

**Community Forum Meeting**  
**June 23, 2005**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**City Council Chambers**  
**Moderator, Jon Wilkins**

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

Emma Dickinson – Bill Earhart  
Farviews/Pattee Canyon – Ray Aten  
Franklin to the Fort – Jerry Tahija  
Grant Creek – absent  
Heart of Missoula–absent  
Lewis & Clark– Jon Wilkins  
Lower Rattlesnake– absent  
Miller Creek– absent  
Moose Can Gully—Chris Froines  
Northside– absent  
Westside– John Couch  
Riverfront– absent  
Rose Park–absent  
South 39<sup>th</sup> – absent  
Southgate Triangle–Ann Carpenter  
University District–Jan Hoem  
Upper Rattlesnake–Freddi Thompson  
City Council Representative – absent  
Neighborhood Liaison—Ruth Brennan Anderson

**Others Present**

Meeting attendee sign in sheet available at Office of Neighborhoods.

**Quorum**

It was announced that a quorum was present.

**Adoption of Agenda**

The agenda passed unanimously on a voice vote.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of April 28, 2005: Freddi Thompson clarified an error on page 8 instead of “the community” it should read “connectivity.” *Jan Hoem* made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. The minutes as amended passed unanimously on a voice vote.

## **Special Orders**

None

## **Announcements**

**Ruth Anderson:** CF budget is \$0. Small project balance is \$720. Thank you to the Southgate Triangle NCLT for welcoming me to their June 8<sup>th</sup> LT meeting. Thank you to Lewis & Clark NC and Jon Wilkins for the June 11<sup>th</sup> Duck Pond footbridge dedication. The Missoula Fire Dept. and City of Missoula present Be Safe July 4<sup>th</sup>. On July 20<sup>th</sup>, LGSC will have a presentation on NCs at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers. The Missoula Fire Dept. is interested in presenting at general NC meetings. Your Ward representatives and candidates are interested in attending/presenting at general NC meetings. Please try not to schedule your general NC meeting on the same day as another NC meeting. Please refer to the calendars in your packet for meeting dates in order to avoid double booking a date. This calendar is also posted online at [www.missoula-neighborhoods.org](http://www.missoula-neighborhoods.org) The League of Women Voters is available to provide assistance in NC planning/organizing candidate forums. They can provide moderators, planning assistance, or timers. They encourage NCs to hold candidate forums this summer. If you are interested please contact Sara Busey at 549-4120. Remember to get your NC invoices in before June 30<sup>th</sup> if they are to be deducted from the FY 2004 NC budget. We still need a Moderator for the July 28<sup>th</sup> CF meeting. [Ray Aten volunteers to moderate the July 28<sup>th</sup> CF meeting].

## **Presentations**

**Ray Aten** and **Ruth Anderson** give a summary of the Wildlife/Wildfire Urban Interface Event. The event was held at the Missoula Public Library on May 31<sup>st</sup> entitled Wildland/Wildlife Urban Interface, "Life on the Edge." Celeste River (CF Rep. Farviews/Pattee Canyon NC) and Sue Eaton (resident of Moose Can Gully NC) organized the event on behalf of the Community Forum of Neighborhood Councils. There were about 30-35 people in attendance. In attendance were experts in the fields of wildlife and wildfire including: Randy Okon, Jane Ellis, John Waverick, Jamie Jonkel, Erin Edge, and Jack Cohen. The Office of Neighborhoods will have available videos and other materials including "Protecting Your Home from Wildfire" produced by Jack Cohen; "Wildfire—Preventing Home Ignitions" produced by Jack Cohen; "Keeper of the Flame" produced by Dan Bailey; Firewise Community Workshop materials produced by Dan Bailey. The Office of Neighborhoods will also have a basic publicity packet as a resource for a more comprehensive workshop next year early in the Spring. This was a very organized event and may be something that the CF would want to continue on an annual basis via committee. The event was an excellent resource of information to the public and is an excellent opportunity for the Community Forum and Neighborhood Councils to expand public relations and service to the community. Thank you to those presenters who shared their time & talents & thank you to Celeste & Sue for organizing the event and Bill Earhart for helping set up the room for the event.

