

Upper Rattlesnake Neighborhood Council
General Meeting Minutes

General Meeting held November 5, 2009 7:00 p.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church 3718 Rattlesnake Dr.

Mary Louise Zapp-Knapp, chair, welcomed the neighborhood and called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as posted on the Missoula Neighborhoods Website.

The meeting was opened to Public Comment. One comment was received related to the mechanical speed sign located in the lower Rattlesnake. The chair noted that it would be an upcoming agenda item.

The chair introduced the panel members which were as follows:

USDA

Paul Matter, Missoula District Ranger-Lolo National Forest
Kenneth Gibson, Entomologist-Forest Health Protection
John Waverek, Fire Management Officer Missoula Ranger District
Jack Cohen, Research Physical Scientist- Fire Lab

DNRC

Amy Gannon, State Entmologist
Eric Norris, Service Forestry Specialist

BITTERROOT RC&D

Byron Bonney, Community Forester

MISSOULA RURAL FIRE

Bill Colwell, Assistant Chief

MISSOULA PARKS AND RECREATION

Morgan Valliant, Conservation Lands Manager

TAMARACK FORESTRY SERVICE

Dan Schurg, Tree Removal Specialist

A video produced by PBS was shown to introduce the topic for consideration.

The discussion began with several direct questions from the chair.

Different panelists responded. Questioning was opened to the audience. The participation by the audience was lively and the panelists all responded with important facts related to the questions.

The following topics were discussed:

- Beetle Infestation, its Pattern and Possible Predictions in our Area.
- Safe Removal and/or Usage of Infested or Dead Trees
- Beetle-Kill and Fire Risks in the Rattlesnake Valley
- Community Responsibility
- Management of Infestation Costs Involved
- Options Available to Cover these Costs

Adjournment was by general consent. Discussions followed by individuals with panelists.

This was one of our most successful meetings with about 70 persons in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,
Fern Hart, Secretary