



**Rimrock Neighborhoods Task Force
Membership Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2024 ~ 7:00 PM
Mayflower Church**

Howard Evans, Chair called the meeting to order, welcoming members, guests & public officials. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Public officials present included:

- Vice-Mayor Mike Boyett (city council ward 5)
- Scott Aspenleider (city council ward 4)
- Sergeant Jeff Stoval, Billings Police Department

18 members were in attendance; a voting quorum was established; all 4 board members were present..

PRESENTATIONS:

LAW ENFORCEMENT UPDATE: Sergeant Stovall, Billings Police Dept (BPD):

Sergeant Stovall gave us a brief update of recent police activity in Billings. This included the office-involved shooting downtown, a cattle truck accident, and a traffic accident on N27th near Rimrock Rd which included a fatality. Questions from membership included use of tasers (which have at most 50% effectiveness). The cattle in the truck accident had to be put down. And the accident on 27th likely involved alcohol; the driver was exceeding the posted speed limit by quite a lot.

PERSONAL SAFETY PRESENTATION: Sergeant Stovall, Billings Police Dept (BPD):

Sergeant Stovall went through a checklist that covered things each of us can do to prevent crime to our vehicles and homes, as well as to personal attacks. Members asked a number of questions, and also gave their own personal safety tips.

If anyone would like an assessment of their property for crime prevention purposes, contact Sergeant Stovall at (406) 208-5726.

OLD BUSINESS:

BOARD VACANCY: Howard Evans opened nominations for Vice-Chair. Kevin Moser nominated Leslie Cooke, which was seconded by Tom Yampradit, and passed unanimously by vote. Leslie will continue to perform the duties of board secretary for the time being, and we will be seeking a new board member to serve as secretary.

HELP A NEIGHBOR: Kevin Moser spoke about the HELP A NEIGHBOR program we'd like to get going now as weed season is upon us. If anyone needs help, or wants to volunteer, call or text Kevin at (406) 690-1718.

LAASF - & FOI Request: Howard reported that the FOI request which we voted on in March has produced the requested document.. The document will be attached to this email when minutes are sent. Basically the document describes agreed upon flight paths for the military and commercial helicopter operations atop the Rimrocks, and Air Traffic Control.

NEW BUSINESS:

MUNCH MACHINE: We took food and financial donations to support the Much Machine project, which is sponsored by the Education Foundation for BPS. Nikki Dolan is the food insecurity coordinator. She wasn't able to attend. Tom Yampradit and Howard Evans spoke briefly about the program which helps youth at risk for hunger during summer months.

JULY MEETING:: Leslie Cooke shared that the board wants to hold a picnic in July rather than a traditional meeting, and asked for member input. The idea was well received. This will be pot-luck style, 5:30 pm, July 17.

We are hoping to secure the picnic pavilion at Veterans Park. Once details are finalized, we'll communicate. Families are welcome. Bring a neighbor!

RIMROCK RD SAFETY DISCUSSION:

- Howard Evans gave an overview of the meeting that the board had with Mac Fogelsong (city engineer) in early April, including the "Pavement Preservation Project" the city plans to implement on Rimrock Rd between 17th and Zimmerman, which would narrow the driving lanes and widen the bike lanes. He also went through a list of some of the top safety concerns we have identified re Rimrock Rd. Members present shared their concerns and ideas.
- Scott Aspenlieder - City Council Ward 4 - discussed the confusion that exists within the city government regarding transportation in general. He explained we have a multi-modal plan, a bike & pedestrian plan, and Safe Routes to School. These plans don't really talk to each other. The city is working on a master transportation plan which will hopefully make it clearer how to manage priorities for each type of roadway.
- Leslie Cooke distributed a handout designed to help members rank the various Rimrock Rd safety concerns. A few members ranked their concerns and returned the handout.

TURKEY DISCUSSION:

- Howard kicked off the conversation about the problems created by urban, non-native wild turkeys - traffic hazards, damage to gardens, spread of bird flu to pets, etc.
- Carol Van Keuren, RNTF member, shared about the work she has done to try and get help. The city directed her to FWP. FWP said they would like to help, but can't unless the city changes their regulations. She distributed a print-out from the FWP website. Howard Evans has contacted Billings Animal Control who referred the issue to FWP.
- We will send an email to the RNTF membership requesting more input on how turkeys are impacting the various neighborhoods.

HWY 3, AND THE IBL STUDY:

The board recognizes that there are still outstanding traffic safety issues along Hwy 3. We can address further once the IBL is opened and when the land use study is completed.

DRAWING: As a thank you for staying through and participating in the meeting, a drawing was held for 2 Pendleton mugs. Congrats to the winners: Alicia Lang & Dave Schwarm. Thank you to Howard Evans for donating the prizes.

Meeting adjourned at 9pm. Next meeting: Wednesday, July 17, 5:30pm (picnic location to be announced).
Respectfully submitted, Leslie Cooke, Acting RNTF Board Secretary