

## **PUBLIC MEETING – August 3, 2006**

The Public Meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Chairman Carey. Also present were Commissioner Curtiss and Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney Mike Sehestedt and Director of Rural Initiatives Pat O'Herren. Commissioner Evans was on vacation.

Commissioner Carey: The purpose of this meeting tonight is to hold a public hearing to determine whether or not the community wishes us to put the matter of creating a Community Council on this coming November Ballot. So this meeting is an official public hearing of the Board of County Commissioners, it is being taped. It will be transcribed, so it's important for you folks here to speak up and let us know your thoughts and ask whatever questions you may have. We'll start with an introduction from Pat on what is a community council and he'll give us a briefing on that and then we'll open the hearing.

Pat O'Herren: Thank you for coming and visiting with the Commissioners tonight, as you probably recall earlier this year there were two public meetings in East Missoula to discuss the community and how you are growing working towards growing in the future. At that second meeting which was attended by over 50 individuals there was a petition circulated and that petition asked the County Commissioners to conduct a public hearing – which is being held tonight – to consider whether or not the residents of East Missoula would like to form a Community Council and the way that occurs is to have a vote at the general election on November 7 of this year. It's a simple yes/no vote, would you like to create a Community Council, yes or no. The purpose of tonight's meeting is for you to tell the Commissioners should they go to the trouble of putting it on the ballot so that you then have the option of voting yeah or nay this fall. Community Councils are very important to growing communities and we have them currently in place in Lolo, there's a Lolo Community Council, in Seeley Lake and recently the Bonner community formed a Community Council a few months ago. What seems to be the general impedance behind community councils is the need for local residents to have some formal voice to the County Commissioners. If you think of Missoula County in the larger context with Nine Mile, Frenchtown, Huson, Grass Valley, Lolo, Clinton, Turah, Bonner and Mill Town and on and on and on throughout the community you understand if those communities who have voices have a formal mechanism to let the Commissioners know what is going on in their communities. It's much better for the Commissioners to be able to figure out what's happening, what the community residents think and how to try to address the issues that come up in those individual communities. Community Councils are pretty straight forward. Their purpose is to solicit input from local residents, take that input and if there are issues involved with it, research those issues, try to come up with some solutions and make recommendations to the County Commissioners. Community Councils have unlimited power of advice and that's how the Seeley Lake Community Council views themselves. They can't tax, they don't make decisions on subdivisions, they don't make decisions on where roads go, where sidewalks go, any of those decisions, but they DO provide advice to the elected officials about how those sorts of developments might or should occur. If you have a Community Council, for instance in Seeley Lake, that's active with other organizations – what they have done is come up with grants for pedestrian and motorized pathways for ATV's, snow mobiles, bicycles and as you go through Seeley Lake you'll see those starting to show up in different areas. They have different events that they collect funds for – to beautify the community, to make recommendations to the Montana Department of Highways as MDT improves Highway 83 as it goes through the community. Those are the sorts of issues that Community Councils can be very valuable in. If you think of Lolo and that Community Council, and the landscaping islands on Highway 93, the lighting there and the community parks that are being developed and how they get funding from those parks – the Lolo Community Council is very valuable. So it's an opportunity for residents to have a formal voice, to make recommendations to the County Commissioners. It gives you an opportunity to provide continual, ongoing input to the Commissioners. The other thing that the Community Councils do is give you representation if Montana Department of Highways or Fish, Wildlife and Parks or some other entity wants to deal with, say the highway through East Missoula, it gives them one group to go to find out what the community thinks. The Community Council can then hold public meetings, invite the citizens to come and make comments and then formally present those to the County Commissioners. A couple important things to note: Community Councils, again, can't charge taxes can't raise taxes, they can't make decisions on things like subdivisions or where roads go, but they can give you a formal voice to the County Commissioners. The County Commissioners then have a link to your community just like they do in Lolo, Seeley Lake or Bonner now. You should know that other communities are thinking of forming Community Councils also, Petty Creek is starting to get organized out west of town

and Monday night the Commissioners are traveling to Condon in the Swan Valley. They have requested a public hearing up there to do the same thing. So it's a very important opportunity for you and it's something that's not required, state law allows County's to form them, they're not required to do so. So again it's something you can decide you want to do and ask the Commissioners to put it on the ballot and then see what all residents have to think about that. I should tell you that one of the first times I went to the Lolo Community Council, after I made a little presentation, one of them looked at me and said, 'you know, this is the worst day in the existence of the Lolo Community Council because what you have said is that the Missoula County Commissioners are interested in reaching out to other rural areas and that's just going to create competition for us.' They were joking, but nonetheless that's what the Commissioners are doing, they're looking to rural residents – places like East Missoula and Bonner and Condon – to find out what is important to you and find out how to best address those issues for you. Having said that, I'll turn things back to Bill, thank you.

