

Community Forum Meeting
January 27, 2005
7:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers
Moderator, Bill Earhart

Moderator, **Bill Earhart** began the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and took roll:

Emma Dickinson – Bill Earhart
Farviews/Pattee Canyon –Celeste River
Franklin to the Fort – Jerry Tahija
Grant Creek – John Hendrickson
Heart of Missoula–absent (Steve Simpson present, non-voting)
Lewis & Clark– Jon Wilkins
Lower Rattlesnake– absent
Moose Can Gully– absent (Carson Robinson present, non-voting)
Miller Creek– absent
Northside–John Couch
Westside– Jane Madison
Riverfront– absent
Rose Park–Ellen McCullough
South 39th – Mike Williams
Southgate Triangle–Hans Christiansen
University District–Jan Hoem
Upper Rattlesnake–Freddi Thompson
City Council Representative – Clayton Floyd
Neighborhood Liaison—Ruth Brennan Anderson

Others Present

Janet Stevens, Chief Administrative Officer; Bob Giordino, citizen.

Quorum

It was announced that a quorum was present.

Adoption of Agenda

John Couch made a motion to approve the agenda (as amended). **Jon Wilkins** seconded the motion. The agenda passed (as amended) unanimously on a voice vote.

Public Comment

Jan Hoem: Regarding ZIS Committee report—Wants CF to have copy of report put out by people who represented neighborhoods in order to have full picture.

Bob Giordano: A Missoula citizen. For past 4 years has run the Missoula Institute for Sustainable Transportation, the goal is to help Missoula become a model city for sustainability in transportation. Distributed a handout from ad hoc committee that looks at Missoula's system and where it needs improvements, they attend TTAC & TPCC meetings (get involved in the

process). Committee looked at the theme prioritize non-motorized transportation and transit and minimize impacts to the built and natural environment in the long range plan just adopted. Committee wanted to get their prioritized list out to CF. Made a presentation to TPCC in late January. How do we make the transportation system work for everyone?

John Couch: Q—When you say increase frequency for that dollar amount what are you talking about?

Bob G: A—Nancy Wilson could speak better to that. Transit is a tough one. Can't speak more to it than to say it is making the headways shorter and expanding the reach.

Bob G: If there is a way for you to get the handout to your leadership teams or council, if you have thoughts on this Cell number 880-6834.

Jon Wilkins: Q—Do you just deal with bicycles or in pedestrian trails to?

Bob G: With Free Cycle Program we deal with rebuilding bikes getting them to those in need. With the transportation institute (MIST) it's about sustainable transportation, walking, biking, and transit how they fit together. It's a balance

Jon Wilkins: Q—I am interested in some pedestrian trails. Do you handle that sort of thing?

Bob G: A—Yes. Email: mist@strans.org

Approval of Minutes

Bill Earhart: Are there additions or comments on the minutes?

Minutes of November 18, 2004 & Minutes of December 16, 2004: **Hans Christiansen** made a motion to approve the minutes. **John Couch** seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Celeste River: Discussion of improving the minutes without taking up meeting time.

Clayton Floyd: Minutes need to reflect what was actually said and corrections should be discussed and made before entire group.

Bill Earhart: Would you like to revisit those now? **Celeste River:** In November 18th minutes under public comment, regarding time limits and variances it isn't as clear to someone who might read it years from now. **Jon Wilkins:** Point of Order—we already approved the minutes.

Special Orders

None

Announcements

Ruth Anderson announcements regarding: thanks to everyone attending (great turnout); my attendance at Missoula Osprey open house neighborhood meeting; my attendance at the Neighborhood Network meeting; NPF applications were due 1/24; Outstanding Neighborhood Volunteer of the Year Award nominations were due 1/26; CIP 2/18 proposal deadline; reminder to CF & NC to get training ideas into me by end of February; have NCLT update me of any meetings so that I can update website; Feb. moderator will be Carol Elsen.

Presentations

Janet Stevens: How can the CF participate more fully with the City? Brainstorm to come up with a mechanism where City can periodically come to talk to CF about topic, idea, programs. In the Neighborhood Updates section of agenda there is a pattern of certain issues that are universal within the neighborhoods. CF can go back through those to create list of universal issues that the City administration or other departments could come in and help brainstorm how to take care of those issues or how to better function within your neighborhoods. CF should be prioritizing the important functions, ideas in each neighborhood that we could communicate about.

Jon: Communication about new businesses coming in has slackened off more recently.

Janet: Is this a common theme?

