

**SOUTH SIDE TASK FORCE MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2015
REGULAR MEETING 7:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.
FRIENDSHIP HOUSE
3123 8TH AVENUE SOUTH, BILLINGS, MONTANA
(PLEASE NOTE: THE TASK FORCE IS NOW MEETING AT A DIFFERENT
LOCATION.)**

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)

The Home Center – (20 minutes)
SCRAP – (15 minutes)

Neighborhood Concerns

Committee Reports

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

Correspondence

New Business

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
Lundgren, Vice Chair, at 259-5569, or Mary Westwood, Secretary,
at 259-3756.**

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

July 18, 2015

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

Present: (To be added later.)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Michele Zahn at 7:07 p.m. Introductions of all present were made and all attendees were welcomed. Zahn thanked Parkview and Carmen Huffman for bringing treats for the meeting.

Dale Fincel moved for approval of the June minutes as amended regarding the application for a grant and Jim Ronquillo seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as amended.

No law enforcement was present for the meeting.

City Council Member Mike Yakawich said he is trying to get Code Enforcement to look into an abandoned mobile home that is near the old Garfield School. Someone may be living in the vehicle on the street, which is not allowed by City ordinance. The City Council has also been looking at crime in our community and it turns out the South Side is the second best area of the community for low incidence of crime. In other good news, he said the Parks Department has increased the wages for lifeguards at City pools. He did vote against building more in the fringe of the City without those people being annexed into the City and thereby paying City taxes.

Mike Whitaker of the Parks Department said work has begun on the playground and it is expected to be completed in the near future. Dayton Rush showed the Task Force what is planned for the Splash Pad, including 55 sprays, two mushrooms for the smaller children and a maze they can follow when the park is wet. This design, suggested by the Task Force, has already been approved by the Park Board and will now move into the actual design and construction phase. Rush said the whole park should create energy and excitement in the young people who use it. The project will be bid in the latter part of August and should be open by Memorial Day of 2016.

Candi Millar, Director of City/County Planning, brought the results of her update of the City/County Growth Plan. She received some 1,200 comments and made presentations to some 1,500 people. Millar showed various diagrams of what was most important to people, including Parks, Safety, Farmland, Traffic Control and neighborhood services. Commenters favored infill development rather than

extending into farmland and wanted things like the Inner Belt Loop, which would connect the Heights to Zimmerman Trail

Affordable housing was also a priority in the community, with an emphasis on single family homes on small lots, like the South Side already has and the concept of more duplexes. Millar said people want to be able to move about the community easily and they want more public transportation. At present, 30% of the population does not drive.

The purpose of the study was to make wise investments in the future of the City and County and the City is doing priority based funding to make that happen. People also want what gives them a sense of place, like more use of the river, a centralized recreation place and having the amenities they want near their homes, like grocery stores.

One next step will probably be looking at growing west and north of the Airport. Next time she comes she will probably bring various scenarios for growth.

Everyone was invited to attend the Fiesta on July 25th in South Park.

Ronquillo reported that there was \$1,188.54 in the checking account.

Riverstone is doing a school supply drive and is seeking donations. Anyone can contact Melissa Guarama to donate.

Mary Westwood agreed to organize volunteers to do the 50-50 Raffle at the Blues Fest and people are needed to sit at the table and go out into the crowd to sell tickets.

Ronquillo said the Senior Center is volunteering out at Pizza Ranch to raise funds and anyone who would like to help should sign up. The volunteer day is September 24th. Volunteers will be cleaning tables.

Zahn reminded everyone of the Eat in the Park sponsored by Phillips 66 at 5 p.m. on Thursday, September 10th.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

The next Regular Meeting of the Task Force will be held on THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2015, at 7 P.M. at the Friendship House, 3123 8th Avenue South, Billings, Montana. Treats will be provided. So bring your friends and neighbors to the South Side Neighborhood Task Force meeting and help make Our Neighborhood the best part of Billings.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Westwood
Secretary