Commissioner Carey: Thank you, Pat. I'll open the public hearing on this and invite you all to step forward and tell us what you think about this.

Jack Ballas: I've been a member of....a resident of East Missoula since 1970. I get pretty involved in a lot of different things that go on out here. A lot of the people I know out here we've really formed a close knit community. At one time we did have meetings down here, we had dances and we could exchange information of what was going on in the community. In the past several years that has kind of faded away and we don't really have any way of communicating what's going on in East Missoula. If somebody is building a new house or they're tearing something down, there's speculation on the grocery store coming in, and we've got a hardware store coming in and different things like that. I've also been involved with the First Citizens Bank advisory committee out here and we've been talking about increased traffic on the highway. We've got subdivisions that are going up. We have the Hidden Trails and we have the Canyon River subdivision going up at the golf course. We've seen a lot of increase in traffic on the highway and we've met with the state highway on safety issues and what we can do, not only to maybe improve the highway but maybe to beautiful East Missoula and attract qualified individuals, qualified businesses out here. In order to do some of these things, we need a council out here or a recognized group of people that can meet together regularly, share information and as a recognized body then go to the County Commissioners or go to whoever we need to and say what we would like. I've been kind of behind the Community Council. When things start up out here, I get phone calls, 'Jack do you know what's going on?' I get the feeling that I'm kind of the go to person and hopefully with a Community Council being formed out here, with regular meetings where people can come and ask questions about what's going on the Community Council will receive information from higher on up and then they can bring it back to us and we can share information and share ideas.

Nina Cramer: I urge you to put this on the ballot as well in November. Like Jack, I've been involved in a variety of things over the years. 20 years ago in fact, a group of us citizens did go to the state highway department and got money allocated to actually continue the pathway that comes along the city limits out here through East Missoula to the top of Brickyard Hill. That project failed because we couldn't get cooperation from, at that time it was BN Santa Fe, sort of to make a safe passageway under the train tracks. I still haven't given up on that idea and hope that we still can do that. I see this as a vehicle for us to help make our wishes known to do that sort of thing. I was interviewed on the television at that time when I was pregnant with my daughter, who is now seriously 21 years old. So I still am holding out hope that we can do that. I've got grandkids now that could use that pathway. I actually came to another public meeting, heard about this, talk to some folks who live in Missoula that are involved in some of the neighborhood councils in there. They talked to me about to me about how they felt it was effective in having a stronger voice for the neighborhood. Things like subdivisions, I know there's been lots of talk about different things going in – roads being closed, or not being closed, access to property – some of those kinds of things and I think as a community and as a neighborhood we've been pretty tight on some of these issues in the past and could really offer a good solid voice and a way to continue to make our community be strong and help to give some good advice and suggestions to the County Commissioners and a voice for our neighborhood. Thanks for the opportunity.

Phillip Clause: I saw your map and I'm not quite sure of the boundary that you have drawn...is that the only area that is to be included in this council? Am I correct in thinking that way?

Pat O'Herren: Correct, at earlier meetings there were discussions that the boundaries should be expanded somewhat significantly in different areas and one of the issues we ran into is that the Bonner Community Council actually butts up against this in areas. What the Bonner Working Group was amenable to and what citizens earlier this year seemed to be amenable to is if people in East Missoula wanted to create what would be a starter Community Council district, then the County Commissioners can ask the Bonner Community Council and the East Missoula Community Council to work together to amend those boundaries so that people are better represented given their geographic location.

Phillip Clause: As a resident living just outside the boundary I would like the Commissioners to consider that this area and the way this area is laid out, that area and down in Marshall Grade is more attached to the East Missoula and the things that go on in East Missoula than it is in Bonner/Milltown. It seems like the dividing line has always been the Marshall Canyon turnoff and everything this direction is more involved and I don't have as much to do with the Bonner/Milltown area on the other end and I feel I'm being thrown into a group that I don't have anything in common with. So I ask that the Commissioners consider enlarging this area.

