

**Community Forum Meeting
Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2008
7:00 p.m. City Council Chambers
Moderator, Melissa Schmitt**

Captain John Mullan – Kathie Snodgrass (Rep)
Emma Dickinson – Absent
FarViews/Pattee Canyon – Ray Aten (Rep)
Franklin to the Fort – Jon Salmonson (Alt)
Grant Creek – Brian Walter (Rep)
Heart of Missoula – Absent
Lewis & Clark – Seth McClain (Alt)
Lower Rattlesnake – Carol Elsen (Rep)
Miller Creek – Absent
Moose Can Gully – Lyle Geurts (Alt)
Northside – Brooks Priest (Rep)
Riverfront – Melissa Schmitt (Rep)
Rose Park – Absent
South 39th – Jeff Stevens (Rep)
Southgate Triangle – Hans Christiansen (Rep)
University District – John Snively (Rep)
Upper Rattlesnake – Jan Hoem (Rep)
Westside – Jamee Greer (Rep)

City Council Liaison – Absent
Neighborhood Liaison – LaNette Diaz

Others Present

Carson Robinson, Cathy Deschamps, Laval Means, Dennis Druffel

Quorum

Quorum is present.

Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Aten motioned for the adoption of the Agenda. *Mr. Christiansen* seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

None

Presentation-Bruce Bender presenting on upcoming Citizen Survey

Mayor and City Council are in the process of doing city survey to determine where citizens are at and to determine stance on particular projects. Before you is the first draft developed by the Gallatin Group in Helena. Next week it will be presented to City Council. We are looking for input, questions, and/or comments. The questions are designed to gauge citizen's general feeling about quality of life and what they are concerned about and also to gauge sense of support for funding and prioritizing projects.

This will be conducted by phone survey and will statistically select about 400 residents to call. We are relying on professional consultant to fine tune the phone survey.

***Mr. Greer** expressed concern over cell phone numbers not being used—lots of young folks and many others only have cell phones currently

***Mr. Stevens** emphasized the importance of listing overall cost as well as per household cost of building new police facility

***Mr. Walter** expressed the importance of equitable and equal distribution of services applied throughout the city. Track expenditures vs. taxes paid (per area) to determine where money is being spent in general. If the per cost to household is based on home values, then why should one part of town be paying for services that are not in their area per se. There should be equitable share of increase in services for increase in taxes.

Mr. Bender stated that if you live in the city, then you are using services throughout town, not just on your street. If there are further comments, please email them to me before next week.

Presentation – Roger Millar Urban Fringe Development Area (UFDA)

Mike Barton, Sr. Planner with Office of Planning and Grants will be presenting on this fairly major project that falls under Urban Initiatives. This comes as a renegotiation of the inter-local agreement for city/county planning and grant administration which was split up. The county set up the Rural Initiatives Office, which is now separate from OPG and were tasked with long range planning outside of the Missoula Area Planning Region. The Urban Initiatives section of OPG does long range planning within the city limits. That leaves out pieces of our community where a lot of action is occurring. Those areas that are within the service area of waste water service but are not yet within the city limits but are targeted for extension of sewer for example. With the new administration, initiative came about to include in long range planning areas outside city limits but within area intending to extend urban services too, which we call UFDA. Our office wants you all to know that this information is available and being developed as part of a process which we want you to be familiar with. Examining where and how development happens in this community. This is a broad community policy discussion being driven by County Commissioners and City Council. See the [website](http://www.co.missoula.mt.us/opgweb/UrbanInitiatives) for further details
<http://www.co.missoula.mt.us/opgweb/UrbanInitiatives>

Question regarding what the timeline is on the amendment to the growth policy, **Mr. Barton** replied they are hopeful the governing bodies would be in consideration of this in July. **Mr. Aten** commented that he has heard from several people that have attempted to access information on the website and that the annotation is lacking and they couldn't interpret what they were looking at on the maps. Is the public able to understand the maps or does it take a planner to interpret them. **Mr. Barton** replied that he would be happy to visit with **Mr. Aten** about the particular problems folks are having and met with the cartographer and if the graphic presentation needs to be changed that can be done, we want people to be able to interpret it.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. McClain moved for approval of the January minutes. **Mr. Aten** seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

Community Forum Action Planning-LaNette Diaz

In review of last month's planning, refer to pages 6-8 of the January minutes. The four purposes are listed and ideas for Community Forum on how it can help Neighborhood Council's and the neighborhood system are bulleted. Would like you to look at the overarching themes and see if there is anything to be added before we vote on the top three priorities for Community Forum this year.