John Couch: I have been getting regular notification of PNCs and subdivisions. Getting everyone in the neighborhood involved is a daunting task. What has City considered to get people involved to get ahead of issues; what kind of support can City give us?

Janet: As County Commissioner, we often took our business to certain areas of the County. That is one way to do it. City Council can get out in front of issues and bring issues to neighborhoods. In regards to transportation, Bob only gave the CF part of a list. Maybe the TPCC needs to tackle a certain area of town and talk about the projects related to that part of town. We need to get City Hall out into the neighborhoods. To do that we need to brainstorm ideas and areas of interest that CF has that will generate some interest. You may not be able to get everyone to the table on an issue, but you can get pockets of groups together on certain issues.

Clayton: If CF is going to work for greater representation of neighborhoods back to local government and then local government be responsive to the neighborhood level; CF needs to stabilize to the point that CF members become knowledgeable of how City works. Question comes up whether infill has become an all inclusive label for everything that is happening in development in a neighborhood? The answer is no. NC members need to be able to distinguish the different parts for the neighborhoods so that they become educated and don't make the mistake of lumping everything together. The format of the F2F meeting a few months back did not work as well as it could have. The challenge to the CF is to become more knowledgeable to have more credibility.

Hans: Regarding infill, the neighbors don't feel we are very effective. Maybe the City can acknowledge they hear us, but it isn't going to work that way, instead of ignoring us.

Janet: You have to have successes. You can't pick a topic like infill right away and be successful. Focus on something that isn't so volatile and make it positive and build on it. Get a list of priorities from your NCs.

John Hendrickson: While some of the City Council is listening, the rest of the City administration is not hearing us.

Janet: Mayor is the only other elected official. Administration and that elected official is the executive branch. We have a hi-bred model of government. How does the CF become a body that is effective? The CF was established to deal with issues that are community wide. Starbucks as an example to Clayton: If I came in (not living anywhere near Starbucks) and testified in favor of it and someone else (living right next door) and testified opposed to it which one would mean more to you?

Clayton: I would favor what the person living there wants.

Janet: If you weren't a Ward 6 rep. would you still listen to that person who lives right next door or me if I am living in your Ward?

Clayton: Even if I am listening to a constituent I am listening to whoever testifies, looking for the argument that makes the most sense based in law on what we are allowed to do as City Council. If neither person is a constituent, I am listening for the merit of the argument.

Janet: Point is that if you isolate yourselves to certain neighborhood issues then you are not giving yourselves the time and opportunity to address community wide issues.

Jane: It is real mistake to back away from these big issues, because they will change our neighborhoods permanently. If a school closes, none have been reopened. With bad infill, you can't go back and say we made a mistake let's tear it down. Missoula is great because of the very distinct neighborhoods.

John Couch: Like issues—infill is a big one. A few years ago, Northside/Westside worked on a Neighborhood Plan and with the help of neighbors and the City. The CC approved it, it was adopted to growth policy, but not followed. Wondering what presence of representation you are talking about. We felt as a neighborhood we had really proven ourselves. We have had wonderful things come out of that Plan and some disappointments. It is hard to speak to that, trying to get people involved when the feeling is what happened with the Plan.

Ellen: Was on the CF when it was first formed. There is effectiveness, because there are several people from the CF who actually sit on CC. It provides that stepping stone. We come together to find out what is happening in other neighborhoods; this is a primary function of CF. Maybe the community wide ideas are more of a time issue; a CF committee could address this and individual topics.

Janet: That's how the legislature works. County Commissioners each sort of specialized in certain things and relied on each other for the information. You have to use committees to get your work done. Not trying to diminish what issues are important to NCs. Question is how does CF become more effective? Have successes.

Jon: In Lewis & Clark area we have had our successes and defeats regarding infill. We have a good working relationship with our city engineer. As NC we represent neighborhood first. Going to listen to people in my Ward and now my neighborhood.

Committee Reports

3030 Committee

●1. South 39th St. boundary issue: **Hans**—we have the 1997 NC boundary map adopted by the City, the NC is probably going to request a boundary change.

Ruth: both Hans and I are planning to attend the South 39th St. NC meeting to be available for questions and with maps. Found that the original map does include 3 lots up Hillview Way, but not the whole neighborhood. So the NC is still going to have to change its boundary.

●2. Mentoring NCs: **Ruth**—Moose Can Gully, with Carson Robinson spear heading the effort getting the NC going again. Sandwich boards will go up to advertise the general meeting set for March 2nd, 7pm at Chief Charlo.

