

**Farviews – Pattee Canyon Neighborhood Council
General Meeting
Minutes**

Tuesday, December 4, 2018

6:00pm Pizza, 6:15 Meeting

**Community Room UM Lewis and Clark Village
3000 S Higgins Ave (Across from Agnes Ave)**

6:00 PM Social: Pizza was provided by Farviews – Pattee Canyon Neighborhood Council and the Office of Neighborhoods.

6:15 PM Neighborhood Council meeting commences: The general meeting commenced at 6:15 PM.

Introductions: Ray Aten introduced the other members of the leadership team present (PJ Del Homme, Mary Marry, Cathy Nolan, Julie Aldegarie), Karen Gasvoda (Office of Neighborhoods), and John DiBari (Ward 4 City Council representative).

Budget and expenditures report for Farviews-Pattee Canyon Neighborhood

Council: Ray Aten noted that the Farviews-Pattee Canyon neighborhood Council fund balance was \$705.96 on December 4, 2018.

Snow and Leaf Removal: Brian Hensel, Street Superintendent spoke about snow and leaf removal. For leaf removal, the City is divided into areas, and areas with the most trees are done first because of the need to get leaves up before it snows. The City does take requests to remove piles of leaves. For snow removal, streets are classified as one of four priority levels, with Priority 1—major routes such as Reserve and Higgins—being cleared first, and Priority 4—low volume residential streets—being cleared last. The City gets to lower priority streets as manpower allows. Brian is open to questions, feedback, etc., and can be reached at 552-6360 (Street Division) or 240-2742 (cell phone).

Bear Buffer Zone: Michael Kantor from Bear Aware spoke about the bear buffer zone, which is in the urban wildland interface. Pattee Canyon does not have as much of a problem as other areas such as Grant Creek and the Rattlesnake. Trouble with bears is almost always related to garbage being left over overnight in containers that are not sealed/bear proof. In the buffer zone, people can get ticketed for leaving garbage out in some situations. Trouble with bears can sometimes be related to bird feeders, pet food left outside, and ripe fruit on trees. People can email pattee.bear@gmail.com to sign up for a newsletter that includes bear sightings in this area.

Urban Deer: Bill Ruediger, a wildlife biologist, talked about the urban deer problem and possible solutions. The main problems with urban deer are damage to gardens/landscaping, vehicle collisions, and attracting carnivores such as mountain lions. Deer can live up to 15 years and can reproduce starting an one and a half years old; their reproduction rate goes up when population density goes down. Deer also adjust their behavior in response to threats; they tend to go nocturnal and/or find safer spaces.

Options discussed for controlling deer population:

- Culling like Helena, Montana, does: This program costs about \$200 per deer. The national average is about \$500 per deer. The culling has to occur every year.
- Birth control: Deer have to be injected twice every year at a cost of \$25/shot, and the deer tend to get skittish.
- Archery hunting: The local archery group said no because they were worried about injuring rather than killing deer. FWP also has a general problem with hunting the deer.
- Changing human behavior: This is Bill's preferred option. He discussed changing the types of plants planted in yards and fencing yards. He has talked with the City regarding developing a list of trees and plants that deer don't like. He also said that the standard deer and elk fence on highways is eight feet.

Public questions followed. Of the attendees who asked questions, all but one spoke in favor of doing something other than changing human behavior to control the deer population.

Ninkpata and Whitaker Parks Update: PJ Delhomme gave an update on the parks. They have had one open house meeting and have a preliminary design. On January 16th, 2019, from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm, there will be an open house at the UM Lewis and Clark Village Community Room to discuss the preliminary designs.

Neighborhood Priorities: Neighborhood priorities were voted on by all people present. Karen will tabulate the results for the next Neighborhood Council meeting.

Ward 4 City Council Representative Forum: John DiBari was invited to speak about current city issues of interest to him and to answer questions. John spoke about the urban deer problem; his comments were similar to Bill Ruediger's. Questions posed by attendees mostly concerned controlling the deer population.

Public Comment about items not on agenda: None.

Announcements and Adjournment: The Local Government Citizens Academy will be running from January 15th to March 5th, 2019, on Tuesday nights from 7-9 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.