

Southgate Triangle Neighborhood Council
General Meeting October 14, 2009
7-9 PM at the Southgate Mall Community Room

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:05. Those present:

- Matt Baldassin (chairman)
- Ann Carpenter
- Ed Childers
- Hans Christiansen (community forum rep)
- John Cuplin
- Kathy Greathouse
- Jim Hausauer (Franklin to the Fort)
- Christine Ross
- Erin Scott (Neighborhood liason)
- Barbara Steele
- Michael Steele
- Ryan Sutherland (secretary/web)
- Susie Turner
- Lauren Varney (representing Marilyn Marler)
- Erik West (treasurer)

Public Comment

Mr. Jim Hausauer from Franklin to the Fort Neighborhood – brought a proposal for a new park opportunity which is being headed up by the Missoula Redevelopment Agency (MRA). Below is the possible park. Mr. Hausauer is seeking as much support as possible while the MRA is considering what to do with the sidewalks. This constitutes a 1/2 acre of land. Mr. Hausauer would like people to contact the MRA and let them know they support a park at this location. He'd also like the council to put this on the agenda for next month.

Question – Who would maintain it? Answer: The Parks Dept. already maintains the trail and it would be part of their maintenance route.

Mr. Christiansen mentioned that citizens who aren't registered to vote can register at the fairgrounds. Also, at the corner of Brooks & Paxson there is nothing but a small patch of weeds.

Mr. Christiansen thinks we should try and get ownership or long-term lease of that parcel. It would be nice to have a "welcome to the Southgate Triangle" or "welcome to Midtown" sign on that land.

Mr. Hausauer also mentioned that if there is a road hazard, pothole or something else that you notice, you should call it in.

Mr. Mike Steele made comment that right behind McDonald's there are dogs at large and high speed traffic. They would like to see a neighborhood watch start up in this part of the neighborhood. Christine Ross mentioned that there is a crime prevention officer named Mr. Rob Scheben who can help get this type of program going. Ms. Ross will get us information for the next meeting.

Ms. Christine Ross introduced Mr. Phil Smith of the bike/ped office to discuss options for traffic calming on Grant Street. He spoke for a while about the history of traffic calming processes in Missoula. It always takes time to implement traffic calming because it takes time to get as many perspectives as possible. When concerns are expressed it is really important to get neighborhood consensus. There is a traffic calming packet/application available from the bike/ped office. The traffic calming program is neighborhood driven. The bike/ped office is not looking for places to install traffic calming. It has to be initiated by the neighbors. The cost is complicated because they first have to determine what device is needed.

- Ms. Carpenter is concerned about the way these devices create angry drivers. Perhaps another idea is to create some one-way streets.

New Business

A. Introduction to Ward 6 City Council Candidates – Marilyn Marler (represented by Lauren Varney) and Kathy Greathouse

- Kathy Greathouse – married to a contractor. She designs the homes and her husband and brother build. They are building green and are a very small business. Barely getting by. Her passion is to support business and help those who are dealing with unemployment. She is all for a beautiful Garden City, but we need to have jobs and incomes before we can raise taxes and spend money on beautification. You can click here to see her campaign card to find out more about what she is

- Lauren Varney – lives at 11th and Kemp is the director of Home Resource. He is here representing Marilyn Marler. Marilyn Marler is the current Ward 6 representative seeking re-election. Kathy and Marilyn seem to both be passionate about the same issues – Marilyn has a great relationship with the other council members and knows how to get things done. She's been doing a great job.

Questions:

- Mr. Christiansen is concerned about the SID's and property taxes – what ideas are there for utilizing/lowering these costs?

Ms. Marler – utilize more grants and try to be more creative in helping work with people in SID situation.

Mrs. Greathouse – try to make the SID a longer term payment situation. The SID's are a little bit scary given our current economy – we need to figure out where we are going before we just start slapping people with something they can't afford.

- Mr. Childers asked about fast moving traffic in this neighborhood –

Ms. Marler – did not discuss this with Mr. Varney ahead of time so he could only give his opinions on the matter. One idea is to call the patrol captain and at least let him know the concern. Another option is to try some traffic calming devices, but pedestrian traffic should be the top priority. We should not make the car the top priority on the road.

Mrs. Greathouse – there is a traffic study being done by Public Works to figure out how to adjust the current signs. Her recommendation is to get a traffic study done.

Ms. Greathouse made one final comment that she is not a conservative or a liberal, she's middle of the road and wants to do what is best for Ward 6.

B. Peak Health & Wellness Center Presentation: Introduction to the "New" Facility

- Ms. Susie Turner – they are building a new racket center which is 5100 square feet. It will have raquetball and tennis. This has been a dream of the owners for a long time – it's finally becoming a reality. The membership will be tiered – you could have a club membership, tennis membership, etc. They are going to cater to people's interests and ability to pay.

C. Elections for Chairperson and Secretary

- Current Chair: Matt Baldassin

- Current Secretary: Ryan Sutherland

There were no nominations for new folks to fill these roles. We'll have to address these vacancies at the next meeting. We concluded the meeting by reviewing the minutes and treasurers report. Mr. Baldassin made a motion to approve the minutes as posted on the website. Mr. West seconded and all voted in favor. Mr. West gave the treasurers report and as of the most recent update we still had a full budget. There was no need to approve the budget as recorded.

Mr. Sutherland made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Baldassin seconded. We adjourned at 9:20 PM.

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Posted By ryan sutherland to Southgate Triangle at 10/14/2009 07:00:00 PM