**LGSC Presentation:** *CF ideas about how local government and NCs could better serve the people in Missoula.* Sue Malek, Pam Walzer, Jane Rectenwald, Bob Oaks, Sarah van de Wetering, Alan Ault, Marty Rehbein, Gary Glynn (coordinator), Susie Orr couldn't be there. SUE: Letting CF know who they are, sponsoring meeting at end of July. We have been working since last November. The 1972 MT constitution mandates that county & incorporated city every 10 years they ask their citizens do you want to review your current government. 1994 City of Missoula study commission got 3 ballot initiatives passed. (1) City Charter, gave Missoula the

authority anything not denied by State & federal law, (2) enacted Neighborhood Councils formalized having neighborhood representation come to City Council and come to City government to allow citizens to participate, (3) non-partisan elections. We are looking at those 3 things. SARAH: We are trying to assess what is important to the citizens of Missoula. What we should be looking into and maybe what we should be making recommendations on. This summer we are looking at a few items, one of which is the NC system. People have expressed interest at several of the meetings we have attended in looking at how it is working and how it can be improved. We want you to be at the core of that discussion. We thought it would be helpful to bring in people from other cities who have similar programs. We organized a July 20<sup>th</sup> meeting at 7:00 pm in City Chambers. Bozeman has confirmed that they will attend and participate. Bozeman's study commission is also looking at this right now. One thing they have in Bozeman is an ombudsman person in the City to deal with land use issues. I have heard it has been successful. Great Falls Neighborhood Council coordinator will also participate. We have heard that the NC system works pretty well in Great Falls. We have invited the Helena neighborhood system personnel. We have also invited Billings personnel. BOB: 10 years ago I did not vote for the NC issue on the ballot because at the time I was very active in NN & I found it very redundant. I thought what can NCs do that NN is not already doing? The Neighborhood Project Fund program is an example—I am interested in seeing NCs do things better now that they are in existence. What do you do that you think is the most effective? What powers could you have that would make you be able to do things better? We can study that. JERRY: Are you going to study the different types of government? Also, are you going to consider again doing away with the City and just having the County? SUE: City officials are saying how do you get people to listen to what you are doing and participate in what you are doing? We brought someone in from North Carolina who talked about the Council/Manager form of government. All of his information is on the web page. On June 29<sup>th</sup> we will bring John Lockton (sp) who is the city manager in Great Falls and Chris Kukulski (sp), city manager in Bozeman to talk about how that form of government works there. What we do beyond that we haven't decided. If you change toward a Council/Manager form of government it implies other changes in government. For a city the size of Missoula I don't know if it could think of any form of government other than mayor/CC or Council/Manager. Abandoning City government, people in the County don't really want to see that happen. JANE: How do feel the NCs are working? Is there something we should be looking at? Are there NCs that aren't active, why do you think they aren't active? COUCH: Westside. About NN/NA involvement; When I first became involved in NC there was just a little bit left of the NA. The NCs came in and the NA dissolved. People were having to try to straddle both; it's difficult to do. We lost some ground with some strong NAs when the NCs were formed. Our NC has moved away from having only issue meetings and having meetings that are going to actually improving our neighborhood. I have wondered what other people thought about the loss of active NAs in their neighborhood or how it affected their neighborhood. JANE: Do you interact with the NN or are you completely separate? COUCH: NC does not interact with NN that I know of. ALAN: Are any of you active in any NAs? JON: There are a couple of neighborhoods that have active NAs, Grant Creek and University. JAN: There is a lot of overlap in the University District. We have an active HOA; almost all of people who are active in that are also active in the NC, both have their LT, there is a lot of overlap. We are finding cooperation between the 2 groups. It is demanding to have so many meetings. JON: in Lewis & Clark neighborhood we have not had an NA and I think that may be one of the reasons that we have such a strong NC there. I try to go to the NN meetings. I encourage our NC people

