

**Community Forum Meeting
Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2010
7:00 p.m. City Council Chambers
Moderator, Bill Flanery**

Captain John Mullan – Kathie Snodgrass (Rep)
Emma Dickinson-(River Road) – Absent
Farviews/Pattee Canyon – Ray Aten (Rep)
Franklin to the Fort – Jon Salmonson (Rep)
Grant Creek – Absent
Heart of Missoula –Bill Flanery (Rep)
Lewis & Clark – Greg Gullickson (Rep)
Lower Rattlesnake – Absent
Miller Creek – Absent
Moose Can Gully – Lyle Geurts (Rep)
Northside –Absent
Riverfront – Absent
Rose Park – Nancy McCourt (Rep)
South 39th – Cathy Deschamps(Alt)
Southgate Triangle – Absent
University District – John Firehammer (Rep)
Upper Rattlesnake – Don Sims (Rep)
Westside –Absent
City Council Liaison – Jon Wilkins
Neighborhood Liaison –Erin Scott

Others Present

John Newman

Quorum

Quorum is present.

***Adoption of Agenda** (items from consent agenda can be moved to committee reports by any CF rep as deemed necessary at this time). **Mr. Aten** moved to approve the agenda. **Mr. Gullickson** seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

***Approval of CF Minutes**

Approve meeting minutes from January 28, 2010. **Ms. Snodgrass** moved to approve the minutes. **Mr. Gullickson** seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment (non-agenda items from audience)

John Newman works as a planner with OPG in urban initiatives and would like to offer his services if there are any questions or desire for information from that office. He will be attending Community Forum meetings as a resource from now on.

Presentation – Garden Go-fers – Genevieve Jessop Marsh

Ms. Marsh works as Community Outreach Director for Garden City Harvest and is here to talk about community gardens and how neighborhoods are an integral part in the function of them. There is an increase demand for Community Garden space and the Garden Go-fers group is working toward achieving filling that

demand. An Attached presentation summary from her PowerPoint presentation highlights the Garden City Harvest program.

She shared that the Garden of Eaton was a great model for a community garden. Partnerships were created with the Joseph's Residence and the Blessed Trinity Church and each organization utilized an Americorp volunteer to coordinate the project. The hope is to increase the number of plots available in the near future. Ms. Marsh added that this garden is set up for a family experience; there is shade for kids to be in while parents work in the garden and cooking classes were incorporated as well. This program has led to a great level of ownership and involves a number of volunteers. Ms. Marsh said that neighborhoods are where these ideas start and with continued building of support the idea grows into a community garden. Ms. Marsh can be contacted via email GenevieveJM@gardencityharvest.org or call 550-3663.

Questions and discussion:

It would be good to share the garden plot waiting list numbers with NC's so they are aware of the interest in their neighborhood.

It was expressed that the minimum size of 1/4 acre is necessary to establish a community garden.

The Garden Go-fers were defined as a group of folks comprised from City Parks, County Planning, the Office of Neighborhoods, interested organizations and citizens that serve as a task force. They are in the initial phases of establishing criteria requirements and developing a land use agreement. Once the criteria is established, they will consider eligible lands to put into use as Community Garden space.

Neighborhood Liaison Report – Erin Scott

Snow Angels Program

Ms. Scott reported that the group met last week to identify resources. Although there were no consistent agency support identified, Opportunity Resources will shovel for \$45 if they have people available. The focus of the program meeting was on free marketing around neighbors helping neighbors. The brainstorm list identified 15 various newsletters to have information in. Other resources are to issue a press release when it snows, push out PSA's to the media and announcements to service organizations and the PTA for example. There is interest in creating a design logo for this program. If anyone is interested and has ideas let Ms. Scott know.

Neighborhood Training Discussion

From the list of ideas generated previously, the following topics were chosen for training:

- Overcoming Bureaucracy: A Panel
- Getting People to your Meeting: Marketing/Networking
- Community Building & Active Listening

People were not in favor of taking a full Saturday for the training, but rather to break it up and have weekday and a partial Saturday trainings in April.

Sign-up sheet for 'Map Your Neighborhood' or the 'CERT' training

Ms. Scott passed around the sign-up sheet to determine interest in setting up a future training last month. A minimum of 10 are needed and 3 signed up. Ms. Brown will keep the Office of Neighborhoods informed of when she will be doing training in our area and Ms. Scott will relay that information.

