

Community Forum Meeting
Minutes
April 26, 2007
7:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers
Moderator, Alexandra Gorman

Moderator, Alexandra Gorman began the meeting at 7:05pm and took role:

Emma Dickinson – Mike Hathaway (Rep)

Farviews/Pattee Canyon – Ray Aten (Rep)

Franklin to the Fort – John Wolverton (Rep)

Grant Creek – Absent

Heart of Missoula – Absent

Lewis & Clark – Greg Gullickson (Rep)

Lower Rattlesnake – Absent

Miller Creek – Absent

Moose Can Gully – Tom Theisen (Rep)

Northside – Absent

Riverfront – Melissa Schmidt (Rep)

Rose Park – Alexandra Gorman (Rep)

South 39th – Renee Mitchell (Rep)

Southgate Triangle – Hans Christiansen (Rep)

University District – John Snively (Rep)

Upper Rattlesnake – Absent

Westside – Absent

City Council Liaison – Jon Wilkins

Neighborhood Liaison – Nick Roberts

Others Present

Dennis Druffel, Marty Rehbein, Wade Humphrey, Peggy Miller

Quorum

It was announced a quorum was present

Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Aten moved to adopt the agenda. *Mr. Christiansen* seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

No public comment

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Aten pointed out a few minor grammar mistakes that need correction. *Mr. Roberts* took note and will make sure those corrections are made. *Mr. Gullickson* moved to accept the

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minutes for March 22, 2007 as amended. **Mr. Snively** seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

Announcements

Neighborhood Liaison report: **Mr. Roberts** reminded everyone to turn in Neighborhood Council membership contact sheets as soon as possible. He stated that the “City Talk” program is up and running- he would like to keep getting ideas for potential issues to be addressed through this project. The bus tour planning is going very well- this will be discussed in greater detail later. He reminded everyone to complete the recent survey he e-mailed out concerning potential leadership training opportunities for neighborhood leaders.

Mr. Roberts noted that it has been brought to his attention by a City Council representative that it is currently unclear who should be the contact point for each Neighborhood Council. He mentioned that there needs to be a point person for public questions and for officials to utilize; this should be noted clearly on the Office of Neighborhoods website. He would like to have ideas from Neighborhood Councils on who should be chosen and how these contacts should be noted. **Mr. Wilkins** stated that if you are in an elected position you are obligated to have your contact information available. **Mr. Roberts** stated that this is not the problem- there just needs to be a clear person to contact.

Ms. Gorman posed that the agenda be changed to agenda to accommodate Marty Rehbein, who would like to comment on the suggested revisions to Ordinance 3335 (under New Business). This agenda item would be moved up and introduced and then further discussed under New Business. **Mr. Aten** made a motion to approve agenda as thus modified. **Mr. Wolverton** seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Rehbein discussed proposed changes to Ordinance 3335 regarding Neighborhood Council boundary changes. She discussed the annual \$800 allocation each Neighborhood Council receives and the additional \$10,000 mailing supplement. These funds should recur each fiscal year and will not have to be requested every year. Using a per capita disbursement method, as Neighborhood Council populations change, so would funding amounts. If the Community Forum wants to distribute the \$800 on a per capita basis, there would be a large range of allocations. **Ms. Rehbein** and **Mr. Roberts** showed a projected break-down of what each individual Neighborhood Council would receive if distributed per capita. Ms. Rehbein expressed concern that there are base operational costs that do not change based on population, and a per capita disbursement of the annual \$14,400 would leave the least populated neighborhoods without enough base operating money to work with. She encouraged Community Forum to seriously consider this reality when approving revisions to Ordinance 3335.

Mr. Wolverton stated there was discussion of changing Franklin to Fort to two neighborhoods because of its large size. This reality proved difficult to get in touch with everyone and let them know what was going on. They discussed the need for extra funding to serve their large population. He stated that there should be a fairer distribution of money to reflect such circumstances. **Mr. Hathaway** asked where the \$800 amount came from and if it truly reflected the average annual monetary needs of Neighborhood Councils. **Ms. Rehbein** stated the amount started out at \$700 or \$750 each. Then, one year City Council authorized the increase to \$800.