●3. Proposed Changes to 3030 & CF bylaws: **Jerry**—Discussion will occur at Feb. meeting and vote at the March meeting. Jerry reads through each proposed amendment to 3030 & bylaws.

Hans—suggests reading the summary sheet prepared by Ruth. Wants to do something to get CF alternates to feel that they are more a part of the group. Encourages CF representatives to make sure they get an Alternate.

Extraordinary Events Committee

No report.

Outstanding Neighborhood Volunteer Committee

Hans: After the CF meeting committee needs to meet with Ruth to arrange a time. We only have one nomination.

Neighborhood Project Fund Grant Committee

Jon: Will meet with Ruth after CF meeting to arrange a time to meet to go through and vote on the 6 applications.

John Couch: Who are the members of the Outstanding Neighborhood Volunteer Committee and the NPF Committee?

Ruth: Outstanding Neighborhood Volunteer Committee: Mike Williams, Han Christiansen, Jane Madison, Celeste River. NPF Committee: Jon Wilkins, John Hendrickson, Celeste River, Tracy O'Reilly, Jerry Ballas

Unfinished Business

•1. Glen Eagle sewer issue. *Clayton*: On Nov. 8th referred back to CC. It might be heard next week. In talking to Steve King, City Engineer, Jim Nugent, City Attorney, just tonight made another referral to public works, requested that city sewer be extended from the closest trunk line to within 200 feet of that property. That should solve the issue. We have 3 different funds that money gets paid into with regards to sewer. One is a development account, money that developers pay for new hookups to sewer and primary intended use to provide new expansion for sewer particularly for new development. This would be a totally appropriate use of that money.

John Hendrickson: If referral is defeated, would Nye have to bring it up himself in order to develop the land.

Clayton: The referral that I made tonight would not preclude other action. Referral would accomplish the same thing. At this point, what has been proposed has been a lagoon system. John pointed out on bus tour that a lagoon system poses several potential problems to the aquifer. If we can find a solution to preclude that then that is the best possible outcome.

John Hendrickson: Just want a happy solution.

New Business

•1. Clarification of notice from OPG: *Jon Wilkins*—In the last 90 days I have gotten nothing. Have had 4 new businesses start up in the Albertsons area that I would have liked to have known about ahead of time. Still not getting good communication. I did hear about PNCs and density things going in, but there are other things that come up in our neighborhood that we would like to be informed on.

John Hendrickson: I get notifications sometimes of some things going on in my neighborhood, (gives specific examples). There are 3-4 things going on, on Reserve, I

have no idea what they are, I would just like to know what is going on & would not necessarily be against.

Jon: Just want to be informed, would not necessarily be against everything. There are other good things happening, so maybe we could help smooth things over.

John Couch: There are certain things that are legally required to be noticed and there are others that are not. There are certain rules and legalities that the City is required to do to notify the public, subdivisions, PNCs, etc.. Not sure what someone applying for a business license has to do regarding notification. What kind of notification and to what extent are we supposed to be notified?

Jon: In the past I used to get notification of what new businesses are starting up & I don't get those anymore. (Gives specific examples regarding casino). It would also be nice to know when our streets are going to be torn up.

Clayton: Things by statute or ordinance that the City is required to report, Ordinance 3030 requires notification of PNCs and density bonus. State law requires notice of subdivision development. Sign variances or zoning variances are reported to you for comment. Business license, you would have to look at the website periodically to get that information. There is no requirement to notice that. OPG has a list of parties of interest that receive those notices coming from OPG. Public Works may not have that same kind of list. Building permits (not involving zoning or variance) those won't be noticed because it is a permitted issue no review requirement.

Freddi: Suggests reading the list in Ordinance 3030 and that we invite someone from OPG to come to answer questions about how they view the process of notifying us. I haven't received anything from OPG for at least 6 months. Last fall there were 2 project developments in the Rattlesnake, I did not receive notice about those. I sent out emails asking why I wasn't notified, Councilman Lovegrove emailed asking why I hadn't gotten a response to my question. Neither one of us has ever received a response.

Bill Earhart: Is that a motion we have someone from OPG address this?

Freddi makes a *motion* that we invite someone from OPG come and talk to us about how they look at notifying neighborhoods.

John Hendrickson: *seconds* the motion.

Bill: Any discussion on the motion? None opposed. Motion carries.