to go to their meetings. JAN: I haven't been active in CF for a long period of time. I feel like sometimes we are a faceless group that meets & discusses, but response from CC is negligible. I wonder if it might be a good idea to have a different Community Forum member attend each monthly meeting so that we had faces there and we have an opportunity to ask them questions. Just to expand the communication between CC and our group. JON: Today our CC rep isn't here and no one to replace him, he should have an alternate too. I think that NCs are like raising a kid and right now we are in our teenage years. As the years go on the stronger we are going to get & I feel that this has been happening the last couple of years. I am interested to hear what Great Falls has to say because I understand their neighborhood system is a little different and they have a little more pull with their City Council. To make us stronger we have to somehow have more pull with CC. NC is the place to go when there are problems in the neighborhood to bring that forward to CC, but if they don't listen then that doesn't work. When they are not listened to then sometimes they explode into bigger problems, there is no need for them to go that far. We do have some inactive areas of NC. We have struggled to get some of them up and going again. That takes time; we are not funded properly to get out into the neighborhoods and start organizing them to get the NC going. We get \$800 for a year. We can't do mailings that way; it would wipe out our budget. We have a part time Neighborhood Liaison; I feel that should be a full time position. Those are some of the things that would make us stronger. JANE: I have also heard some people say that some NCs don't represent the broad cross section of the neighborhood. Do you have any comments on that? FREDDI: I wrote several questions down that I thought the study commission might want to focus on. By focusing so much attention on NCs we are losing sight of our roles in the community. Does the NC system actually fragment attention and energy and create polarization rather than facilitate cooperation and resolution? Do NCs serve mainly the interest of those who are active and not always those of the neighborhood or the community? I think there are different goals for NCs than goals for the CF and I think there is an inherent conflict there. If the CF is here to speak with one voice representing all of the neighborhoods, I don't think we have that. I look at it this way, we come together once a month, but I don't sense that there is any real congruence in this group. Shared values that motivate working as one body for common goals. I don't get the feeling that there is trust within this group. I think how to develop that trust might be the most urgent need in this group right now. I believe the politics that infuses several levels of city government resides here with us tonight too. I think that this is one of the reasons that we are bound to continue trading water and not really serving the community unless we can resolve that issue. ANN: It is difficult to get a variety of people from your neighborhood to your meetings. In talking to people that run the businesses that are in your neighborhoods, Southgate Triangle has a number of businesses, due to the traffic changes have made problems for the businesses, try to get some of these things addressed it is after the fact. The businesses don't feel that the City is receptive to even having businesses in some places. It is very difficult to get these people to come together. JAN: In our community there is a swing in terms of involvement in the University District. There used to be stronger involvement of students, now it's more the home owners and we have been reaching out to the students, but have not been able to draw them in. There used to be more dissension in our meetings. Without the dissension it also means that we don't have the diversity of people showing up at the meetings. SUE: Do you think people get confused as to who they should go to CC people or NC people? In what instances do you think that people would call their NC? There CC? JON: When someone calls me I try to send them to the right person down at the City. Maybe we act as a screen for some of the calls and sometimes we refer to their Ward