Commissioner Curtiss: Mr. Clause, the reason that Bonner's is that shape is because our Community Councils usually reflect the same boundaries as the school district and you probably know that school districts are kind of odd in the state. But the Canyon River and stuff.....

Phillip Clause: I knew that and I'm also aware that there are numerous different boundaries and they intercross and go over each other and this being a council; I don't see why you can't set the boundary there.

Commissioner Curtiss: Right and we can, it's just easier for election, that's why we did that one, but we're aware that they'll need to be made to more match your area to feel connected.

John Chaussee: It's pretty hard to follow up Mr. Ballas, he pretty much said everything, but I strongly support this as well. My wife and I – I'm from Missoula but new to this community – my wife and I bought our first house out here in 2003 just a stone's throw across from the school with the idea that our kids could go there and that's great, but then the next year it closed and we didn't have any idea about that. Then all these storage units are going in just down the street from us too and we weren't sure what was going in there either. So I definitely have some concerns over zoning and other issues like that and I think this would be a good vehicle to the County Commissioners.

Lee Cox: I urge the Commissioners to put this on the ballot. I was a resident of East Missoula for eight years, I still own property here and I live just outside of the boundary. We highly support that we have...oh 17 pieces of property here in East Missoula and we are involved in the community. My wife's been a member of this community for 30 something years, so we highly urge the Commissioners to put this on the ballot. Thank you.

Stephanie Lemberg: Yes we need one. I think it's the cart in front of the horse, or horse behind the cart or something with these storage units. I can't believe that we have a tract of land in the middle of East Missoula and we chose to put two acres worth of storage building on it without anybody having any say on it. I don't know what's worse that we could do here, but I'm sure they come up with something, so yes we need something otherwise we're just going to be the backwash of Missoula.

Dick Ainsworth: I actually live just outside the district, but I own property in the district and I support wholeheartedly putting this on the ballot and the idea of a Community Council. I would echo what Mr. Clause said that I think after this is created hopefully we can work with Bonner and adjust the boundary to somewhere over in the vicinity of Marshall Grade and take in that area at the bottom of Brickyard Hill and include it in this Community Council because it makes a lot more sense. So I support this strongly, thank you.

Rhonda Callison: I kind of like this little map because it's little ☺ and this area seems like an area where you could reach almost everybody. So I'm really excited about this idea. People are mentioning the storage unit – that is kind of disappointing, I kind of have my own plan. But, I'm definitely in support of it. I think to bring back more a sense of community would be really nice. I walk my dog every day all over and I see lots of kids and I think about their parents and how I don't really know a lot of them. I've met a lot of my neighbors, but a lot of them have lived here many years and are older and we're getting new people coming in. We bought our house three years ago, so I'm just really excited to build a community. Thank you.

Rick Stephens: Several things....I was a member of the Southside Neighborhood Alliance for a number of years, the vice chairman and that's in Missoula. Some of the work we did came from the fact that we got early notification of what was going on and what was happening. Things like they were going to redo fourth street west which happened to be, in that neighborhood, the only street that was not a busy traveled street. So in 1990 we brought traffic calming into Missoula through a petition – about 350 signatures thrown together in about three days and (inaudible). I used to have my business there and I used to own property and they just got their traffic calming oval two weeks ago. So early notification is good, sometimes it takes you 16 years to get through the process, sometimes 21 depending on upon how long it's going to take. A couple of things from being on the sewer board I'd like to mention the problems that I don't think many people see here. One of them is that there was on my block four trailers, two of the people owned their own trailer but not the property underneath it. Once we got the sewer in, their property got sold out from underneath them because the person can make a lot more money. We're losing longtime residents – 8, 12, 20 years – of people who are living in trailers. I don't know what anybody wants to think but when I hear the words affordable housing I don't see \$320,000 start up to get into a house. It's basically a 1962 pink and white Detroit or a 1968 blue and white Newman, I mean that's what people can afford and Phil will tell you, having worked his way out of that situation what it takes. It takes a lot of work. We're bouncing people out of this community because they cannot afford to live here and where they're going? That's another question. The final thing is on the map, there's a whole chunk of Hidden Trails that's not included in that map and I'm just wondering if we could get them included and that would be I think a good idea. Finally, yes I am for this community, I think it works good and I think early notification and this getting a set meeting and getting people together is a brilliant idea. Thank you.

