

SOUTH SIDE TASK FORCE MEETING  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2017  
REGULAR MEETING 6:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.  
Current LOCATION: PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
409 SOUTH 36TH STREET, BILLINGS, MONTANA

*Minutes*

6:30 P.M. Meeting Called to Order

6:31 P.M. Introduction and welcome of all guests and speaking rights

6:35 P.M. Law Enforcement presentation

Questions for Sergeant Nate West. Is there a web site or a way to know the general reason for police action in our neighborhoods?

- a. the action on 28<sup>th</sup> St. and 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. the week of 1/15,
- b. The SWAT team on the 300 block of 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. twice with no change.
- c. the action on 29<sup>th</sup> St and 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.

6:39 P.M. Regular City Council presentations and questions

See the attached report

Presentations as recruited by the Chair.

6:52 P.M. Jace Dyckman from Riverstone Health talking about Syringe Exchanges

- Riverstone health can receive contaminated syringe needles for proper disposal
- Sharps containers are available for domestic use.
- More research is being done as to how to set-up a safe public needle disposal that is not intimidating.
- The strengths and weaknesses of an anonymous needle exchange  
Strength, clean needles and recovery information can be exchanged for contaminated needles to prevent other medical issues among chemical abusers.

Weakness, providing needles to chemical abusers for illegal activities is ethically inconsistent.

7:03 P.M. Rachel Court, Montana Community Development Corp.

“HomeNow” Outreach Coordinator. A down payment assistance program.

see attached information

Rachel also handed out information on VBOC, a program for Veterans that assists with finding funding, investment capital, and business plans.

7:26 P.M. Cookies Break, thank you Brenda Blackman

7:28 P.M. Denise Smith of Montana Rescue mission made a brief announcement for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Open House. See attached flier  
The Code Blue policy of the MRM in the winter is that when the temperature is below 32 degrees Fahrenheit, overnight

accommodations are available to those with a blood alcohol level at or below .2%. Those whom they determine are above that concentration are taken to Crisis Care. For referral and questions please call the men's Shelter at 259-6079

The movie 'Same Kind of Different as Me' now showing in theaters was promoted.

7:36 P.M. MMSC to accept September's Secretary report,

The secretary reported that he and PilgrimCC are not available for the November meeting.

Mike Yakawich added that the South Side Community Center might be available if approached through their board.

No Treasurer's Report given

7:37 P.M. Old Business

Reports of last month's motions

- Catherine Card presented her research on the local Sober Living houses.

A file of her report is forth coming. More discussion is wanted.

- Maia Dickerson reported on the Healthy Neighborhood Grant. For more information see <http://www.healthybydesignyellowstone.org>.

No New Business

7:49 P.M. Adjournment and refreshments

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 Matt Lundgren, Chair, at 259-5569; Dale Fincel, Vice Chair, at 694-6016; Jim Ronquillo, Treasurer, at 252-5353, or Steven Heppner, Secretary, at 406-390-0012.

CURRENT GOALS  
(Revised January 2017)

1. Add 10 new members to our Task Force.
2. Recruit and mentor new leadership for the Task Force.
3. Replace South Park curbs and gutters and add a spray park and wading pool.
4. Support more single family home ownership in the South Side Neighborhood.
5. Organize and encourage new activities to enhance the use of South Park.
6. Reach out to and encourage South Side businesses to attend our Task Force meetings.
7. Address drug houses, gang issues and graffiti in our Neighborhood whenever possible.
8. Seek to address homelessness and transient issues in our Neighborhood.
9. Eliminate boarded-up houses on the South Side.
10. Advocate for safe places for children on the South Side.
11. Work to hold landlords accountable.