

Air Quality Advisory Council
Minutes—May 7, 2008

Members/Alternate Present: Beth Berlin, John Garberson, Steve Stoll, Katie Evans, William Flanery, Patricia Hogan, Sue Spanke

Staff Present: Erik Englebert, Mamie Colburn, Shannon Therriault

Others Present: Greg Oliver (MCCHD Health Promotions)

Public Present: Guy Hanson

1. John Garberson called the meeting to order.
2. Absences were recognized.
3. Agenda was approved.
4. Minutes were amended for omissions and typographical errors as follows: Item 6 paragraph a, and Item 7 paragraph a. Minutes were approved with these changes.
5. Public comment on non-agenda items – none.
6. Journal article—none; Dan was not present.
7. Presentation by Greg Oliver. Overview of the Healthy Built Environment
 - a. Greg Oliver works for the Missoula County Health Department in Health Promotion. He is here today to introduce the subject of Healthy Built Environments (HBE) which essentially means bringing public health and land use to the table together. When people want to get out of their cars and walk or bike more then that's a good sign of a healthy built environment.
 - b. There are 11 essential elements of a HBE. Each of these was discussed on an individual slide. These are:
 - i. Complete streets
 - ii. Safety
 - iii. Distance between services and people that promote alternative transportation.
 - iv. Trails and Connectedness
 - v. Access to parks, recreation, and open space
 - vi. Vital centers (downtown areas and clusters of use)
 - vii. Well designed density.
 - viii. Appropriate mix of housing types and affordability. The mayor is currently taking a strong stance on improving affordable housing as up to 78% of people who work in Missoula cannot afford to buy a house here. The council discussed the lot needs of single dwellers in Missoula which may be different than more urban areas.
 - ix. Reduced vehicle miles traveled
 - x. Access to mass transit
 - xi. Green Buildings and Design
 - c. Benefits of HBE: The following is a list of some of the health benefits we can receive from living in healthy built environment: Reduced obesity and increased fitness, good early childhood development, aging population- social interaction is important for their well being, climate change and energy use, air quality improvements, livability for all residents.
 - d. In Summary, the Health Department is weighing in on healthy built environments and advocating for them. The HBE group wants to influence policy. Missoula's on the right

track but further changes needed. Currently HBE is making official comments on each individual subdivision. This is the tide that's rising to influence change.

- e. Discussion after the presentation: The group engaged in discussion regarding violent crimes in open space and housing density. Members of the group discussed the housing needs of single residents emphasizing that just because people are single that doesn't mean that they want to live in high density housing without access to their own yards and private outdoor space.

8. Wildfire Smoke PSA Ideas:

- a. Erik: Wildfire Smoke Emergency Episode Avoidance Plan – 90 day order. The plan has been updated to reflect lower level of PM_{2.5} and state information/adjectives. Levels overall have been reduced, for what's going to be reported. We'd like to get this message out to the public. Previous ideas for dissemination: putting this out to the public. PM_{2.5} Levels, visibility boundaries, and adjectives would be on it.
- b. Could our PSA look like the fire danger meter? Graphics important to get the message out there simply to the public.
- c. Ways to get the message out: Would we disseminate this to the schools? Posters? Cards to go on countertops? Magnets? Phone Books? You tube video? Displays in the mall, displays at grocery stores. Need multiple methods. Have local television meteorologists present this information on the weather?
- d. Goal: To give folks an idea that levels are different than the past, more aggressive methods, we've always had health recommendations.
- e. Shannon: Goal is to have info available prior to wildfire season. We are proposing a new order for the board to adopt. Once they adopt this we need to get the information to the public.

9. Staff Report:

- a. Mamie Colburn is the new air quality specialist for the county.
- b. Chimenea media release went out on tax day. Voluntary compliance only. We are discussing the possibility of another public education piece for stores that sell chimeneas.
- c. Discussion of the Chapter 9 re-writes for solid fuel burning devices are temporarily on-hold and will be re-visited in the future.
- d. Shannon: Public Health Guide to Wildfire Smoke is being updated by the EPA and CDC. Health Departments now function on an emergency management level so this is extra pertinent. There have also been more studies on indoor air filters. Mask use is being updated. The 2.5 standard has gone down. California now has new information on ash clean up to add. DEQ wants to talk to us about reducing alert levels for winter.
- e. Shannon: Tearing up pavement in Holland Lake has resulted in a new county plan to abate dust on roads. Air quality Council helped support this change through past years action.
- f. The next Air Quality Advisory Council meeting is June 3rd.

10. No public comments.

11. No other announcement or other business.

12. Meeting was adjourned.