Top three priorities were identified as:

- Create better ways to communicate. Keep websites updated; develop email lists, phone trees, list serves, etc. *Ms. Deschamps* commented to communicate with other means as well, combine elements of number 3 as well (media: newspaper, TV and radio).
- CF should create a process in which neighborhoods can get support and guidance on moving issues forward.
- Give Neighborhood Council's more authority to work on bigger things (from CF and from City Council).

Ms. Diaz asked if there is anything else people would like to see on the priority list? *Mr. Salmonson* commented that in light of the presentation tonight about UFDA, if this organization can do anything in regard to informing NC's about what is going on then it would seem that number 7 should be a high priority-- Pick a citywide project and spend time on getting information out as a group and help organize citizens around it. *Mr. Walters* commented that city staff is overloaded with work. There are people in the NC's with knowledge and they can take workload off the city in certain areas if they would allow more authority. *Ms. Hoem* commented that if UFDA were added to the priority of allowing more authority, we could focus on UFDA in the timeframe till July and help our neighborhoods.

Ms. Diaz commented that authority could be looked at as a way in which we (Community Forum and Neighborhood Council) give input and how that is taken. *Mr. Salmonson* stated that in the ordinance (creating NC's) it states several times about the purposes of governance. *Mr. Stevens* said perhaps one step to get to that increased authority is to do some research on NC systems in other communities, find out what kind of authority they exercise and how that has worked practically. *Ms. Diaz* will start looking into what other NC in other cities do and pull together some information to share. I will also give some thought on how groups like ours, given the ordinance and access to neighborhoods, can help get the word out and people engaged on big issues and bring to the next meeting.

Liaison Report-Ms. Diaz

Budget Process—*Ms. Diaz* stated that she sent out to all leadership teams the budget process. One of the authorities is to give feedback on the budgets budgeting for the following items: \$800.00 for each NC and \$10,000.00 for mailing supplement based on per capita distribution per NC. Captain John Mullan will be added to the mailing supplement which will increase the per capita and therefore decrease amount per neighborhood. Other budgetary issues from the office include \$20,000.00 for the Neighborhood Project Fund grant program and funding for staff positions in the office for FT Liaison and PT Secretary. We are requesting asking additional funding for the following items: \$800.00 for a new NC in East Missoula area; \$800.00 for a new NC west of Reserve St. When we add neighborhoods, we look at how that would look if incorporated into an existing NC's, for this area, with Reserve being a physical barrier, it makes sense for that area to be its own NC. In talking to Franklin to Fort about the extension of their neighborhood west of Reserve St and the difficulties that presents, it made more sense. So we are asking to expand the mailing supplement above the current \$10,000.00 so that adding Captain John Mullan to that distribution doesn't reduce the amount that others get. Written comments by tomorrow are needed on your thoughts and recommendations given what has been outlined. If you have different ideas submit them. This is the first step of the budget process.

Neighborhood Orientation Follow-up—there were 20 people in attendance representing 10 neighborhoods. This was a basic neighborhood orientation about what NC's are, what they can achieve, how to use the system and structure to do what you want, funding mechanisms and how to utilize them. I brought some handbooks that were created for that training, take one if you don't have one. The updated Guide to City Offices and Guide to Government are here for distribution as well.

Leadership Development—is the next training on March 18 at Bethel Baptist Church. This will be good for anyone on the leadership teams. Pat Murphy will be presenting this interactive training.

Grants—the second round of the large Neighborhood Grant Funds are due Friday March 7.

Downtown Master Plan—there is information in the binders regarding an upcoming public workshop. The consultants for this project will be in town for a public workshop on Wednesday, March 5, at Holiday Inn Parkside from 6:30-9:00pm. This is a community wide planning project and they would like input from neighborhood groups. Also on Thursday, March 6, at 11:30am at the Holiday Inn, the NC reps have an hour available to them to speak. Wanted to make sure you all are aware of these meetings.