- 2. Southgate Triangle NC Small Project grant application: **Celeste**—\$200 to increase attendance at neighborhood meetings. Approved by Committee 12/13/04. **Jon Wilkins** makes *motion* to accept application. **John Hendrickson** *seconds* the motion. No discussion on the motion. None opposed. Motion carries.
- 3. University Homeowners Assoc. Small Project grant application: **Celeste**—\$200 to replace vandalized trees. Approved by Committee. Small project fund started with \$2,000, and maybe 3 applications granted, so there is still money in the fund for other small project grants. **Jon Wilkins** makes *motion* to accept application. **Hans** *seconds* the motion. No discussion on the motion. None opposed. Motion carries.

Ruth: The grants are ongoing until the small grant money runs out.

- 4. Nominations for 2 vacancies on CFLT: **Celeste**—how many positions are there altogether and who is on it now? **Ruth**—7 positions available—Jon Wilkins, Celeste River, Jerry Tahija (not Ballas), Hans Christiansen, John Couch. **Jon** nominates John Hendrickson. **John Couch**—Would like to change the time from 4:00, even 4:30 is better. **Jon & Hans** are open to a later time. After discussion, **Jon** nominates Freddi

Thompson, *John Hendrickson* seconds motion. *Celeste*—2nd Tues. at 4:30 CC Conference Room. No discussion on the motions. None opposed. Motion carries.

Ongoing Business

Monthly report to CC

After CF discussion:

- Janet Stevens (Chief Administrative Officer) was present to open up a dialog between the Community Forum (& Neighborhood Councils) and the City to improve communication and participation with/in City activities.
- The CF approved 2 small project grant applications (1) University Homeowners Assoc. to replace vandalized trees in two traffic circles, (2) Southgate Triangle Neighborhood Council to make an additional mailing to NC members & increase participation.
- The Neighborhood Project Fund Committee will start meeting to discuss & evaluate grant applications. The Outstanding Neighborhood Volunteer of the Year Award Committee will also meet to discuss the nomination and honoring the nominee.
- The Community Forum discussed options in looking to improve communication with OPG and the City in general.

Hans makes motion *Jon* seconds the motion. No discussion on the motions. None opposed. Motion carries.

Ruth distributes copies of Administrative Rule #27 Early Neighborhood Notification Policy.

Neighborhood Updates

Neighborhood updates were reported.

- Emma Dickinson/Orchard Homes: Leadership Team met about PUD and Bulen St. Were 1st NC to push through neighborhood transportation infrastructure plan. Neighbors attended a design charette, came up with good ideas that they will bring forward to the City. Will have a general meeting in Feb.
- Farviews/Pattee Canyon: In Feb. will have an LT meeting to plan a March general meeting. Will be working on a newsletter. Ballas made a referral for a zoning change from an A Zone.
- Franklin to the Fort: Discussing our Neighborhood Plan. March 9th general meeting, Neighborhood Plan and elections are on agenda.
- Grant Creek: nothing to update.
- Heart of Missoula: Goal has been addressing getting more LT members.
- Lewis & Clark: There is a PNC going in on South Ave. and Livingston. They will have an LT meeting end of February.
- Moose Can Gully: March 2nd there will be a general meeting, have elections.
- Northside: Have been talking about the possible closure of Lowell School and different ways to keep it open
- Rose Park: Working on a grant for Mount and Park improvements.

- Westside: LT meets next week. July 2005 the Neighborhood Plan is scheduled to be up for review.
- South 39th St.: Last LT meeting was to set the agenda for the NC meeting set for Feb. 23rd. There is a 25 acre parcel coming up for development in area, but NC boundary runs right through development.
- Southgate Triangle: LT meeting earlier this month discussed URD3 and possibility of getting more park property. NC was awarded a \$2,000 grant from Missoula Community Foundation to go into McLeod Park.
- University District: At last LT meeting (via two committees) discussed South campus University expansion and perceived attempted abductions.
- Upper Rattlesnake: nothing to report.
- Clayton Floyd: Addresses the Franklin to the Fort Infrastructure Plan. Does not want to discourage efforts of those people promoting the plan. Trying to be as inclusive as possible of those who may be affected by the Plan. Notion had been floating around that there was grant money or City would help pay. Result will be SIDs will be formed. Fully supports whatever the majority of people in that defined area choose to do. Want to keep people informed and foster better communication.

Hans: Reminds CF members to look at where LT members live (within NC boundaries).

Jon: Where is South campus meeting?

Jan: Monday at Double Tree 4-6pm and 7-9pm.

Jon: Important for Rose Park, Farviews, Lewis & Clark, and University Dist. NCs to turn out and learn what you can about it.

Adjournment

Bill adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Brennan Anderson
Neighborhood Liaison