

**Community Forum Meeting
Meeting Minutes
October 25, 2007
7:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers
Moderator, John Snively**

Moderator, John Snively began the meeting and took role:

Captain John Mullan – Kathie Snodgrass (Rep)

Emma Dickinson – Mike Hathaway (Rep)

FarViews/Pattee Canyon – Ray Aten (Rep)

Franklin to the Fort – Absent

Grant Creek – Absent

Heart of Missoula – Absent

Lewis & Clark – Greg Gullickson (Rep)

Lower Rattlesnake – Absent

Miller Creek – Absent

Moose Can Gully – Lyle Geurts (Alt)

Northside – Absent

Riverfront – Melissa Schmitt (Rep)

Rose Park – Diana Garrett (Alt)

South 39th – Jeff Stevens (Rep)

Southgate Triangle – Hans Christiansen (Rep)

University District – John Snively (Rep)

Upper Rattlesnake – Absent

Westside – Absent

City Council Liaison – Absent

Neighborhood Liaison – Marti Rehbein, City Clerk

Others Present

Ryan Arthun

Linda Frey

Matt Baldassin

Nathan Howard

Quorum

Quorum is present.

Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Christiansen motioned for the adoption of the Agenda. *Mr. Gullickson* seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Mr. Aten stated that at the recent FV-PC NC meeting, a Resolution was passed. The Resolution was read and copies distributed. Mr. Aten asked for consideration for other NC's to pass a similar resolution and potentially ask the CF Leadership Team to consider this resolution for a

future meeting. Resolution reads Opposing SID 542 Far Views-Pattee Canyon Neighborhood Council October 23, 2007 (refer to attached). At the meeting 27 people were in attendance; of those 3 were ineligible to vote, 22 people voted for this Resolution, with 1 abstention. For those NC's that are affected by this same SID, this text can be provided to you if you need it. I would like CF to consider it.

Further comment made by Linda Frey of 100 Hillview Way. I am here to represent the citizens against SID 542 and would like to thank the FV-PC NC for their support in opposition. This SID affects both Moose Can Gully and South 39th Street neighborhoods. They have not had the opportunity to review or vote on the Resolution. Concerns are this formula sets an unfortunate precedent of placing a rather significant burden of the SID on a disproportionate few property owners. If this formula is used in our area it can happen to you and with equally disastrous effects for your citizens. This SID reinforces what we see as an unfortunate tendency to shift infrastructure costs away from City's General Budget onto the property owners of the area. This has affected us particularly because our taxes have doubled in more than 10 years because of the SID burden. Missoula is unfortunately becoming unaffordable to many of our citizens, not just the lowest income, but middle income group as well. On those grounds of the formula, and on the shifting of costs, we think it an inappropriate cost to SID as influenced by infrastructure on the roads, and the example illustrated by the parks issue that came in another area. We hope that you would consider this a concern that you would address generally. If you have any specific questions since this item was not on the agenda, I'll be back next month to answer any questions.

Mr. Christiansen introduced Matthew Baldassin, the new Committee Chairman for the Southgate Triangle NC. He also lives in the area North of South Ave, which represents an area in the neighborhood that hasn't been represented. I would like to state that as a LT for the NC's, we need to take stronger control. Every time we have a change in the Neighborhood Liaison position it seems that we lose some continuity in the programs. In the next few months I am going to ask to work with each other to come up with a plan so the CF can have some continuity.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Snively asked if there any additions or corrections to last month's minutes, being none, *Mr. Christiansen* moved for approval of the minutes. *Ms. Snodgrass* seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Liaison Report

Ms. Rehbein announced the new Liaison will start November 12th, her name is Lynette Diaz.

Presentations

None

Committee Reports

Neighborhood Volunteer of the Year Committee – Mike Hathaway

Mr. Hathaway stated the selection committee members Renee Mitchell, Jan Hoem and myself interviewed two candidates- Joseph O'Loughlin and Jeff Stevens; both outstanding examples of neighborhood volunteers for 2007. By unanimous decision, the committee recommends Jeff

Stevens. *Ms. Snodgrass* asked about what influenced this decision. *Mr. Hathaway* read the accomplishments from the included resume for Mr. Stevens and stated that he will make the nomination materials and the score sheets on this process available to the CF. *Mr. Hathaway* made the Motion to nominate Jeff Stevens as Outstanding Volunteer of the Year 2007. *Mr. Gullickson* seconded the motion. *Mr. Stevens* stated he will not participate in this vote. Motion passed unanimously.

