

Rimrock Neighborhoods Task Force Membership Meeting Minutes May 212025 ~ 7:00 PM Meeting held at Mayflower Church building (corner of Rehberg & Poly)

Leslie Cooke, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order, welcoming members, guests & public officials. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

- 24 members, presenters & guests were in attendance; 10 of which were voting-eligible members, a voting quorum was established
- 3 board members were present. (Howard Evans was unable to attend)
- 2 presenters were in attendance: Sgt Glen Gunther, BPD, and Andy Zoeller, City Finance Director.

PRESENTATIONS:

POLICE UPDATE: Sgt Glen Gunther.

Sgt Gunther shared about the increase in illegal carfentanil traffic in the area. Carfentanil is a much stronger drug than fentanyl. He then also answered questions from the members present, including a question about whether or not we are seeing an increase in DUI arrests along Hwy 3 and Rimrock Rd. Sgt Gunther said he didn't necessarily believe there was an increase, but that when officers can, they do target these 2 corridors for extra patrol, as they are prone to intoxicated driving, partly due to proximity to golfing. There was a question about a neighborhood where a sex offender is residing, which resulted in a discussion on sober living homes.

CITY BUDGET: Andy Zoeller.

Andy delivered a presentation of the impacts to the City budget as a result of property tax relief bills in the Montana legislature. Andy explained that this was a particularly serious issue for Billings because our City charter caps mil levies, unlike all other cities in the state except for one other which is very small. Note - the budgeting process is still underway; City Council should have the budget finalized by early July for the new fiscal year.

Bottom line - the impact to the City budget is not as significant as it would have been if the bills in the legislature had not been amended. However, the City budget will remain "flat" for fiscal year 2026 which starts 7/1/25. Costs are going up for the City, just like they are for all of us, so there may be some reductions such as not filling all open City positions.

Andy also covered the new property tax rate tiers. Most homes should see a 16 - 18% reduction in property taxes. He stressed the absolute need to apply for the \$400 property tax rebate this year. One of the qualifiers for future property tax lower rates is that the homeowner has applied for and received the rebate in 2025. Expect the application portal for the rebate to be open August to October 2025.

OLD BUSINESS:

BOARD VACANCY: Nominations were opened for board positions, with the election in July. Although no one was nominated for the open board secretary position, one member expressed interest, and the board will follow up to determine their decision to run or not. Nominations were also received for 2 other board positions

- Dave Schwarm was nominated for Member at Large, nominated by Tom Yampradit
- Leslie Cooke was nominated for Chair, nominated by Jane Van Dyk
- Nominations will remain open during the July meeting, when the elections will take place.

BY-LAW CHANGES:

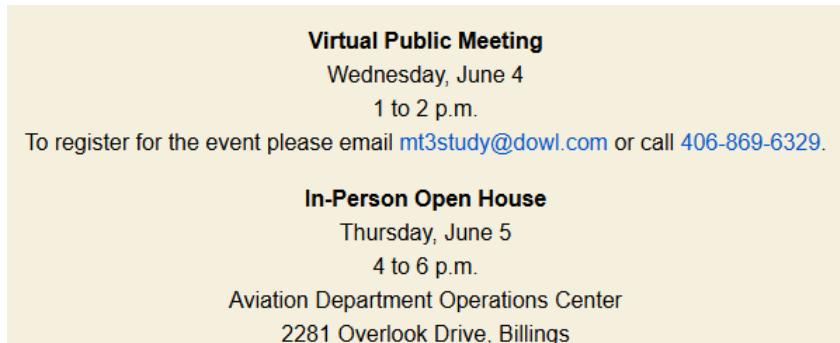
Two previously discussed by-law changes were discussed and voted on.

- 1st change will allow the board to change the meeting schedule if needed. Note: For now there is no change to the meeting schedule. If a change is made, members will be given as much notice as possible. Jane Van Dyk made a motion that the change be made, seconded by Tom Yampradit, approved by unanimous vocal vote.
- 2nd change allows for 2 board members to run for 1 year terms this year only. This will help stagger any turn-over on the board, allowing for continuity with on-going board issues and projects. Barb Ramlow made a motion that the change be made, seconded by Jane Van Dyk, approved by unanimous vocal vote.
- The by-laws document will be updated soon and posted to the City website.

RIMROCK CORRIDOR SAFETY COMMITTEE:

- Tom Yampradit shared that the City should have a contract signed with a firm to help run the Transportation Corridor Plan shortly. Public outreach is expected to begin in July and will include public events such as the Strawberry Festival and Yellowstone Valley Farmers Market.
- Tom explained the cards on the table. We are asking members to help sign up their neighbors and friends to receive emails about public outreach opportunities. Scanning the QR code on the cards opens a form on your smart phone where you can provide contact info and comments. Folks can also email rimrocktaskforce@gmail.com to request addition to the email notifications. Participation is not limited to those who live within the task force area.
- A large map was available for attendees to note problem areas along Rimrock Road after the meeting.
- Sara Plath, City Engineer, is expected to attend our July meeting to provide information.

RIMTOP UPDATE: Kevin Moser shared that the State Department of Transportation has scheduled 2 public outreach opportunities for the Highway 3 Corridor study. An email went out to our membership the afternoon before this meeting, with details on the 2 meeting opportunities.



NEW BUSINESS:

Floor was opened for general discussion of neighborhood concerns.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:20 pm.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, July 16, 2025.

Respectfully submitted, Leslie Cooke, Vice Chair, Acting Secretary