

MINUTES GENERAL MEETING
UPPER RATTLESNAKE NEIGHBORHOOD

March 9, 2014 at Messiah Lutheran Church
3718 Rattlesnake Drive

Attendance was as shown on sign in sheets that are on file with the city of Missoula and by reference made part of these meeting minutes.

Welcome and Introductions by Emily Plant at 7:05

Presentations:

Montana Department of Transportation, Shane Stack, gave an update on the construction project for the intersection of the I 90 and Van Buren. The update included: two single lane roundabouts, noise walls, coordination with Parks and Recreation Department, continued shared path at two locations, minor alignment relocation of the on and off ramps, construction limits, intersection with Van Buren and Broadway, similarities with the roundabouts at the airport, noise walls heights of 10 to 15 feet, clear glass construction material for the noise wall mounted on the bridge, concrete noise wall outside bridge, chain link fence relocation to increase available open space, survey responses on noise wall related to the decorative face of noise wall impression on both sides, raised earth embankments up to noise wall, the clear wall is lighter than concrete, anticipated 10 DB reduction in sound due to noise wall, snow removal efforts continued to be pushed to the end of the bridge, the glass does not get pitted, cross sections shown in slides, face will be river rock look with no color just concrete, cyclists going north on Van Buren still have to do a weave, std lane width is 12 feet, there will be a raised island in the middle of Van Buren north of roundabout, project includes two full roundabouts, lighting on the overpass for the bike traffic will be addressed in final plans, large trucks and school busses will use the truck apron, start of work in 2015 with completion is couple of month later, summer fall construction is likely, detour to Greenough is a possibility, signage will be still be complex. Website link MDT.gov

Councilman, Jason Wiener, provided additional comments on the project related to the no grade separated crossing of Broadway.

Chris Bosa, Urban Forester, highlighted arbor projects in Missoula, census cover 74% of trees on City Streets, significant portion trees have same age and will have been replaced at same time, some of the new planting are not maturing as they should, long term management plan will include incorporation of a survey of the community's comments (wants) - turn of the century efforts is what we see (1902 - 1920 planting) Norwegian Maple planting now past their optimal age, requested residents make the effort to return the survey and help define the wants of the citizens. Mt Jumbo is addressed in a separate Parks and Recreation department planning effort, some of the self seeding are encroaching on the community. A cursory risk assessment will include plans for removal and replanting, city pays for the removals, abutting homeowners' responsibility for trees sitting on city property include watering, pruning etc. New species are excluding the choice of Norwegian Maple. Planting of new trees will consider evapotranspiration, ET. Montana native species vary and will depend on location. The climate differs from northwest to southeast and affect the native species selection. The 10, 20, 30 rule relates to percentage of no more than same kind, same species, and same family respectively.

Ward 1 Councilman Jason Wiener, gave brief update on Rattlesnake infrastructure, non-motorized traffic provisions, sewer, construction free summer, third face of upgrade of Van Buren/Missoula street, pot hole repair call 552 6360, school district long range facility planning for ball fields and PEAS farm.

Ward 1 Councilman Brian Von Lossberg gave brief update on involvement, all council persons are assigned to all of committees, Von Lossberg is vice chairing parks and conservation efforts; and also touched on mountain water issue, condemnation proceedings, city's website, highlight former Wheeler family ownership reduced maintenance 2 mil need to get up to 5 mil annually infrastructure investment, parks and conservations fill three spots for volunteers, parks dept. needs a turf management plan, higher number of pesticide free places, park asset management plan. Volunteers can check Missoula.gov website.

Jane Kelly lead the efforts to prioritize the issues most of concern for Upper Rattlesnake neighborhood residents. Attendees used 5 self adhesive dots each to identify areas of most interest. These include:

Urban Deer 33
Non-motorized Transit infrastructure 16
Bus Service 15
Speed Limits 13
Peas Farm Land 12
Cell Phone Towers 11
Safe Routes to school 9
Managing Human Bear interface 8
Neighborhood watch 7
Greenways 7
Additional Items:
Avalanche 0

Jane Kelly gave Caroline Lonski a Certification of Appreciation awarded by the Mayor and the Neighborhood Coordinator.

Elections of new officers for the URNC: Jane Kelly introduced the attendees to the duties and responsibilities of the leadership panel. Nominations are made each year. Since 1972 constitutional convention neighborhood councils were created to foster participation in local government. There is a chance again to study local government this fall by electing a 5 person committee that will submit recommendations for possible changes to the local government. This is how the neighborhood councils started. A neighborhood council leadership panel includes up to seven people. For the Upper Rattlesnake Neighborhood it includes: Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Parliamentarian, Community Forum Representative and an Alternate. The Forum meets 4th Thursday each month. The Neighborhood Council, NC, meets each month on a schedule determined by the NC leadership.

Past officers: Chair Person, Emily Plant
 Vice Chair,
 Parliamentarian, Beverly Young
 Treasurer,
 Secretary, Max Andersen

Council Forum Representative, Caroline Lonski
Council Forum Representative Alternate, Doug Grimm

Candidates nominated from the floor,

Beverly Young
Shawn Sternick
Joan Elmore
Bill Ruediger
Emily Plant
Doug Grimm
Max Andersen

The slate of candidates was unanimously approved by the attendees. Beverly Young will contact the individual candidates to determine next meeting date at which time positions on the URNC will be agreed upon.

Public comments: non agenda items

Caroline Lonski gave an update for actions from the Community Forum and suggested that MKAT carries the meeting and is a good source for getting the information. Captain Collier has reported that Missoula is in compliance with US DOJ, Chief Mike reported on public safety and stated that special districts might be created to cover MPD needs. Other discussions included participation in community gardens, a chance for local government study is coming up, and there is a bus tour of neighborhoods scheduled for April 17, 2014.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30

These minutes were prepared and distributed by Max Andersen, past secretary, on March 10, 2014