

**SOUTH SIDE TASK FORCE MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2015
REGULAR MEETING 7:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.
SOUTHSIDE SENIOR CENTER
901 SOUTH 30TH STREET, BILLINGS, MONTANA**

AGENDA

Meeting Called to Order

Introduction and welcome of all guests
Minutes of the last meeting
Visit with local City Council members, Law Enforcement (Your questions.)

Presentations (on programs and issues in Our Neighborhood)

South Park Spray Park Update – Mark Jarvis – (10 minutes)
Vista Projects This Year – City Vista Volunteers – (30 minutes)

Neighborhood Concerns

Committee Reports

1. Phillips 66 Report
2. Alternatives Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Grants Report
5. Legislative Report

Correspondence

New Business

Nomination and Election of New Vice Chair

Old Business

Adjournment

For Code Enforcement issues, call Tanya Punt at 657- 8288.

For Graffiti Removal, call John at 371-6901.

For Info on the Task Force, call Michele Zahn, Chair, at 652-3337, Matt Shipp, Vice Chair, at 247-5738 or 318-423-1732, or Mary Westwood, Secretary, at 259-3756.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
THE SOUTH SIDE NEIGHBORHOOD TASK FORCE

April 16, 2015

Southside Senior Center, 901 South 30th Street, Billings, Montana

Present: To be added in the future.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Michele Zahn at 7:01 p.m. Introductions of all present were made and all attendees were welcomed. Zahn thanked Matt Shipp and for bringing treats to the meeting.

Jim Ronquillo moved for approval of the March minutes as presented and Jan Begger seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as presented.

No law enforcement was present for the meeting.

City Council Member Mike Yakawich was in Seattle and did not attend the meeting, but sent an Email saying the playground should be done this spring and the Splash Park is moving forward. Community Leadership Development Incorporated is also doing housing in the area where the rowhouses on Jackson now stand . Brent Cromley said the City is also looking at its annual budget and working on its new water plant. Mary Westwood asked if that plant will be processing effluent from local refineries like Exxon and was told it would be. She asked him to make sure the City is protected from any liability resulting from water they process for the refineries.

Shonda Schallenberger, an Ambassador for the USA Pickleball Association, talked about the growing sport of pickleball and her group's hope that the tennis courts on the north side of South Park could be turned into multiuse pickleball courts. Pickleball is played on a badminton court with a net lowered to 34 inches with a perforated plastic baseball and wood or composite paddles.

Schallenberger said all ages, levels of skill and abilities can play pickleball and it is a friendly community building sport. Four pickleball courts can fit on one tennis court and only eight dedicated courts are needed for a tournament. The game was named after the inventor's dog, Pickles. Both singles and doubles are played and each game takes about 15 to 20 minutes. There is also no reason that pickleball can't be played on basketball courts. Matt Lundgren offered to have pickleball players use the Friendship House court.

Dayton Rush of CTA Architects and Mike Whitaker and Mark Jarvis of the City Parks Department presented information about the new Splash Pad planned for South Park. They said the City's goal is to make it an exciting, family-friendly attraction with water cannons, shade structures and other facilities appropriate to

different age groups being served. They discussed the various locations proposed and said everyone so far has favored the linking location between the new playground and the existing pool. The group discussed the advantages of that location, especially if it included a restroom that would be open the hours the Splash Park is open. Ronquillo moved to send a letter to Parks, the City Council and the City Administrator supporting the linking location with a new restroom and Westwood seconded the motion. The letter was approved unanimously.

The group expressed concern about two pickups seen at various locations around the neighborhood and wondered why Code Enforcement hasn't done anything about them since both seem to be in great disrepair. The group asked that a letter be sent to Code Enforcement regarding these vehicles. City Council Member Brent Cromley said he would look into the matter for the neighborhood.

Jim Ronquillo reported that his basketball hoop had been stolen from his driveway. Danny Ball asked where crime statistics on the neighborhood could be found and was directed to the police department.

Zahn reported that the Phillips 66 Refinery has its highest production rate ever. They are also working on putting their pipelines deeper under the rivers. During a refinery tour, she and others were shown where some \$210 million in improvements will be made

Jan Begger said Alternatives has begun celebrating 35 years of existence with a party for Dave Armstrong. Some thirty graduates and their families attended and one person won a car and \$100 to get tags for it.

Ronquillo reported that the Easter Egg Hunt gave away 64 Easter Baskets and 6 bikes, as well as 8,000 eggs. The checking account has \$1,885.34 after spending \$1,464.39 on the event.

Matt Shipp announced he will be leaving to pursue opportunities in Europe. Westwood and Shipp and anyone else who wants to help were named to nominate a new vice chair. Shipp will be leading a cleanup of the Neighborhood on Saturday, April 25th from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and Ronquillo moved and Dale Fincel seconded a motion to provide pizza and snacks for the event. The motion was approved unanimously.

Fran Ball also moved to write a letter in support of the Gardener's Market USDA grant and Begger seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

The next Regular Meeting of the Task Force will be held on THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2015, at 7 P.M. at the Southside Senior Center. Treats will be provided. So bring your friends and neighbors to the South Side Neighborhood Task Force meeting at the Southside Senior Citizen Center, 901 South 30th Street and enlist their help in making Our Neighborhood the best part of Billings.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Westwood
Secretary