representative. RAY: I am new to NCs. We have been working on getting more people active. It is sometimes frustrating because there is a small core who have been active for a long time. We did a major mailing, about 1,600 residents; we got about 25 at the meeting. Does that reflect your neighborhood? It's hard to know. These are the people who are active, some of them come and feel very strongly and feel that NCs should have ultimate power and we explain that is not something we can do. BOB: The Charter says that Neighborhood Councils should be the shepherds for neighborhood plans. Do any of you have a sense from your individual neighborhoods how much interest there is in neighborhood planning. FREDDI: In our neighborhood, based on input we've gotten from the City, plans are worthless. I don't see that Upper Rattlesnake residents have any faith in them. We do have a Rattlesnake Valley Comprehensive Plan that is not being adhered to. COUCH: Our Neighborhood Plan, adopted in July 2000, is the guiding document for the Northside/Westside. We've had major setbacks and we have had things develop that may not have started without the plan. We have had both successes and failures. In regards to representation, the question has come up, how many people were at the meeting, how many voted for, against? If those kinds of questions are asked by City Council and then if City Council followed through with acknowledging that those active and concerned people in the neighborhood really wanted what was before them, then maybe people would take the NC more seriously and attend the meetings. I think that City Council's respect for NCs could really be improved. JON: If people saw that City Council took NCs more seriously it could make a dramatic change to the NCs, people would be more willing to get involved. I feel that the majority of the Missoula citizens feel disenfranchised from their government. PAM: The Charter says that the City will try to provide the NC with information regarding projects that impact their neighborhood. Do you feel that the NCs are given information at the very front end of a project? Or is it just toward the final stages? Are NCs being more involved in the planning stage before the options are decided? JON: Generally, when I find out about something it is when a back hoe is operating. Very few things do we get advanced notice of. JAN: I think that word is getting out late. Members of most communities are frustrated by the lack of predictability that they've experienced over the last 5 years. JERRY: In F2F we are being heavily impacted by infill. Our notices normally run 10-15 days that they want an answer back. The NC is not equipped to have a meeting to get everyone there in that amount of time. That could really be improved. FREDDI: I have looked at the time frames for hearing and discussing issues and getting them from the neighborhood to the NC and from the NC to the CF and from the CF to CC. The time frames are very burdensome. As I went through it looked like about 3-4 months to go through the process; that's just not timely. Those time frames are built into some of our by-laws and rules. They prevent timely action, which discourages involvement. JANE: Would any of you recommend disbanding NCs? JON: Not me. COUCH: A valuable thing to us, when we have general NC meetings; we have them at least twice a year; at least one of our CC representatives is at the meeting. That is really valuable to us. JON: We have about a 15 minute question and answer period at the end of our meeting for our Ward representatives. ALAN: Do any of you think that NCs should be redivided, just be by wards or what is your thinking on that? SARAH: We are taking input way beyond this meeting. Check out our website; it is linked to the City website. We also welcome you to the July 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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## **Committee Reports**

### **Bus Tour Committee**

*Ruth:* The Committee met 4 times to discuss logistics of the tour. Jerry and I took a dry run of the route. Thanks to the Committee for their hard work on another successful tour. Event was May 26<sup>th</sup>. There were 35 attendees including citizens, NC members, presenters, NN representative, LGSC members, City staff, and City ward representatives, a Missoulian reporter. 29 of those attendees completed the evaluation, which was compiled and distributed to the Committee. There continues to be overwhelming support for continuing this type of event. Last year's evaluations noted not to wait too long into the Fall, August or September would be possible months. FREDDI: Motion to have Fall Bus Tour in September. RAY: Early September? Mid? JON: Could we do it on a different day of the month? COUCH: I wouldn't mind canceling the Sept. meeting, but having a different Sept. date for the tour. JERRY: I would think if we are picking a date, it should be after the primary. JON: Motion on the floor is for the middle of September and let the Committee decide the date. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

