

**Community Forum Meeting**  
**January 23, 2003**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**City Council Chambers**  
**Facilitator, John Couch**

Facilitator John Couch called the meeting to order. The following people were present:

**Member present:**

Emma Dickinson – Don Stinger  
Farviews/Pattee Canyon –Celeste River  
Franklin to the Fort –Jerry Tihya, Patricia Hogan, alternate  
Grant Creek – absent  
Heart of Missoula–absent  
Lewis & Clark–Thomas French  
Lower Rattlesnake– Carol Elsen  
Moose Can Gully–Ron Ewart  
Miller Creek – absent  
Northside –absent  
Westside– John Couch  
Riverfront–absent  
Rose Park–absent  
South 39<sup>th</sup> – Joe Gorsch  
Southgate Triangle–Hans Christiansen  
University District–Paul Crowley  
Upper Rattlesnake–Eileen Schwanemann, Philip Perszyk, alternate  
City Council Representative – Clayton Floyd  
City Clerk—Marty Rehbein  
Neighborhood Network—Jim Meagher

**Others Present:**

Jeff Stevens, South 39<sup>th</sup> St.; Bruce Bugbee, Heart of Missoula; Denise Alexander, Westside

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr Christiansen made a motion to approve the minutes of November 21, 2002. Mr. Crowley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. French made a motion to approve the minutes of December 19, 2002. Mr. Christiansen seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Nominations for Community Forum Leadership team**

Mr. Couch noted that there is only one vacancy on the Community Forum Leadership team because Mr. Tihya was elected by his Neighborhood Council to continue as their Community Forum representative. He opened nominations. Ms. Elsen nominated Hans Christiansen for the Community Forum leadership team. Mr. French moved to close nominations. Mr. Gorsch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Pursuant to Community Forum bylaws, the nomination will be voted on at the next Community Forum meeting on February 27, 2003.

### **City Council process/ City Clerk Office overview**

City Clerk, Marty Rehbein gave a presentation on how items move through the City Council process. She noted that the Council's process is built around three principals: 1) Citizens' right to know 2) Citizens' right to participate before a final decision is reached. 3) Getting the public's business accomplished. She talked about the difference between public and private records. Public records are to be made available to the public, and the City has a policy relating to providing records to citizens. She noted the City is also responsible for ensuring personal privacy in records that contain private information..

### **City Council Service Overview**

Clayton Floyd gave a presentation on what it is like to serve on City Council. He noted it takes a significant amount of time and requires members to have a flexible schedule. Most members own their own businesses, are retired, or have very understanding and supportive employers. The Council deals with a broad range of subjects and issues. He noted that politics is part of the Council process. Missoula is a diverse community, and Council members need to be tolerant and open minded. Any council member can serve on any committee they wish.. He stated Plat, Annexation and Zoning (PAZ) Committee gets the greatest attention because it deals with land use issues. Administration and Finance (A&F) deals with finances and matters of administration, Conservation deals with Parks, Recreation and Open Space, Public Safety and Health Committee (PS&H) handles Police, Fire, Health, and Animal Control. Public Works (PW) deals with public infrastructure like streets, sewers, curbs, gutter, sidewalks, and vehicle maintenance. All Council members serve on Committee of the Whole (COW), and that committee deals with interests concerning the entire City Council and major policy issues.

Referrals are made to handle business, agency recommendations, constituent concerns, something that Council members are passionate about, or to review policies and how they are working, for example, density bonuses. In accordance with special rules, an item can be brought to the floor without a committee vote. One thing he has learned is that you have to count votes to maneuver in the council process.

John Couch said he found the presentations very interesting. He asked if Council members reflect the average person in the community if the process takes so much time that retired and/or self employed people comprise most of the council. Clayton said Council members try to represent the whole community. Many meetings take place during the day which means many working people can't attend. But if they were in the evening, staff would need to be paid for those hours.

Mr. Floyd said council members make about \$9,800 per year plus health insurance benefits. If a member serves on all council committees, they meet from 9 a.m.-noon and 1 p.m. -3 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Mr. Floyd said the Planning Policy Committee (PPC) oversees the Office of Planning and Grants (OPG) and hires the OPG Director. PPC was created by an agreement (called an Interlocal agreement) between the City and County. They review broad land use policies for the Missoula area. The PPC is comprised of two County Commissioners, the Mayor, a City Council member and the chair of the Planning Board. They determine the OPG work plan and priorities.

Committee chairs are important because they choose what items will be taken up in committee.