Bruce Baxter: I'm in favor of the Community Council. I, too, was pretty disappointed when our local grade school closed. My son attended all three years he was allowed to there and then they closed it up. The storage units were kind of a shock to see that be the centerpiece of our community now. Another subject that I think a Community Council might like to address – there's been some talk around the neighborhood that some real estate developers are going to try and force a 60 foot wide road through our Canyon View County Park. I'm all in favor of this Community Council to discuss these issues. Thank you.

Bennie Schmutz: We have bible club down here once a week and we'd like to continue that. It runs October through about April, so that's what's on my mind. Thank you.

Valerie Brunson: I've been very active in the East Missoula community. I'm the fire district clerk. I've lived here for 24 years and I'm very much in favor of a Community Council. I think it would be good for our community to have a voice in what happens out here. Thank you.

Commissioner Curtiss: Pat could you clarify, are the boundaries shown here...are they representative of the East Missoula Fire District?

Pat O'Herren: The Sewer District.

Commissioner Curtiss: The Sewer District. Okay, so the boundaries match the Sewer District and apparently they haven't been amended to include Hidden Trails yet?

Pat O'Herren: Correct.

Bob Giffin: I've been a resident up here for 40 years and I support the council too. I think it would be a real good deal for East Missoula.

Leslie Hane: I am new to East Missoula; we actually built the log home next to the grade school. I came to East Missoula because I felt that East Missoula was under valued and I see the awesome potential for East Missoula and I really think that with proper planning and support, I think the awesome community support that Missoula is so popular for could really come out to East Missoula. I am in favor of the Community Council. Thank you.

Commissioner Curtiss: Maybe we should have Mike clarify what we would have to put on the ballot. I think one of the things that...I'm not sure if we have to have it on the ballot or if we can decide later...is how many members would be on the council. It needs to be an odd number, of course. So what we've done most places in have five because sometimes it's hard to get more than five people to commit to be involved. So we'd be voting on whether or not to form a council and the number of members....

Mike Sehestedt: Typically what we would put on the ballot is should the Board of County Commissioners establish a Community Council for East Missoula consisting of...and we'd say typically five members, but we could say three or we could say seven, it's a decision the Commissioners are free to make. One thing I should point out is that after it's been created, if the number chosen doesn't work either because we're excluding qualified people eager to serve because it's too small or it's too big and we have trouble keeping the spots filled, we can amend it subsequently to change the number of members. But it hasn't happened, legally and theoretically we could. Five I like just because I'm used to it and it's all set up in the word processor, but that's hardly a strong reason, if anyone has a better idea of how it ought to be done I'll listen.

Commissioner Curtiss: The other thing, usually if the community votes to form a Community Council, the Commissioners usually appoint the first board members...

Mike Sehestedt: Right. What typically happens it to get it up and running, if the voters approve it in November the Commissioners will solicit applications and appoint X number of members. There will then be an election for the whole Community Council at the next school election, that's when we typically elect Community Council members and all five positions will be up for vote at that election. The highest vote getter is the lucky winner and gets a three year term, the second and third vote getters get second prize which is a two year term and the two lowest get the bronze medal and a one year term. Then there after the terms rotate, the idea is that you don't want to ever turn the whole council over, you get some continuity by having staggered terms.

Stephanie Lemberg: Say in November when we say yes to this, how long does it take after that before the council actually happens?

Mike Sehestedt: I could say probably...typically what we would do is publish...the election will happen on a Tuesday, we'll get it canvassed, so probably 10 days later or there about we'd publish notice. We'll publish twice, that gets us to 17 days, we'd allow maybe another week or so for applications. So probably around 30 days minimum, it might take a little longer depending on how publications work out.

Stephanie Lemberg: I think we are critical here. What we have going on right here is critical. We have another piece of land for sale right on the highway. There's...we don't have time to wait or we're going to get slammed again like we just did. The quicker the better!

Dick Ainsworth: I just wanted to point out as you could, or Mike could, that a lot of people may think that this group can do things that it won't be able to do. There have been a lot of comments about the storage units and that's an area that I know part of East Missoula is zoned, part of it isn't, but they were able to build those storage units without getting any approval. This Community Council could be created and they could still build the storage units without getting any approval. The Community Council won't change that. If a piece of property is for sale now and it's zoned for something, somebody could buy it and build whatever meets the zoning whether or not this Community Council exists or not. Certainly the Community Council can do a lot of things and look at a lot of things and suggest zoning maybe and do a lot of things like that, but it isn't going to be just instant as soon as this Community Council is created, all of a sudden the community has total control over what goes on out there, that just isn't going to happen – unfortunately. I just don't want people to think that things are going to happen that quickly.