Neighborhood Project Fund Grant Application Review Committee-Diana Garrett

The committee met and reviewed the grant requests and decided to table this for vote until the next meeting. We received wonderful grant requests, but there was information that was lacking that needed to be gathered. Some of the requests include Day of the Dead Parade, Hip Strip Block Party, a request for building Dakota St. *Ms. Rehbein* explained a little about the landscaping project between Russell and California on Dakota Street and a request for the design phase for an entrance timber frame pavilion for new riverfront park on the old mill site. *Ms. Garrett* added the request to put the 'Mt. Kilimanjaro' climbing rock in a park. *Ms. Rehbein* added that this is a rock structure to be in Sky View Park to honor the memory of the Walrod's son. *Mr. Christiansen* stated there is a request for a neighborhood park project as well. *Ms. Schmitt* asked what information are we waiting for? *Ms. Garrett* replied, waiting for budget information on the Hip Strip Block Party, the turned in information was based on last year's project and really wasn't geared towards what we asked for in the grant, so we asked them to resubmit some information. And on Dakota Street I think there were some details that were missing. *Ms. Rehbein* added that with the Dakota St. project it required some coordination and input among various City Departments. With the direction of the Mayor and Chief Financial Officer, a meeting was schedule which met after the Project Fund Committee. Since the meeting this past Monday, I haven't had a chance to meet with the Committee to update on where the Department's are with this project. Expect to have another meeting to finalize the Committee's recommendations before the next CF.

Unfinished Business

None

Budget Report

Ms. Rehbein asked for clarification about which budget information is presented. *Mr. Aten* stated it is usually the status of the supplemental budget money. *Ms. Rehbein* stated some supplement money has been spent, but the office is still getting bills in because a lot of NC's are having meetings. I will have to look and see if I have that information with me.

New Business

Mr. Christiansen reviewed a small grant application. He commented this is an unusual request, but with discussion with Ms. Rehbein and the Parks Department, they are comfortable with whatever our decision is. This elderly lady has been dragging hoses for a number of years to water some trees in the Bellevue Park area. When Pattee Creek ran through there, it watered the trees. Then the 54" drainage ditch under 39th Street altered the water course. At one time the county had an irrigation system but with the sewer system project it was ripped out. Conflict

occurred over whose responsibility it was to put the irrigation system back in place, so it has never been resolved, thus this elderly lady has been watering these trees. The family spent \$400+ to put in an irrigation system to irrigate these trees, so I am asking to support a \$200 small grant to help pay for this. **Mr. Christiansen** made a Motion to approve the requested grant submission. **Mr. Stevens** seconded the Motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Snively stated that Thanksgiving follows on the 4th Thursday in November which will conflict with this meeting, would like to move the meeting date to one week prior. **Mr. Gullickson** made a Motion to move the CF meeting next month up a week. **Mr. Christiansen** seconded the Motion. **Mr. Snively** stated it would be the 15th, 3rd Thursday instead of the 4th of the month. Motion passed unanimously.

Ongoing business

Monthly report to City Council: **Mr. Snively** stated he would like to continue in the tradition that began last meeting, that the moderator can prepare the report of an abbreviated Agenda. **Mr. Christiansen** seconded the Motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Neighborhood Updates

