



Rimrock Neighborhoods Task Force Membership Meeting Minutes March 19, 2025 ~ 7:00 PM Meeting held at Mayflower Church building (corner of Rehberg & Poly)

Howard Evans, Chair, called the meeting to order, welcoming members, guests & public officials. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Public officials present:

- Vice-Mayor Mike Boyett (city council ward 5)
- City Council Representative - Ward 3 - TJ Rogers
- Don Clair, RNTF resident and member of zoning board

15 members were in attendance; a voting quorum was established

All 4 board members were present.

2 presenters were in attendance: Sgt Glen Gunther, BPD, and Libby Kahnke, CK Tech.

PRESENTATIONS:

POLICE UPDATE: Sgt Glen Gunther.

Sgt Gunther provided clarification about a social media post that members had commented on. The post left some with the impression they couldn't call 911 for a crime in progress. We are to call 911 for a crime in progress. When it's about a crime but not in progress, we can call non-emergency dispatch (406) 657-8200.

Sgt Gunther shared that there will be significant impacts to police department funding if HB231 passes. Vice-Mayor Boyett also commented that it would impact all City departments, and explained that the Billings City Charter, unlike most Montana cities) has a cap on mil levies without voter approval. Various Billings city officials have been in Helena, working with the legislature regarding the impact and encouraging them to consider either an amendment to HB231, or to look to a different property tax relief bill (SB90 is one such bill). Members should contact their legislators to express their individual concerns.

Sgt Gunther along with Vice Mayor Boyett answered other questions from members.

HOME SECURITY PRESENTATION: Howard introduced our 2nd presenter - Libby Kahnke, CK Tech Libby gave a bit of background on her experience with home security, along with that of her husband (they co-own CK Tech)

Libby discussed the need to have a goal for home security measures, whether a homeowner is using a DIY approach or a security system by a local provider. Examples of different goals include: keeping intruders out, keeping teenagers in, monitoring for family members with dementia, monitoring needs for snow birds, temperature controls, water leak detection..

Libby shared about different kinds of monitoring devices: simple cameras, cameras with audio alerts, window break sensors, fall detection bracelets, movement sensors, key fobs for arming your system, etc.

Libby stressed that DIY solutions are generally more affordable, whereas solutions through local providers include warranties on equipment, local service, and systems with more features.

OLD BUSINESS:

BOARD VACANCY: Howard Evans reiterated the need to fill the vacant board position of Secretary. He stressed the urgency as he is not planning to run again for Chair, and that could bring the number of board members down to 3. The board is handling many issues, and current board members are stretched to keep up. There were no nominations offered, but we will continue to work on filling the position.

RIMROCK CORRIDOR SAFETY COMMITTEE: Tom Yampradit shared that the committee recently met to review where we're at and what needs to happen next. We are planning to start door-to-door canvassing to ensure that when public meetings begin for the Transportation Master Plan, that we have significant numbers of citizens showing up. Tom is working on a card that can be used by those that do the canvassing. If there is more information on this prior to the next meeting, we'll communicate via newsletters or other emails, and social media posts. If you would like to help just email rimrocktaskforce@gmail.com

RIMTOP UPDATE: Howard Evans shared that we finally have a link to the MDOT webpage for the Hwy 3 Corridor Study: <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolv/hwy3billings/>

Howard also shared that work on the helicopter facility continues, and should escalate as weather warms.

TRAILS UPDATE: Kevin Moser shared that the plan for Stagecoach Trail is to have it completed in 2027, but there is no new information at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

City Parks. Howard shared that the City has identified various pieces of "park" land within the City that are identified as unused and could be sold. TJ Rogers and Mike Boyett shared how funds from the sale of this land could go into the parks department budget. TJ is on the City Council committee working on this project. If you have concerns about any of the parks possibly up for sale, please reach out to TJ at rogerstj@billingsmt.gov and to the task force board at rimrocktaskforce@gmail.com

Board Elections: Howard discussed a proposed change to our bylaws to elect some board members to 1 year terms this year, and the others to the standard 2 year term. This would ensure that we would never have 100% turn-over in the board after an election. Our board elections will be held in July.

Meeting topics: Howard led a discussion about meeting topic ideas. Several ideas were brought forward and will be discussed at the next board meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:40 pm.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 21, 2025.

Respectfully submitted, Leslie Cooke, Vice Chair, Acting Secretary