### **Training Committee**

*Ruth:* The Committee had 2 meetings. The committee came up with a list of training topics and then divided them into 2 categories. One category is a list of topics related to newly elected members to NCLT, e.g. secretary & treasurer procedures. CF members and I could get on the NCLT agenda to go through that training. The second category of training topics would be those that apply would be held as an open meeting available to NC and CF members, e.g. website management training; laws, regulations, ordinances regarding zoning; communication skills; City legislative process. Hans & I discussed the opportunity to update all individual NC websites. I met with Bob Jaffe. There are much more user friendly website designs or management tools available. There is money in the Office of Neighborhoods budget to pay for the website updating upon the CF approval of moving forward with that. Committee discussed a possibility, in order to try to get the highest attendance, the CF chooses a topic from the second category and that could be presented at a CF meeting this summer. NC members would then be invited to attend the training to be held as a presentation on the CF agenda. That was the Committee proposal and why the action item on the agenda today. COUCH: It will be tough using CF time. We already have a full agenda. We would be displacing other items. JAN: Regarding setting up websites, that is really important to our people. There would be 3-4 people from my neighborhood who would want to attend. JON: Our agendas are so full the training should be a separate meeting. COUCH: I was just wondering what the interest was. If there is interest like Jan mentioned then I would be okay with the CFLT looking at an item when setting the agenda. JERRY: I think the Committee envisioned that if a NC wanted some help, we would go out & help them. I don't think we envisioned it would take up a whole CF meeting. RAY: The needs per NC probably varies quite a bit. Rather than taking up CF time there could be separate training sessions in different areas. FREDDI: Motion that a CF representative will ask training committee with request for a certain type of training/presentation. The training committee will set a date & invite all CF and NCLT members to attend. COUCH: The motion is essentially that we are going to turn over authority to the committee to set the times, dates, for requested training. FREDDI: The committee wouldn't have authority to set the time. The training committee would work with the LT that requested the training. JAN: I would also like

to see that NC volunteers be invited. JON: Calls for a voice vote; passes unanimously on a voice vote.

## **Unfinished Business**

- 1. Glen Eagle sewer issue. [Neither Clayton Floyd nor John Hendrickson present]
- 2. Discussion of recommended proposed changes to Ordinance 3288 regarding NCLT recommendations. RUTH: All of the proposed changes are underlined. The regular text are the proposed changes referenced in this agenda item. JAN: 6E sounds as if it contradicts with C. I really want to see the LT and CF representatives replaced without a NC meeting for the short term. FREDDI: 5C says “appointing” replacements. E says all decisions regarding the “election.” I don’t see a conflict there.
- 3. Farviews/Pattee Canyon NC Resolutions. RAY: At our April NC meeting 2 resolutions were brought up. About 30 people attended. Those 2 resolutions are before you. In regards to the zoning designation resolution—There are 2 areas one in lower part of Farviews/Pattee Canyon area and one in Lewis & Clark area that have one of the oldest zoning designations in the City, A, that allows 40 foot high buildings. Would like to see City Council, Planning Board change it so it is consistent with the zoning in most of the area, R-1, 30 foot high. Both resolutions passed NC by 19 to 3 vote. We are asking for CF support in moving it on to CC. Ballas was present at both NC meetings and agreed to support these and work with planning on the zoning designation resolution. TIM LOVELY: Presents minority report (copy available with minutes in Office of Neighborhoods). COUCH: To change zoning, don’t people usually do a petition and pay a fee? RAY: There is now a very significant fee that increases. Ballas said that if the request is done through the NC there won’t be a fee because he will bring it forward. We are just asking the CF for additional support. COUCH: Do you think if you did the petition you could get whatever the required percentage is? RAY: Ballas told us that if the process is done through the City it would involve polling the entire area and asking what they thought about being changed to R-1. JON: Ballas has already made a referral on this issue. We will discuss it again at our next NC meeting. TIM: Ray, do you have a sense of how much of our neighborhood this actually involves? RAY: Maybe 25%. The area below the golf course, on both sides of Whitaker. There have already been some changes made much earlier. JAN: I understand the problem that is being addressed by this and the cost is practically prohibitive, but I personally need to see more information in front of me and I would like to speak to other members of my LT before I make a vote on it. Is there time? COUCH: I would also need to talk to my LT and have more information. RAY: Celeste would be able to describe the comparison between the 2 zoning designations. CHRIS: Could we have someone from OPG come to talk to us about the changes? Can you make zoning more restrictive on people who already own the property? JON: Calls for a motion. JERRY: Makes a motion that the resolution be tabled for further discussion next month. COUCH: Both resolutions? Or just rezoning. JERRY: Just rezoning. COUCH: Seconds the motion. Motion passes on a voice vote, none opposed.  
RAY: At the same NC meeting we passed a resolution about the Hillside Design Standards. We are asking for the CF support of the resolution. COUCH: The resolution says it should be reviewed “and substantially amended.” I’m not sure I have enough information about how it affects the neighborhood and what those amendments would be. FREDDI: We are being asked to support the NC’s efforts to present the resolution and work through it with the City Council. I don’t believe we have the authority to change it or