Upcoming meetings

Ms. Scott announced upcoming meetings and events of interest.

Committee Reports

Active Transportation Plan–Jon Salmonson

The community workshop last month was an interactive opportunity to gather information on what people liked most/least about the active transportation system in their areas, especially when thinking about walking/biking in town. A sheet with a ranking of the barriers to using that system and what projects or programs would make it more feasible for use was generated from those exercises as well as what education/outreach and safety/enforcement and maintenance issues ranked strong. This sheet, as well as the executive summary of the 2001 plan and the work program of the group, was shared. In the work program, there are some long and short range objectives. Mr. Salmonson encouraged folks to share this summary with their NC's. He is open to hearing what folks have to add, concerns and interests to take to the next meeting March 11. He added that there is a lot to be considered in this update process. They would like the best ideas and that will come from everyone expressing their thoughts and ideas.

Neighborhood Project Funds – Hans Christiansen

Ms. Scott filled in and reported that the committee will meet in March and update the timeline of the grant program. It is the desire of the committee to announce the program in April, hold a pre-application overview workshop in May and allow the summer months to develop applications. The application deadline would be in September/October and have a period of review to allow opportunity to request further information to insure a complete application is submitted. A formal update will follow after the committee meets in March.

Marketing/Networking Committee–Ray Aten

Mr. Aten shared that leadership team discussed and is now clear on the differences between marketing and networking and understands how they work together.

Ms. Scott circulated the list with proposed NC general email list names for choices to be made and then put in place. The draft brochure will be presented for discussion at the March 11 meeting which will be from 6:30-7:30 PM in the Jack Reidy Conference Room and all are welcome to attend.

Mr. Salmonson expressed the brochure is worth funding and suggested it come from the NC's mailing supplement budgets. Some expressed they have dedicated spending or have already expended their budget. Mr. Aten suggested utilized the reallocated funds when that process occurs.

Ongoing Business

Neighborhood Council Updates

- Captain John Mullan – Spring general meeting will be on March 16 and will include a presentation on the charette for Pleasant View Park planning and a presentation on the Mullan Road bike trail.
- Emma Dickinson-(River Road) – Absent.
- Farviews/Pattee Canyon – nothing new to report.
- Franklin to Fort – at the general meeting Tuesday February 23, Carla Krause, City Special Services Administrator, provided an update of possible developments in an area of the neighborhood lacking in streets due to vacations. Planning continues for the next general meeting held the 4th Tuesday of every month.
- Grant Creek – Absent.
- Heart of Missoula – LT met to plan agenda for the March 3 general meeting to be held at the MCT at 7:30pm. The grant committee will review the traffic signal box art program and there will be discussion on safe streets. A terrible accident involving fatalities occurred on E. Broadway. That area lacks adequate sidewalk and lighting. Steve King, Director of Public Works will talk with us on that issue.
- Lewis & Clark –LT met to plan March 16 general meeting at Lewis & Clark School. The Green Blocks program is gearing up for another round so a heads up for those neighborhoods in need of weatherization.

- Lower Rattlesnake – Absent.
- Moose Can Gully – LT met last week to plan a general meeting for March 16 at Chief Charlo School. Morgan Valliant from City Parks will present and Bobby Grillo with Montana Conservation Corp will talk about their planned work on the trails in the area as part of a NPF grant. There will be Trail Improvement Day April 1st at Garland Park from 9am-1pm.
- Northside – Absent.
- Rose Park – LT met in January to address concerns about quality of recent sidewalk installations in the area. The LT is working on arranging a listening/problem-solving session with Office of Neighborhoods and Doug Harby, City Engineer.
- South 39th St. – Neighbors are concerned about recent alleged attempted abduction of a small child at the bus stop on 23rd at Garland Park. There is a neighborhood kid coordinating a neighborhood block watch effort around this incident.
- Southgate Triangle – Absent.
- University District – nothing new to report.
- Upper Rattlesnake – held a general meeting recently focusing on evaluating the transportation issues in the Rattlesnake in general with lack of sidewalks and bike trails in the area.
- Westside – Absent.

City Council Liaison Update-Jon Wilkins

Mr. Wilkins mentioned upcoming public meeting issues: language on anti-discrimination, refusal of a breathalyzer request, and the tweaking of Titles 19 & 20 of the zoning rewrite, namely dealing with location of garages in relation to the house. He added that City Council is beginning to talk about budget issues as well.