Bike Walk Bus Week—is happening April 19-26 and Phil Smith the Bike/Ped Coordinator is asking to have neighborhoods involved in doing an event of their own during this week. If you want to do a project, you can contact me or Phil Smith.

Committee Reports

Neighborhood Project Fund Committee – Hans Christiansen

Vote to approve changes to the applications for Small and Large Neighborhood Grants. **Mr. Aten** moved that we approve the amendments to the large and small project grants as presented tonight. **Ms. Snodgrass** seconded the motion. Motion passed with two abstentions: Mr. Stevens- S. 39th St. and Jamee Greer-Westside.

Small Grant Request Western Montana Volunteer Center–Hans Christiansen

Mr. Christiansen made a motion to approve the grant application. **Ms. Schmitt** seconded. Motion passed with one in opposition and two abstentions: Ms. Priest-Northside and Mr. Aten- FV/PC.

Budget Report

Ms. Diaz referred to the items handed out regarding the mailing supplement and the monthly NC's budget sheets; they are consolidated to view both on same page. The Community Forum balance is included in the budget section as well.

Ongoing Business

Recommendation from the CFLT to apply for Neighborhood Award through Neighborhood USA for the Duck Pond project - Ray Aten

Vote to submit an application to Neighborhoods USA with the duck pond project in the Lewis & Clark neighborhood. Ms. Hoem suggested to vote in favor of this and commented that she attended the L&C General Meeting last night and the ideas they have are excellent. **Ms. Hoem** motioned to approve the application. **Ms. Schmitt** seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Neighborhood Council Updates (due to time constraints, asked those that had something to share to do so)

- **Upper Rattlesnake**—**Ms. Hoem** shared that the newspaper article on Lincoln School today has elicited many phone calls telling stories connected to the school and getting information to support the funding effort for the school. Ms. Hoem also informed the forum that she is applying for a large grant to put together a citywide presentation by Eben Fodor, author of *Better not Bigger*. The public is being asked to participate in so many growth initiatives currently and there is so much happening it is overwhelming. Mr. Fodor talks about managing growth in such a way that it will not only grow bigger, but better. He is a nationally recognized speaker on this topic and he could help us come together with information needed to participate in discussions in a way that we will still be happy within the neighborhoods we live in. I have some information for a May 20th presentation at MCT and he would have time to talk to neighborhoods and others in the community.
- **University**—**Mr. Snively** follow-up on the small grant approved last month, there was an article in the paper on Saturday with the event at the Sigma Chi house honoring those who had contributed to

preservation, in particular the process of granting historical status approval. There were about 60-70 people in attendance and it came off nicely.

- **Captain John Mullan**–*Ms. Snodgrass* thanked the Northside/Westside neighborhood which hosted us at the last meeting and unanimously voted to accept the proposed boundary change between our neighborhoods being Reserve St.
- **South 39th**–*Mr. Stevens* reported that Leadership Team meetings are scheduled for March 12, April 16 and May 14. Tentative schedule for neighborhood general meeting on April 23.
- **Westside**–*Mr. Greer* stated that the Northside/Westside will have a neighborhood meeting March 20 to discuss creation of a parking lot near Lowell Elementary and the White Pine Sash site cleanup.
- **Grant Creek**–*Mr. Walter* reported they gave a presentation to the Open Space Advisory Committee. It looks like they are in favor of the trail project and will support us in the necessary route surveys in order to prepare easement documents. The easement documents and land descriptions are our next goal and will take us the next year to complete. Tentative neighborhood general meeting on April 15 with Mr. Millar presenting on UFDA. Will be having a leadership team meeting prior to that. Would like to say that I am in support of Ms. Hoem and the Rattlesnake neighborhood in having the presentation she mentioned. Commented on all the plans and growth projections and transportation issues facing our community. Think it would be worthwhile to have an expert come speak about this.

Monthly report to City Council–moderator prepare

Mr. Snively made a motion to give Ms. Schmitt the discretion to put together a summary for the City Council. *Ms. Hoem* seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Moderator for the next meeting will be Greg Gullickson

Ms. Diaz asked if anyone would be willing to be a backup, Mr. Gullickson may be unavailable next month. *Mr. Aten* volunteered to be the backup.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Ross

Christine Ross

Secretary

City Clerk's Office