She stated that these funds are not efficiently used by all Neighborhood Councils- some are very active and some are not. CF Leadership Team has discussed a possibility of redistributing unused money to groups that could use more than the original \$800. A recommendation has not been decided upon yet. **Mr. Wilkins** stated that \$800 is not enough for an active neighborhood. Dennis Druffel has just done a mailing in the Lewis & Clark NC, and **Mr. Druffel** stated that the cost for mailing 1456 pieces was about \$660 (for printing and mailing). He stated that other regular expenses included meeting space rental: \$50 for rental of the facility. He said that the supplements were very important. **Mr. Wilkins** stated that Lewis & Clark struggles to publicize 4 meetings a year- the money will not cover what they are trying to do. They supplement by selling advertisement in the newsletter. He would not be in favor of changing the \$800 amount- all neighborhoods need at least this amount. **Mr. Roberts** stated that the spreadsheet (being projected at the meeting) shows a proposed break down that could go into effect for the new fiscal year. It correlates each Neighborhood Council population to a percentage of the overall Missoula population. These percentages were converted to a per capita disbursement method to illustrate what would happen. He stated that there would be quite a disparity ranging from \$394.13 for Grant Creek on the low end and \$1686.96 for Franklin to the Fort on the high end. He reminded everyone that the mailing supplement will be there next year (\$10,000 for the whole NC system). The other big part of the Ord. 3335 recommendations deals with NC boundary modifications. **Mr. Aten** suggested that the group return to the agenda and that these issues will be further discussed under New Business. **Ms Rehbein** commented that another consideration might be to change the annual base appropriation to a lesser amount and determine a new method of distributing funds above that amount. She encouraged the Community Forum not to address these monetary issues in Ord. 3335 amendments as they are completely separate from the NC boundary modification issues.

Presentations

1. High Ground Communities in Missoula – Peggy Miller
 - Power point presents a lot of info in a small amount of time
 - Oil depletion fossils fuels and Global warming main issues
 - How can Missoula become a project city and get off the grid in 10 years
 - Goal is 12 cities getting off the grid- reasons oil depletion, air quality
 - Why high ground? Sea levels could rise from 20 to 600 ft
 - Possible funding- private investors, corporations, federal, city and international governments
 - Energy would be from wind and solar in future
 - Food would be grown local and organic

Ms. Miller discussed hydrogen vehicles- many in California with numerous hydrogen stations. Stopping international oil buying could save billions of dollars to keep in our own economy. Using hydrogen could result in cleaner air as there would be no emissions. There is a High Grounds steering committee in Missoula consisting of 7 people: Tom Bishop, Claudia Brown, Brian Kerns, Seth Pogue, Ben Schmidt, Paul Williamson, and Peggy Miller. They will be working on a 10 year plan. There is a web site for all the information www.highlandwinds.com. The power point is on this website for viewing. **Ms. Miller** stated that she has various scientists

and others listed on her website who endorse this project. She is looking for more interested participants.

Questions: *Mr. Wilkins* asked whether the *12 designated cities* strategy would cause a refugee effect when the sea level does go up. *Ms. Miller* did not think so- she offered that when these target cities get off the grid they will help the other cities to follow suit. *Mr. Wilkins* asked what would the cost would be? He believed that hydrogen would be more costly. *Ms. Miller* stated that statistics for hydrogen say that using it to fuel vehicles would cost anywhere from \$2.50 to \$5.50. She stated the idea here is not for Missoula to come up with the money; it is to make people aware of and move towards this concept. *Mr. Wilkins* asked if there was grant money available for this currently. *Ms. Miller* said she is working with her team on the 10-year plan. She stated that different companies have money to donate when there is a plan which utilizes wind/solar conversion to hydrogen. *Mr. Theisen* questioned the accuracy of the monetary figures pointed out in the hand-out. *Ms. Miller* confirmed a mistake and will make the correction. *Ms. Miller* will have a meeting on May 2nd at her house (1520 S 7th St) from 5:30 to 7:30, open to the public.

Committee Reports

Extraordinary Events Committee

No Report

Bus Tour Committee: Greg Gullickson

Mr. Gullickson stated the committee has met several times and has a pretty exciting proposal planned for this year. The tour is scheduled for a Saturday morning June 2nd - participants will gather at Playfair Park, take the tour, then return to the park for food, fun and fellowship and swimming if so desired. *Mr. Gullickson* read the bus tour announcement that *Mr. Roberts* wrote concerning the rewrite zoning and subdivision codes. Bus tour sites will feature the north half of Missoula on this trip. The sites will be submitted based on a challenges and celebrations in the featured neighborhoods. There may also be recommendations from city staff. *Mr. Wilkins* asked if city council was polled to see how many would be available to do a Saturday tour. *Mr. Roberts* sent out an email concerning this and has had no responses- he asked what the present CF members thought about the switch to Saturday. *Ms. Gorman* stated that there will be challenges with either a week night or a Saturday morning tour, so this was worth a try. *Mr. Roberts* stated that the announcement had not formally gone out yet- it was just a draft. He will need site requests turned in two to three weeks from now to plan and confirm the tour with committee and CF members. *Mr. Wolverton* supported the Saturday idea and date. *Mr. Theisen* also supported this date but stated it might be a little early. *Ms. Gorman* stated that it should be clear on the announcement that staff members will be solicited for site requests. *Mr. Snively* stated that it is important to have staff input- they bring knowledge that neighborhood residents wouldn't have regarding issues such as zoning.

