

SOUTH SIDE TASK FORCE MEETING

APRIL 19, 2012 (7:P.M. – 8:30 P.M.)

Southside Senior Citizen Center – 901 South 30th Street

AGENDA

Meeting Called to Order

Introduction and welcome of all guests
Minutes of the last meeting
Visit with local City Council members, Law Enforcement
(Bring your questions for these officials.)

Presentation

Dave Hagstrom on South Side Projects (5 minutes)
What's Happening at Garfield – Andrea Kenney (10 minutes)

Neighborhood Concerns

Committee Reports

1. Correspondence
2. Conoco Report
3. Alternatives Report
4. CDBG Report
5. Gazebo Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Grants Report

New Business

Old Business

Report on the Easter Egg Hunt
Leadership Implementation Plan

Adjournment

**For Code Enforcement issues, call Tanya Punt at 657- 8288.
For Graffiti, call Charlie at 598-4612.**

**For Info on the Task Force, call Mike Yakawich, Chair, at 254-2445
or Kathleen Candelaria, Vice Chair, at 697- 5580.**

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

March 15, 2012

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

Present: Dave Armstrong, Fran Ball, Patti Baldwin, Rick Baldwin, Jan Begger, Edna Best, Irene Boehm, Jane Collins, Marilyn Cullen, Michael Davis, A-Lee Fields, Lona Forman, Sergeant Ronda Fox, Mike Mayott, Kelly McCarthy, Kevin Nelson, Linda Pettengill, City Council Member Jim Ronquillo, Shirley Ronshaugen, Doug Ruebke, Marion Schaaf, Dolores Terpstra, Erin Tieszen, Missey Valverde, Mary Westwood, Mike Yakawich and Michele Zahn.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mike Yakawich at 7:01 p.m. Introductions of all present were made and all attendees were welcomed. Yakawich reported that Vice Chair Kathleen Candelaria had broken both her wrists and would not be attending. A card was circulated wishing her well.

Jane Collins moved for approval of the December minutes as presented and City Council Member Jim Ronquillo seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as presented.

Billings Police Sergeant Ronda Fox said everyone should remember, as the weather warms up and people are working in their yards, that they should take care to be sure their doors are locked. Some thieves have been going in through open front doors while people are outside. Reporting area crime statistics, Fox said assaults have gone from 10 to 4 this month, 1 assault with a weapon, 2 aggravated DUIs (breath tests above .16), 4 burglaries, 9 criminal mischief complaints, 1 revoked warrant, 2 domestic disturbances, 2 drug arrests and 2 drug paraphernalia arrests. She handed around a map showing where these incidents were taking place in the neighborhood.

Ronquillo said it was important for people to remember to close their garage doors, too, as many thieves look for open garage doors. Fox said the Police Department will probably be hiring one new officer soon, as they are now down four officers. Linda Pettengill asked how residents can deal with speeding motorcycles on Washington. Fox said citizens need to identify the vehicle and the driver and then can file a complaint. Otherwise, the offense has to be committed in front of an officer. Patti Baldwin said there is a lot of speeding on South 31st Street, too, and wondered what could be done about it. Fox said the City does have a traffic specialist who can review the situation and make suggests. It is unlikely that speed bumps would be approved. Ronquillo said some neighborhoods have used the Special Improvement District (SID) process to put dips in the streets to slow down drivers.

Yakawich talked about a letter he had received from Dave Armstrong of Alternatives, Inc. about increasing the population of Passages on South 27th Street. Armstrong, who

was present, explained that the facility had originally been approved to house 155 women, but four beds had been removed by the State from the Alcohol and Drug Treatment floor. Under the latest plan, those beds would be reauthorized and five new treatment beds would be added for pre-release clients requiring short-term mental health care for purposes of stabilization. And adding some additional pre-release beds will see the facility housing 169 women as compared to the 155 they were previously authorized to house. The size of the building will not be increased, Armstrong said, and all changes will take place within the existing walls of the facility.

Ronquillo answered a citizen's questions about how to pursue a claim with the City over an injury. He also reported that there will be new construction on South 27th Street near the Interstate exit when a new federal GSA warehouse is built to house government supplies. And it has been determined that a new building will be built on the old site of Aldrich Lumber Company on Fourth Avenue North to house government offices that move out of the existing federal building. Ronquillo also said the Parks Department will be coming to the Council with park projects that will use Park Maintenance Funds. Some people are complaining because they will be paying into more than one Park Maintenance Fund.

