

Upper Rattlesnake Neighborhood Council Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

Date: November 4, 2015

Time: 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Location: Rattlesnake Gardens
2501 Rattlesnake Drive
Missoula, MT 59802

Leadership Team Members Present: Doug Grimm, Max Andersen, Bev Young, Bill Ruediger, Robin Carey, Tom Gignoux

Others Present: Jane Kelly, Neighborhood Coordinator, Caroline Lonski, Mea Andrews, Tobie Weist, Wendy Dupuis, Breann Ender, Phil Petrilli

1. **County Trails Bond Program** – Caroline Lonski presented some information on Missoula County Parks & Rec bond for trails. She was involved with Dave Strohmeier in the former Rattlesnake study. Funding is for the entire county and project criteria includes public space and open land. She's interested in a non-motorized trail. Could take 80 hours to complete grant. There might be help from other trails organizations; this is just one option. She wants to keep this issue in the light since it was identified as one of the URNC priorities at last year's general meeting. Earlier study on Rattlesnake transportation is online at the City Development Services web page. The definition of "trail" is different depending on the intended use and agency. Cornerstone subdivision has money in escrow for trails. There was a suggestion to ask UR residents about their interest via list serve for the neighborhood. There may be money in the CIP program for Parks & Rec. There has been a lot of interest expressed in this issue but we need several people to step forward and move on it.
2. **Public comment on non-agenda items - Woodland Avenue development issue** (4 people present on this) – House Bill 460 allows no subdivision review or citizen input on townhouse exemption. The implementation of this law has not been consistent with the intent. Concern is about no input or recourse for citizens on the proposed development. Woodland Ave. is a route to school and heavily used by other pedestrians. The city has determined that they can't do anything about this law at this point. There was a land use meeting this morning. It seems the use of this law is for small, inappropriate subdivisions. The intent was to create dense, affordable housing.

People may speak to this issue at the URNC General Meeting: someone from Development Services and maybe from the developer for Woodland Estates will be present. Someone from Woodland Ave. may speak as well. Denise Alexander had a good presentation at the land use meeting this morning. Jane will share a link to the presentation in a digest for the neighborhood.

Tom Gignoux says that there have been major floods in this area; there may be some endangered species. Doug says that the 1908 flood probably totally submerged the Woodland Estates lot. We concluded by agreeing to have this issue on the agenda for the General Meeting.

Conditional use request for religious use of old Lincoln School – Phil Petrilli, one of the residents in this subdivision, said that the proposed use by the Unitarian Universalists would take about 1/3 of the lots. City council will review on Dec. 7. His and others' concern is that this use would be in violation of the protective covenants. The church applied to the City for the conditional use and referenced previous URNC minutes. The application states "we presented our interest in the Lincoln School to a joint meeting of URNC and LRNC leadership teams and were well received." (Actually our minutes do not reflect approval or disapproval.) Phil said there's a recent MT Supreme Court decision that will back them in their fight against use by a church. Phil believes that the appropriate use of the old Lincoln School would be, as originally approved in the subdivision, as a duplex.

3. Planning for upcoming General Meeting

Timeline: has to be posted at least 10 days prior at web site
Sunday January 10 is suggested. Max moved to have the General Meeting at the Lutheran Church on Sunday, January 10. Doug seconded the motion; all approved. The motion passed. Bev will contact church member Lyle Grimes to request use.

Agenda items:

- Woodland Estates (aka Cooney Rattlesnake townhomes). Jane will invite City Council, rep. from City Development, developer and Woodland Ave. residents.
- We questioned whether we should discuss the church issue and we decided to leave it off the agenda since the issue will have gone before City Council before this meeting.
- Trails funding/grants – give details about possible funding and ask for those interested in working on a committee. Jane will ask John Stegmeier & Lisa Moise, of County Parks & Recreation & Morgan Valliant, City Parks and Recreation. Tom Gignoux is interested in seeing some trails developed along old Quast irrigation ditch up above/near Lincoln Hills and something along the trail that leads up Mt. Jumbo from Mountain View.

- Elections: we need to check our terms and see whose terms will expire. We definitely have one position currently unfilled and Breann Ender is interested.
 - Q&A with city council members
 - Public comments
 - 5 minutes at intro for background on neighborhood councils
- Jane gave us a meeting checklist and we will fully populate it at our next meeting. Doug will take care of sandwich boards. Bev will take on postcard design with template from Jane.

4. **Possible Grant for Tom Green Park** - Doug wonders if we could ask for Neighborhood Council grant monies towards fire hazard removal of trees. Though the park is a County park, it would benefit city residents who use the park. Jane thinks the city committee may allow use of the funds towards this. We missed this year's deadline, but could apply for next year.
5. **Leadership Team Roles and Duties** - Robin was elected into the vice-chair position but is now thrust into the chair position, and he's willing to do that. Bill Ruediger was elected to Vice-Chair by acclamation. Bev volunteered to be treasurer, in addition to her duties as secretary.
6. **Community Forum Report** – Doug Grimm - Doug had nothing specific to share since we were running out of time.
7. **Office of Neighborhoods Report** – Jane Kelly, Neighborhood Coordinator- Nothing pressing now, so Jane deferred also due to lack of time
8. **New Business** Bill Ruediger would like to see a pedestrian crossing at Lincoln Wood/Creek Crossing. Jane will talk to Wayne Gravatt, City Engineering, about this. Jane will send out a Doodle poll for a December meeting where we can finalize the agenda and action items for our general meeting.
9. **Announcements** – none

Respectfully submitted,
Bev Young, Secretary URNC leadership team

Caroline Lonski

Jane Kelly, Neighborhood Coordinator
Upper Rattlesnake Leadership Team

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