Mr. Aten made a motion to approve the bus tour announcement and for publicity to move forward as presented tonight with the addition of City staff being invited to suggest site visits. *Mr. Gullickson* seconded. *Mr. Theisen* asked if the tour could be moved back an hour. A compromise was reached, and *Mr. Aten* accepted the friendly amendment to begin the bus tour at 9:30 am. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Unfinished Business

A call for each N.C. and the C.F. to create a list of accomplishments and activities: Renee Mitchell

Ms. Mitchell will initiate some calls to follow up with people who haven't given her lists.

Remaining \$2,156 of Neighborhood Project Funds

Mr. Roberts showed an updated chart (laptop/projector) of mailing the supplement of \$10,000 that was distributed per capita. This chart noted what has already been spent per neighborhood and that \$7,984 was left. He mentioned that unspent funds go away at the end of the fiscal year (June 30th). Another \$10,000 will be appropriated for the new fiscal year. *Mr. Gullickson* stated that Lewis & Clark has spent theirs, it should be fully spend. *Mr. Aten* stated that Farviews is planning on spending theirs- they have a newsletter in process. *Mr. Roberts* reiterated that the money needs to be spent by June 30th, 2007. *Mr. Roberts* suggested that if there was interest in using this money on a wider distribution, it would be a good idea to take action tonight and set a deadline. *Mr. Theisen* stated that it would be a good idea to get a general mailing out to let all people know that they are part of a neighborhood and where they can get more information. *Ms. Gorman* stated they are putting out a newsletter and will include basis information about neighborhoods councils so people will know more about it. *Ms Schmitt* agreed with Mr. Theisen, stating that the Riverfront NC will not be putting out a letter in the next two months and it needs more involvement from residents- this would be a good way to get it. *Mr. Roberts* wanted CF to formally act on this item. *Mr. Wolverton* stated that F2F is planning a newsletter, but that their timeline might not match up in time to spend the money before June 30th. *Mr. Roberts* stated that the money just has to be committed by this date. *Mr. Wilkins* wanted clarification. *Mr. Theisen* reiterated the suggestion of the Office of Neighborhoods creating a one-page insert. *Mr. Wilkins* agreed with that idea and clarified that NC's would actually be the ones to mail this document.

Mr. Aten made a motion that as of June 1, 2007, mailing supplement funds will no longer be encumbered by specific Neighborhood Councils; funds will then be available on a first come, first serve basis to all Neighborhood Councils, as needed. *Mr. Gullickson* seconded the motion. Discussion: *Mr. Wolverton* said CF should be cautious in making this decision; he offered that City Council may question the decision. *Mr. Wilkins* disagreed and said that he would support the motion, though he is not a voting member of CF.

*Vote: the motion passed with 9 in favor, 1 against.

New Business

Ordinance 3335 "boundary change" revisions (to be referred to city council) – Hans Christiansen

Ms. Gorman explained that the boundary change item still needed to be addressed. *Mr. Wilkins* proposed delaying discussion of this item until the next CF meeting. *Mr. Aten* disagreed. He did not think the per capita distribution needed to be in the ordinance amendments. *Mr.*

Wolverton asked if the Ord. 3335 handout included this per capita language. **Mr. Roberts** said the per capita recommendation was accidentally excluded from the handout- he showed this provision on the projected screen. **Mr. Wilkins** didn't receive the per capita piece prior the meeting either. **Mr. Gullickson** didn't remember the per capita piece being a boundary committee recommendation. **Mr. Roberts** said the complete Ord. 3335 recommendations, including the per capita language, were e-mailed on the prior Friday. He apologized that this was excluded in the handout. He summarized the boundary modification recommendations and explained that the per capita piece was a different issue.

Mr. Theisen made a motion that Community Forum vote on the entire issues, including both the boundary changes and per capita consideration, at its next meeting. **Mr. Wilkins** asked how the money issues entered the boundary change recommendations. **Mr. Aten** said it's not fair that the boundary issues keep getting put off- Community Forum should approve sections C and D in Section 7 tonight. **Mr. Christiansen** agreed and would like a vote tonight. **Mr. Wolverton** agreed.

*Roll Call Vote: 3 in favor, 7 opposed. The motion failed.