recommend it. RAY: It does get complicated in the first sentence. It says, “resolves to recommend to community forum, to Missoula City Council, and to the Missoula Consolidated Planning Board, that Hillside Design Standards be reviewed and substantially amended.” To me we are asking for a recommendation from CF. COUCH: This was also voted on at the NC meeting? What was the vote? RAY: They were voted on together and the vote was 19 to 3. I think without some clarification about what we are really asking from CF we can’t move this forward. JERRY: Could the NC discuss it and change the wording so it is not a recommendation from the CF? Makes a motion to carry it over to next month. COUCH seconds the motion. RAY: Friendly amendment to motion—I suggest not putting it on the agenda until the NC discusses it some more. COUCH: To approve exact wording for something is tough. FREDDI if you remove the words “to community forum” you might solve the problem. JON: All in favor of the amendment? [All in favor on the voice vote]. All in favor of the motion to table it until it is brought back? [All in favor on the voice vote].

### **New Business**

- 1. CF Small Project Fund Grant Application (for site plan for native plant garden at pocket part at 8<sup>th</sup> & Grant). JERRY: Is this money in addition to the \$200 she already got? RUTH: No. This is instead of. This is the appropriate procedure. This is the only small grant related to the Neighborhood Volunteer of the Year Award. She had to submit a specific project application. The first application was not according to proper procedure. COUCH makes a motion to approve the small grant application. FREDDI seconds the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carries.
- 2. CF Small Project Fund Grant Application (for Farviews/Pattee Canyon NC additional expenses. RAY makes a motion to approve the small grant application. COUCH seconds the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carries.
- 3. CF Small Project Fund Grant Application (for CF banner/sign). RAY makes a motion to approve the small grant application. FREDDI seconds the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carries.
- 4. Introduction of proposed amendment to ordinance 3288 regarding CF Alternate appointments. Introduction of recommended proposed changes to Ordinance 3288.

### **Ongoing Business**

#### **Monthly report to CC**

After CF discussion:

- Discussion with LGSC. The July 20<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm meeting about Neighborhood Councils.
- The action items on the agenda.

Motion to present the above made and seconded. Passed unanimously on a voice vote.

#### **Neighborhood Updates**

Neighborhood updates were reported.

- Emma Dickinson/Orchard Homes: We are going to have a general NC meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.
- Farviews & Pattee Canyon: For our next meeting we will have an ice cream social on July 17<sup>th</sup> at Whitaker Park. The Little White House is all painted.

- Franklin to the Fort: Infrastructure plan meetings are held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday. Our general NC meeting is July 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Lewis & Clark: We will set a general NC meeting in October and have elections then. We had an event at the Duck Pond.
- Moose Can Gully: We are looking at setting up a general NC meeting for either September or October.
- Westside: pass
- Southgate Triangle: pass
- University District: pass
- Upper Rattlesnake: pass

RUTH: Please make sure you get me your meeting dates so we don't double book.

### **Adjournment**

*Wilkins* adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Brennan Anderson  
Neighborhood Liaison