who live in the home, the cost may be deferred 100%. There will be a lien on the home to be repaid when it is sold. The SID is based on the buildable part of the property: 1/2 on the useable area, 1/2 on the land value and not on the value of the improvement (i.e. size of house.)

Doug Grimm, of the Leadership team, brought up the issue of people's concern that installation of sewers increased the density of an area. Steve King said that there were several factors which increased the opportunity for density of an area: zoning, economies of development, and other utilities.

There was lively participation on the part of the membership with many questions which are summarized in Steve King's responses. At the end of this discussion, we were asked to place red, yellow and green dots on particular areas of the Transportation map which indicated serious needs or working well.

Don Sims of 1645 Sunflower St. volunteered to serve and was appointed to the Leadership Team and to serve as alternate to Community Forum. He will be nominated at the next general meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Fern Hart, Secretary