Final Business

*Monthly report to City Council – Request to report on non-agenda items

(The monthly report to City Council will be made by the moderator of the meeting. The report made will address all items on the Community Forum agenda for the month. A request for reporting on non-agenda items will occur at Community Forum to ensure pertinent non-agenda are reported as well).

The report will include a summary of items on the agenda including that Garden City Harvest is looking for more garden space in Missoula and the proposed changes in the timeline for Neighborhood Project Grant Fund program, and an update on the Snow Angel Program.

The next CF meeting moderator will be **Ms. Elsen**

Ms. Scott showed an example of what Constant Contact looks like as the office is in the process of utilizing that application for an e-newsletter. She showed current subject ideas and layout for the newsletter.

Question asked about using this program for neighborhood specific news. Ms. Scott replied there is more examination necessary into the features of the city website to see what would be the best use and approach for that. She suggested having explicit sign-up sheets at NC meetings for categories of interest to folks and inputting that into the system and pushing out emails as information is posted. Mr. Wilkins asked what security measures are in place so the list is not misused. Ms. Scott will have the access to the list on this end from the compiled contacts in the office as creator and stated that Constant Contact is in use by many organizations and is confident it operates with high integrity. Mr. Salmonson asked how is this different from way the office did the newsletter before and said he has not received some information from this program from other sources and things maybe it is getting filtered out from his email. Ms. Scott replied that this newsletter wouldn't take away from existing information avenues out there already, but would perhaps be utilized as a way to maintain a connection to citizens and be pushed out every three months. This is an almost free way to build up contacts as no mailing supplement is used for production and mailing. The

benefits of using this as a marketing tool are the features allow tracking of how many people open it up, where they got it-directly or from a link, and how long they are reading it.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Ross

Christine Ross
Secretary, Office of Neighborhoods

*Copies of any handouts and referenced documents at this meeting are on file in the City Clerk's Office

Mission

The GCH mission is to build community through agriculture by growing food with and for low-income Missoulians, offering education and training in ecological agriculture and using our farm and garden sites for the personal restoration of youth and adults.



Community Gardens Program

- Basics - \$25 for plot, water, tools, straw, compost, advice
- Learning – teaches skills of self-sufficiency
- Makes eating healthy & affordable



Something more...

- Cooperation: keeping the shared spaces maintained, sharing tools and water and knowledge
- Gathering space: a quiet place to read, picnic, play, enjoy the outdoors
- Community expression: organic representation of individuals and families



Where are our gardens?



The neighborhoods:

- Northside (Northside Community Garden)
- Franklin to the Fort (Garden of Eaton)
- Lewis & Clark/Univ. (ASUM)
- Riverfront (2nd Street)
- Orchard Homes (Orchard Homes & River Road)
- Meadow Hill

Need for gardening space

- Waiting list for gardens was 50+ last season, and grows each year
- Many drive across town to get to their garden plot
- Routine calls asking for help in implementing gardens in Missoula & beyond



Community Garden Location Criteria

- Interest of neighbors
- Density and number of renters within a neighborhood
- Income of residents

Basics of a Community Garden

- Public access
- Water supply/irrigation
- Soil quality
- Handicap access
- Parking
- Landowner - can this remain a garden for a long time or forever?



GCH goals for Community Gardens



- Offer growing space to those who need it most
- Have a growing space within walking distance of anyone with low income
- Secure urban agricultural land in perpetuity
- Encourage and cultivate new partnerships
- Encourage neighborhood participation and sense of ownership
- Offer a gathering place

Garden of Eaton – a model



Step 1: Identify an opportunity

Step 2: Form a partnership: e.g. between Joseph's Residence (+ AmeriCorps) + Blessed Trinity Church + GCH

Step 3: Conduct outreach and gather support in the neighborhood

Step 4: GCH applies for an Office of Neighborhoods grant.

Step 5: Make the garden grow

Garden of Eaton - Results

- 30 plots (more added next year)
- Kid's area
- Automatic irrigation
- Shade structure



Garden of Eaton - Results



- Great participation from a diverse group
 - Joe's Residence cooking classes (Community Center)
 - Church members and Joe's residents alike garden together
 - Large group of dependable volunteers
 - High level of ownership at the garden
- High likelihood of garden permanence

Role of Neighborhoods

- Beginning & heart of the process
- Support system
- Office of Neighborhoods grant funding

