

# West End Task Force | Minutes

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May 15th, 2018 | 7pm Faith E Church gym

Meeting called by Tiffany Wardell  
Type of meeting Monthly WETF  
Chairman: Tiffany Wardell  
Vice Chairman: Bob Deines  
Secretary: Karen Freeman

Guests: Sgt. Shane Sheldon

Speaker: Lyle Gabrian

## AGENDA TOPICS

Approval of April 2018 minutes:

Rex motioned to approve minutes

Donna seconded

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15 min | Time | Agenda topic: Police Report | Presenter Sgt. Shane Sheldon

714 calls for service: 67 thefts (most at Walmart) 31 welfare checks, 13 suicide attempts, 12 harassment charges, 99 suspicious behavior calls, 1 animal control, 47 motor vehicle crashes (3 injuries) 9 case of drugs, 3 burglaries. Again recommend closing garages. Member suggests using locking mailboxes, Sgt. Sheldon said especially during holidays mail /package theft is active. Sgt Sheldon suggested that you also check your credit report at least once a year. Member asked about having the security cameras at people's homes and public posts been effective in catching criminals. Sgt Sheldon says yes. The public needs to help and speak up when they see something on social media that will help the police department. Most of the criminals are from within 100 miles of Billings, due to the intersection of 90/94. Member asked what is the feeling is of home security systems. They do deter. Lighting, locked doors, home alarms, are all good. The response time is a factor with home security systems, depending on how they are set up. They are still fine tuning the information in our area. They expect calls for service to increase over the summer. Member asked about what are the biggest traffic issues. Most accidents occur at red lights. People run the red lights. Highest crash intersections are where there is the most traffic.

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20 min | Time | Agenda topic: Task Force Action | Presenter Lyle Gabrian

Chairman of Rimrock Neighborhood Task Force since 2011. When they first organized the crowd was large and then decreased over time. They are continually improving their by-laws and growing now. The idea of committees is a great idea. You need a lot of participation. Success will drive participation. Their area is from 17th-40th north of Rimrock and above the Rimrock to Rehberg Ranch. First accomplishment was regarding large trash bins near the airport along the rims. They contacted the city to have them get smaller trash cans so that large items wouldn't litter the area on the rims. So now there are smaller trash cans. Now one of their concerns is traffic patterns along the trails up on the rim. They were instrumental in getting an underpass for bikes and pedestrians, put under the trail, part of the Skyline Trail with a grant from Trail Net (Kristi Drake). See: [www.billingstrailnet.org](http://www.billingstrailnet.org) Task Force has been active in suggesting to policy makers for another route off of the rimrocks west of Zimmerman Trail. Task Forces should work together on issues that affect all of us. Working on gathering info on inner belt loop. Would rather see inner belt loop connected to

another route. Task force is working with public utilities to make sure winter maintenance on Zimmerman is improved. Having information from the police department is important in making sure we know what's going on so we can keep safe. Bike/pedestrian trails is a great idea to get involved in to make our trail system better. Zoning will be a very busy committee. Lots of changes with the re-coding going on for the next 2 years. Member said that their newsletter is helpful. Zimmerman Trail will have lots of improvements including signage alerting you to closures and right turn lane at the bottom. Member asked if having a large group speaking out on issues is better or individuals. He answered yes definitely. Power in numbers. Policy makers need to know the views of the people. Member asked how often they meet. They meet quarterly but he says monthly is the best. Member asked how much the Skyline Trail will cost. He said he didn't know. Member asked about zoning committee with regards to city/county zoning that make suggestions to city council. He suggested maintaining contact with your council members and county commissioners. Find out who is representing you in this area.

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Time 20 | *Time* | Agenda topic: New Business | Task Force Committees

5 committees:

1. Zoning and annexation - Tiffany
2. Traffic Safety and transportation - Tiffany
3. Code enforcement - Bob
4. Crime Prevention / Bob
5. Community enhancement - Karen - Gather info on existing parks. Social & Community events

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Time 15 | agenda topic: Meetings attended | Bob and Tiffany

Bob - Kramer withdrew application for rezoning, Den casino has broke ground at 54th and Grand

Tiffany - NW corner of Grand and Zimmerman is approved for annexation. There needs to be a review for the casino to be built there. Council business sessions are the 2nd and 4th Mondays. Find out more info at:

[www.ci.billings.mt.us](http://www.ci.billings.mt.us) The city does not regulate liquor licenses. The state has authority. City has limited restrictions they are able to enforce. We need to focus on location.

Summer road construction: as per public works. 4 way traffic light at 54th and Rimrock, an expansion of Central from current 2 lanes to 5 lanes from Shiloh to 32nd. Resurfacing of King between Grand and 48th.

24th from King up to Central resurfacing. State is evaluating the intersection of 62nd and Rimrock as well as the bend. Trying to decide the best option. King and 48th and Central and 48th are of notice and priority.

Meeting adjourned and committees forming.

## Next meeting June 19th, 7pm Faith E