- Riverfront – **Ms. Schmitt** reported that there is a full NC meeting November 8th at the Boys & Girls Club on Higgins Avenue at 7:00 pm (I think). We will be electing new leadership representatives, reviewing CF activities, and addressing other issues around the neighborhood.
- Moose Can Gully – Mr. Geurts reported that at the NC meeting last Wednesday there was good discussion on the Hillview Way project which has dominated the NC since it was proposed about a year and a half ago.
- Lewis & Clark – **Mr. Gullickson** reported that the NC held a candidates forum in conjunction with Farviews-Pattee Canyon. It was an excellent candidates forum, was not very well attended unfortunately. Thought it was a good display by both candidates for Ward 4.
- Southgate Triangle – **Mr. Christiansen** reported their general meeting the 2nd Wednesday of this month was well attended and five City Council members were present. Held election of Officers and elected a new Chairman and Secretary. The leadership is up to strength again. One City Council person thought we weren't doing enough about notifying members about what is going on and when meetings are held. We have always relied on the signs and the mailing we put out. So we asked if people felt they were being properly notified and a vote if they were satisfied with what we were doing was conducted. I thought it was pretty unanimous that people there were satisfied. We are going to try to do something about having our agenda on the neighborhood website, so that is something I am going to take on trying to learn how to do. I hope the new Neighborhood Liaison can teach me how. **Mr. Aten** said he'd be glad to assist Mr. Christiansen with that.
- Farviews-Pattee Canyon – **Mr. Aten** stated that Mr. Gullickson has already alluded to the candidates forum; it was well advertised but not well attended however. A week later we had a NC meeting. Most of the people that attended were interested in what is happening on Hillview Way and were quite animated about their opinions. The facilitator of the parks charrette spoke about the results. It was interesting to me that what people were saying is they want to be more informed about where the parks are, but they don't want the parks to change. That may not be what other neighborhoods are hearing, but in our neighborhood, we

are hearing keep them in the condition they are, don't make improvements that make them into large playgrounds, but make us aware of where they are located. Now we know that many people have no idea where the easements are to get into the parks. Lastly, we are doing another weed pull as a community event at the corner of Pattee Canyon and Higgins, where the holding pond is. We have been working with the University to try to turn that into what we are calling a 'Gateway Park' to the area and to the University.

- University – **Mr. Snively** reported at the meeting on the 15th there was a presentation from the leadership on the South Campus Master Plan proposal. There was fairly good discussion on the Higgins/Beckwith roundabout proposed for the area and there was a candidate forum with Wards 3 and 4 candidates.
- Rose Park- **Ms. Garrett** stated that they have not had a meeting since this summer, but the Leadership Team met discussing their next meeting. We are down three of the leadership. The next meeting will be to elect Leadership Team Members. Neighbors in the area have been helping with a couple of volunteer projects, assisting with the aesthetics of the roundabout in our neighborhood (for those who want to join a committee, their input is taken seriously) and the Triangle Park project is going strong, getting updates weekly. If you haven't seen this project in awhile, drive by and take a look. It is a great example of using volunteers in the neighborhood, and it looks great.
- South 39th – **Mr. Stevens** reported elections were held in early October. I, Jan Conrad, and Cathy Deschamps were elected to Leadership Team. I was elected as CF Representative as well. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Renee Mitchell for her service the past two years, she will be missed. There is a proposal for a development by a development group named Guardian Angel. The project is being considered by the Missoula Design Review Board for an assisted living facility. The area is bounded by Hillside Manor to the West, Homesteads Park and Subdivision to the North... the Pat Tonkin property to the South, and the proposed Southern Hills Subdivision to the East. Main access will be by an extension of the main southern hills access road, which is not yet built pending subdivision approval. The project consists of 102 living units on four acres conducted in two phases. There would be four buildings; two would be larger multi-story buildings. Neighborhood concerns were expressed that the density of the project would be too high, and that the buildings would be too large and high, and be built too close to the property lines. Also concerns about limited access and an increase in traffic on Hillview Way were expressed. The Missoula Design Review Board has recommended reducing the intensity of use to 48 residents or an improvement of three 16 bed bungalow units. The developers have responded that such a proposal would not be financially viable. They have indicated that an 82 unit compromise with a reduction in building height might be acceptable. The Missoula Design Review Board has asked for more neighborhood input before their November 14th meeting before they make a final decision. In view of that, I am going to propose to our LT to distribute a survey in hope of getting more input before that meeting takes place. Would like to note a positive, interesting piece of news for the South Hills neighborhoods. An announcement in the *Missoulian* that a major agricultural property has agreed to place about 450 acres into a conservation easement and another two property owners have agreed to place another 500+ acres in conservation easement in the South Hills pending City Council approval. I think this is outstanding news for open space in this community and for the South Hills in particular, I would like to congratulate everyone involved in this project.

- Captain John Mullan – *Ms. Snodgrass* reported that they are still organizing, looking for a seventh member to appoint to Leadership Team, preferably from the Phantom Hills Ranch Club area. If anyone has anyone of interest please let me know. Looking at having the first LT meeting week of November 12. We submitted a small grant application for a sign board, which will be presented at the next meeting. Still need to get a hold of the Westside NC to discuss the boundaries between our two neighborhoods.
- Emma Dickinson – *Mr. Hathaway* nothing to report.
- City Council Report – No Report.
- *Ms. Hill* will moderate the next meeting.