Mr. Christiansen made a motion to approve sections C and D in Section 7 of the proposed Ord. 3335 recommendations focused on Neighborhood Council boundary issues. **Ms. Mitchell** thanked the boundary committee for its hard work.

*Vote: passed unanimously.

Pending Neighborhood Small Grant applications review and action – Ray Aten

Mr. Aten said two grant applications need a vote tonight and should be voted on separately. The first grant application from the Upper Rattlesnake NC was for \$125 for copies of the Rattlesnake Valley Comp. Plan. **Mr. Roberts** noted that Jim Meagher had suggested prior to the meeting that CF approve \$200 in case extra copies were needed.

Mr. Aten made a motion that the Upper Rattlesnake NC be granted \$200 copies to the Rattlesnake Valley Comp. Plan. **Mr. Gullickson** seconded the motion.

*Vote: passed unanimously.

Mr. Aten introduced the second small grant application from Lewis & Clark NC in the amount of \$200 to purchase a meeting notification sign.

Mr. Aten made a motion that Lewis & Clark NC be granted \$200 for a meeting notification sign.

Mr. Christiansen seconded the motion. **Mr. Wolverton** questioned whether or not such an expense should come from annual NC funds or small grants. **Ms. Gorman** clarified that sandwich board signs were listed as acceptable at the top of the grant application form.

*Vote: passed unanimously.

Nominations for one vacant Community Forum Leadership Team position - Greg Gullickson

A member of the LT resigned for personal reasons **Mr. Gullickson** opened the floor for the position a call for nominations: none interested at that time.

Formation of the Community Forum "Neighborhood Volunteer of the Year" committee – Mike Hathaway

A call for forming a "neighborhood volunteer of the year" committee and also call for nominations for this committee. The committee solicits nominations for volunteer of the year,

reviews them based on selected criteria and makes a selection. **Mr. Hathaway** and **Ms Mitchell** are already on the committee, they would like a minimum of five members. **Mr. Aten** asked how many times the group will meet. **Mr. Hathaway** stated that the group will meet three or four times between May and August. **Mr. Roberts** stated that the award is given out in September. It will be on the next CF agenda.

Ongoing business

Monthly report to CC: Ms Gorman will present: CF heard a great presentation on “High Ground Communities;” boundary change revisions; discussion on the mailing funds; will thank City Council for the mailing supplement funds and let them know the funds are actively begin used; small grant applications; the bus tour.

Neighborhood Updates

- Rose Park – **Ms. Gorman:** planning a meeting for tentatively June 7th at St Paul’s on Brooks, then ice cream social to follow. Triangle Park is finished and looks great. Ms Gorman is moving to Spokane in July.
 - Lewis & Clark – **Mr. Gullickson:** Thanked CF for the grant money. L & C NC is having a meeting on Tuesday May 3rd, 7-9pm at the L & C grade school.
 - Emma Dickinson – No Report
 - South 39th St.-- **Ms. Mitchell:** LT plans to meet soon and is scheduling next General NC meeting.
 - Moose Can Gully – No report
 - Farviews/Pattee Canyon – **Mr. Aten:** LT had meeting last week: UM South Campus Master Plan was discussed. Jon Wilkins and Jerry Ballas were both there and answered questions and answered questions. He encouraged other NC’s to invite City Council members to meetings- it was of great value. F/PC will be working on a master plan for its parks system at the next meeting.
 - *Franklin to Fort*—**Mr. Wolverton:** LT meeting- presentation from Peggy Miller. He thanked two reps from Parks and Rec. and OPG who attended the LT mtg. They were consulted for planning a potential trail in the F2F neighborhood. A newsletter will be going out hopefully in mid-June. The F2F bicycle tour will get people acquainted with project.
 - Riverfront – **Ms. Schmitt:** WGM (Developer) attended last neighborhood meeting. The NC is working on a newsletter.
 - Lower Rattlesnake – No report
 - Southgate Triangle – **Mr. Christiansen:** LT meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month. They had a good turnout at the last meeting; some City Council members were present; traffic calming devises were discussed.
 - Upper Rattlesnake – No report
 - Grant Creek – No report
 - University District – No report
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- **Mr. Gullickson** made a motion to approve the CF report to City Council. **Mr. Theisen** seconded the motion.

*Vote (approved unanimously)

- City Council Report – *Mr. Wilkins*: The main issue coming up is the Zoning Code Rewrite—this will be really important for the neighborhoods. The last time this was done was in the late 1970’s. The code is now outdated, and this will affect your neighborhood.
- Rose Park did an excellent job working on their project (Triangle Park project).
- *Mr. Snively* will moderate the next meeting.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:26 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy DuBois

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Secretary

City Clerk’s Office