

# West End Task Force Minutes

*Date | time* 10/15/2019 7:00 PM | *Location* Faith E Church 3145 Sweet Water Dr.

Chairperson Tiffany Wardell  
Vice Chair Howard Holz  
Secretary / Karen Freeman  
Treasurer

## Website

- <https://ci.billings.mt.us/676/West-End-Task-Force>

## Facebook Group

- [West End Task Force](#)

## Email

- [billingswetf@mail.com](mailto:billingswetf@mail.com)

## Agenda Items

### Approval of Sept Minutes

Motion approved and seconded

### Police Report- Detective Shane Sheldon

Unable to attend but sent reports.

### School Resource Officer (SRO)- Officer Miller

Will James and Ben Steele are his locations. Primary job is safety in the school, a liaison, teacher, counselor. The community resource officers follow the triad approach: Safety, criminal law, relationship. Program started 20 years ago at West High. Currently 8 officers. Last years stats: SRO total incidents 1932 calls for service in 180 days of school. 820 reports 425 arrests, 181 regular arrests. Tobacco violations are the biggest problem. 38 drug investigations. 19 sex offense reports.

Current program being implemented is armed intruder safety program. Teaching teachers how to defend themselves. There is also a medical portion with a trauma kit station. A fundraising effort is ongoing to supply 2-6 for each school in the district. Similar to an AED cabinet on the wall. Each has 7 throw kits with emergency supplies. Each box can be armed with an alarm.

### Billings Public Schools- Superintendent Greg Upham

Schools have always drilled and now it's time for an addition in armed intruder drills. The scare in Helena was a lot of media hype about what it was, which was misreported. When the event happened, our superintendent contacted police and asked if there was a danger to students here and had staff do a sweep around school grounds. These kind of events, are very emotionally charged and it important not to jump too quickly to cause more anxiety. SRO are more than a gun and a badge. They are to be seen as a support system. They do a great job and are much appreciated.

### [www.billingschools.org](http://www.billingschools.org)

School district boundaries are color coded online so they are easier to find. When you go to the website, click on parents (across the top) then the next page, click on School Locator (on the left hand column) The latest re-districting was designed to balance growth. Ben Steele has around 800 students. Will James is 586. Elementary numbers are really growing. There will be an approximate 400 student reduction for students going to Lockwood. But there was a larger 8<sup>th</sup> grade class coming in this year. Elder Grove is expanding but is not expected to make an impact on our school district.

There are no plans to build any schools in the near future. Maybe in the next 10 years then new elementary on west end if the numbers balance in the center of the city. There is room on the land at Ben Steele to build another one. We are currently ok as far as the number of seats available for students in Billings.

Budgets are tight and there will be a levy in the Spring. School levies are dynamic and ever changing with enrollment numbers and it's set at the state level.

84 active bus routes AM and PM.

### Transportation update- Inner Belt Loop Project – Rex Dietz Rimrock Neighborhood Task Force (RRNTF)

Some of our members attended the Rimrock neighborhood task force. Discussion was the road that will connect from Senators to the top of Zimmerman. The RRNTF objects due to huge traffic influx being sent down Zimmerman Trail. Concerns are for safety.

RRNTF would like an idea that people will try and think futuristically. Is there an alternative plan? Nov 6<sup>th</sup> is the date to find out the current plan.

### [www.sandersonstewart.com/innerbeltloop](http://www.sandersonstewart.com/innerbeltloop)

### Zoning committee update- Gordon Olson

Car wash tentatively being located at Shiloh and Central. Application is on hold. Wanting to change from neighborhood commercial to community commercial change in zoning application. Traffic study may impact the decision to move forward.

### Old Business- Howard Holz

None

25 members in attendance

Next Mtg: November 19th, 7pm, Faith E Church

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### Other Information

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- Upcoming city/county meetings:
- City Calendar:
  - [ci.billings.mt.us/calendar.aspx](http://ci.billings.mt.us/calendar.aspx)
- Project-Recode.com
- One Big Sky Information: [onebigskydistrict.com](http://onebigskydistrict.com)