Mr. Aten suggested that since there is plenty of time left, can we follow-up on Mr. Christiansen's proposal for the CF long range plans? Any ideas or suggestions for topics or direction for CF? What can we take to the Neighborhood Liaison to assist us? *Ms. Schmitt* commented that leadership training for CF representatives is something to consider. *Ms. Garrett* agreed, mentioned that when the Alternate went to the last meeting, they left due to confusion. *Mr. Christiansen* expressed his feeling that training is needed for all people on leadership teams. *Ms. Snodgrass* would sure second that from our perspective. *Mr. Christiansen* added that on the issue of boundaries, we have a committee that has been meeting for some time to establish dialogue with the city representatives that establish boundaries. At the present time, they arbitrarily give a new annexed area to a certain neighborhood and sometimes that neighborhood doesn't want it or feel like they are part of it. The Westside and Franklin to Fort areas have suffered because of the way that their boundaries have been expanded. I think we need to be talking about that. *Mr. Snively* asked if this is something that should be brought up with the LT and have them present some kind of plan or thoughts at the next meeting rather than talking it out here? *Mr. Aten* stated that ideas coming from the CF representatives help out the LT. *Mr. Snively* added that CF should do things that are worthwhile and affect in some way how our community is run. Most important thing we can do and maintain vision of, is having some kind of input on decisions made in City Council, and develop a way to have more impact on political decisions made in this community. *Mr. Christiansen* added that he served on several grant committees. Ways to improve the process identified, but when recommendations are made by CF nothing gets changed. We talk about change, but the next year when it is time for the process, it doesn't happen. I would like to see that followed up with some kind of language for the grants. *Mr. Snively* reiterated Mr. Christiansen's comment as I hear you asking for improved continuity of process. *Mr. Aten* reminded folks that at one time there was a really good dialogue with the Committee as a Whole. CF representatives were invited to come an hour early to talk about communication between CF and City Council. There was an understanding that this could be done in the future. Unless I hear otherwise, I think that is a direction we would also want to go; pursue having another meeting talking about communication, maybe with some new City Council members. *Ms. Schmitt* stated that there are still a number of neighborhoods that aren't participating in CF. I wonder if there is a way to generate some activity in those neighborhoods. *Mr. Christiansen* indicated this discussion has come up in the past; a prior Neighborhood Liaison was trying to have a Leadership Training Committee from the LT so that they could meet with different Leadership Teams of NC's. The Liaison can't do it all by themselves. I think the CF as a whole needs to encourage those neighborhoods to have someone here. *Mr. Aten* noted some of the attributes of the new Neighborhood Liaison, one of the best ones being that she was previously the Neighborhood Liaison in Billings. She may come with some great

organizing energy that may help get these neighborhoods more active. **Mr. Snively** asked if there were any more comments. **Nathan Howard** (homeowner's board president for El Mar Estates on Mullan Road, four miles outside the city limits) stated that finding members for the NC team is a challenge. Of the 4,000 or so in the neighborhood (since we are on perimeter of town) only about 1,000 live in the city limits. I would like to be on the NC but I can't because I don't live in the city limits. I was wondering if there is any way to change that. **Ms. Snodgrass** commented that in our area, there are lots of places of skipped development. El Mar is an integral part of our neighborhood, how do we integrate parts of our community that can't legally be on the LT or vote but still need them to shape our neighborhood. This is an issue for us. **Mr. Christiansen** indicated this is a problem with many neighborhoods. A lot of the homeowners association's members do not live in city limits. One recommendation is to attend the meetings and voice their opinions and ask that NC bring their ideas forward to the City. I do feel this is a weakness in the CF; when people who live just outside the limits feel they are part of the city but have no voice. **Ms. Snodgrass** said that it was specifically written into the bylaws that others were encouraged to attend and participate. **Mr. Snively** commented that those people have common issues, just to bring them forward to the CF where hopefully they can be acted upon may make a difference. **Mr. Gullickson** encouraged bringing forth ideas to legitimize CF and institutionalize some of our practices. Submit your ideas to the LT to be discussed and taken into account when setting the next month's agenda.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Ross

Christine Ross
Secretary
City Clerk's Office