Mike Mayott, the Parish Life Coordinator, talked about the new parish called Mary Queen of Peace Catholic Church, which will include the congregations of Little Flower, Our Lady of Guadalupe and Holy Rosary Church. Anyone interested in reviewing the long-term planning for the parish can go to <http://www.billingscatholiccluster.org> to find out additional information. Bishop Michael Warfel has issued a decree that the three parishes will be merged into one new territorial parish effective July 1, 2012. Mayott shared some of the demographics which caused the church to decide on the merger and said he has been working on the project for about a year and a half. The purpose of the merger is to use the time, talent and treasure of the church more wisely. The aging and loss of numbers in the priesthood is also prompting change in the church.

The new parish will be south of Grand Avenue up to 16th Street West to the River and from Briarwood out to Lockwood. Until a new church is built, the old worship spaces will continue to be used by their parishioners. Land is being sought for the new church now and it should be completed in 10 years. The new building will be located on the South Side and will be served by a pastor and associates with bilingual capabilities. The new facility will have day care and enough land for good parking, Mayott said.

Yakawich moved that the Task Force send a letter welcoming Mary Queen of Peace Catholic Church to the neighborhood and Ronquillo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Lona Forman and Erin Tieszen of Tumbleweed talked about the new Life Skills classes they are offering for young people ages 14-21. The classes will be every Monday from 5:30 to 7 p.m. with dinner served prior to the presentation. The eight classes are designed to help young people learn how to survive and live a good life as they become

adults and focus on issues such as applying for jobs, managing money and credit, housing and other important issues.

Yakawich reviewed the zoning materials and said a property at 3612 6th Avenue South has applied to have a duplex.

Pettengill reported on the Citizen's Advisory Council and said Conoco will soon be changing its name to Phillips 66. The crane that will work on the coker vessels will be some 400 feet higher. Ronquillo said some 1,500 workers will be working on the current turnaround and Marion Schaaf pointed out many of them have to be specialists to handle the specific tasks needed in the refinery. Pettengill said the next Eat and Meet will be on September 9th at the Northern Plains Resource Council building on South 27th Street.

Dave Armstrong explained the expansion of Passages, but reiterated that no physical expansion of the facility will take place. Yakawich said he was pleased to find out about the change ahead of time and that he would like to personally support the increase in numbers. Jane Collins moved that the Task Force support the addition of the 14 beds, provided there was no expansion of the size of the facility. Missey Valverde seconded the motion. The motion passed with 5 voting yes, 3 voting no and 3 abstentions.

Yakawich said in the future, the Task Force should be voting on CDBG funding for community service groups and reminded everyone that the Senior Center had gotten \$30,000 of CDBG money.

He said that the Parks Department is still working on the contract with the Gazebo architect and seems to think they will spend about \$200,000 to build the facility.

There was no treasurer's report.

Pettengill reported that the grants committee will meet with Shakespeare in the Park this summer to see what if they would come to South Park next year. She also said that various blocks have been working to organize so they can use the grant money available for Neighborhood Watch signs.

Anyone wanted to have copies of the Task Force Bylaws or its Goals for this year was invited to get a copy.

Kelly McCarthy introduced himself as a Democratic legislative candidate for Robyn Driscoll's seat (she is term-limited out) and said he grew up on the South Side and went to Riverside and attended Little Flower Church.

Yakawich invited everyone to attend the **Easter Egg Hunt on April 7, 2012, at noon in South Park**. So far, some \$1,050 dollars in donations has been raised and eggs will be stuffed on April 3rd. Anyone wanting to help with the hunt should show up at the Park

around 9:30 a.m. on the 7th to help lay out the eggs and prepare for the children who attend this fun event.

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the **South Side Neighborhood Task Force** will be held at **7 p.m. on Thursday, April 19, 2012, at the Southside Senior Center, 901 South 30th Street, Billings, Montana.** Everyone from the South Side is welcome. So invite your neighbors to join this active group and make our neighborhood the best part of Billings.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Westwood
Secretary

! DON'T FORGET !

BRING YOUR CHILDREN
AND/OR GRANDCHILDREN

TO **SOUTH PARK**
FOR THE ANNUAL EASTER EGG
HUNT

SATURDAY-APRIL 7, 2012

BEGINS PROMPTLY AT **NOON**

!! CANDY AND A CHANCE
TO WIN GREAT PRIZES !!