City Council members are protected from lawsuits by the City's insurance carrier, the Montana Municipal Insurance Authority (MMIA). The City Attorney is very good, and he tries to keep the City Council from getting into potentially litigious situations. MMIA covers Council members acting in their capacity as elected officials. The law provides liability limits for Council members acting in their official capacity except in cases of criminal activity.

If he could change one thing about City Council, it would be to find a way to be more compromising.

### **Neighborhood updates**

S 39<sup>th</sup> Street – no report

Emma Dickenson—Don Stinger reported they are developing a revised infrastructure plan for the neighborhood. A minor subdivision, Robi's Way will come before Council in February. He has an assessment from the schools and test score information if anyone is interested in learning more about it. The test scores influence how much federal funding schools get.

Upper Rattlesnake Eileen Schwanemann reported their leadership team just met to discuss a joint meeting with the Lower Rattlesnake. They are going to notify people about the meetings using sandwich board signs. She just was notified of a new subdivision up on Duncan Drive. There is a meeting on February 12, 2003, to discuss it. It is a two phase development that is dependent, in part, on the sewer coming in. They also heard from Joe Bischoff of the Poverello Center that the Joseph residence will be moving in a couple years' time to the Rattlesnake area.

University District—no report

Franklin to the Fort Jerry Tihiya reported their neighborhood council met Tuesday, and despite the big snow storm, they had the best turnout ever. They elected three new leadership team members. The neighborhood is concerned about density and cluster development and transportation issues. He said they distributed 2,500 flyers using the community service workers, and it worked really well. They set out 8 sandwich board

signs, too. People said they found out about the meeting by the flyer. They did a newsletter and agenda, and used it as a flyer.

Lower Rattlesnake Penny Orwick reported they will meet jointly with the Upper Rattlesnake on February 7, 2003. They are hoping to have City Council members and OPG staff there. They want to talk about the Transportation Plan and Growth Management Phase II issues. The transportation planners decided that Van Buren would remain a two lane road. They are also looking forward to getting started with their neighborhood projects.

Moose Can Gully no report

Southgate Triangle Hans Christiansen reported they are discussing what upgrades and improvements they want in their neighborhood parks and what parks they'd like to see developed. They are using their nominating committee to get new leadership team members. He'd like to know about how the alternates can be involved in Community Forum, and their treasurer would like training about City financial processes.

Lewis and Clark Thomas French reported the major public works projects in the neighborhood are shut down for the winter.

Farviews/Pattee Canyon. Celeste River reported they haven't had a leadership team meeting yet. She will try to call a meeting before the next Community Forum meeting. She said some people in the neighborhood don't like the motorcycle club that uses the fairgrounds every weekend in the fall.

Westside—John Couch reported the Neighborhood Council held a meeting concerning the rezoning of the former City shop land for a new Safeway store. He said the proposal doesn't conform with the neighborhood plan. Other neighborhoods in Missoula have neighborhood plans, and if they can't guide development, he is wondering what those plans mean. He asked neighborhoods that have neighborhood plan and to read it and find out if it means anything to the neighborhood. Should it have weight? They are having a rally for a sustainable Missoula at West Broadway and Nora this Saturday.

#### Other comments

Philip Perszyk asked how the Community Forum feels when a Neighborhood Council stands before the City Council and says the neighborhood took a vote and says the vote was unanimous and doesn't give information about how many people voted. He used the Northside/Westside as an example. At the Planning Board meeting on the rezoning matter for the City shop land, the vote was reported as unanimous, but didn't mention the number of people at the meeting and how many voted. He suggested if two or three thousand people voted, that number should be released as a matter of policy.

Eileen Schwanemann said Neighborhood Councils take minutes, and they are a matter of public record.

Mr. French said they record the number of people voting in their minutes. He noted at City elections 40% show up and those votes are valid.

Mr. Floyd said it is an important point, and it shouldn't be taken lightly. It does lend credibility to a recommendation if two hundred people show up and have a unanimous vote vs. thirteen people, for example. He said his Neighborhood Council created a development committee and leadership team members sign testimony they present to developers and planning board and council. When they have a neighborhood council meeting, the committee makes a report about what they did and what happened with the item.

Mr. Perszyk said it is frustrating to go to the work of putting together a meeting and not have folks show up.

Mr. Crowley noted this is the way the system works. The people who are interested generally show up. This issue could be turned into a positive by having Neighborhood Councils incorporate the numbers of people who voted in their minutes and presentations.

Ms. Rehbein stated Lou Ann Crowley would like the Community Forum to discuss what the City should do with small and odd shaped park land, and she'd like to make a presentation on zoning to the Forum in February.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marty Rehbein  
City Clerk