Commissioner Carey: That's an important point, thanks Dick.

Mike Sehestedt: Dick, thank you. I probably should have said that. The council can start talking and working right away. The real substantive controls will come as we look at zoning probably with the help of the Community Council. It'll come with a highway department projects, doing things for the highway through East Missoula. It'll come with RSID's and Community Council participating in and helping shape the decisions on subdivisions and things like that. But it won't be an instant anesthesia. I, frankly, when I drive through here and look at those storage units, I'm sure somebody penciled it out and it made perfect sense, but boy it doesn't to me.

Commissioner Curtiss: I have one question for Mike. Since the Hidden Trails subdivision is not part of the Bonner Community Council area that we may amend in the future, can we change that boundary? Or are we better to just leave the boundary with the sewer and annex it later?

Mike Sehestedt: The answer to that is yes, you can change the boundary to include it. I would ask to have, or someone to have the opportunity to talk with Vickie about what, if any, election issues that kind of amendment would raise. Pat and I were talking about this, partly because I didn't understand, he said Vickie's...he had been talking with Vickie about it and I don't know whether we can work it out in time for the November election or not. That's an area that so clearly belongs in and we'll have to figure it out one way or another fairly quickly.

Commissioner Curtiss: My concern would be that someone who lived in that area, if we can't figure it out, wouldn't be able to put their name in to be on the council to start with at least. But, we'll look at that.

Valerie Brunson: I am an election judge and the people in Hidden Trails do vote in this precinct.

Commissioner Curtiss: Thank you, that's helpful. So Mike, we can take action tonight, right?

Mike Sehestedt: It's a noticed public hearing, we have the quorum of the Board of County Commissioners and I suspect the motion will relate to the subject of the meeting.

Commissioner Carey: I should say too, that Commissioner Evans is on vacation this week and won't be back until Monday, that's the reason she's not here.

Jack Ballas: One thing that hasn't been mentioned tonight and probably was mentioned at some of the other meetings. There are some funds available from the County to Community Councils for their operation and I thought I'd bring that up to make everyone aware.

Commissioner Carey: Thank you. Traditionally, the Commissioners have given councils \$1000 to work with and they've kept within that budget.

Commissioner Curtiss: And it's in our preliminary budget. The budget hearing is next Wednesday if anybody wants to comment, but we did add \$1000. The other thing that we do is normally when we hold an election for a school district or the City or whoever, because the County holds elections, we bill them for that election. For Community Councils, the Commission waives that fee so that elections are held without charge.

Jack Ballas: That's all then for future elections, then.

Commissioner Curtiss: Right.

Jack Ballas: Do the County Commissioners put any restrictions on how that money is spent or is there any kind of guidelines?

Commissioner Curtiss: No trips to Hawaii, Jack. Usually it's used for notifications and renting meeting space, if needed and those kinds of things.

Commissioner Carey: Certain mailing.

Commissioner Curtiss: It's for the workings of the council.

Mike Sehestedt: I think it's appropriated as all operations money which means you can't spend it on salaries and you can't spend it on capital things, so it goes for postage, copies, cost of publication...

Commissioner Curtiss: Printing.

Mike Sehestedt: Yeah, those kinds of things.

Commissioner Curtiss: A post office box.

Jack Ballas: Yeah, when you mention postage, one of the things that's been in the back of my mind of the past month or so...would we be eligible to get a non-profit or maybe use the County's postage meter or something like that. I know that if you do a non-profit, an organization, you have to have a certain volume and if we've got only say, 400 mailings or something out here, is there a way that...would we have to use the full postage? Or could we use a County?

Mike Sehestedt: Well, you're a subdivision of the County so we can work with you in terms of doing a bulk mailing if the County's permit would cover it, we can certainly work with you and do it for you. I'm not familiar enough with postal regulations to tell you exactly where the cutoff is on bulk mailings or what the precise possibilities are there. But if the Community Council wanted to do a mailing and there an advantage, I'm pretty sure we could work it out to do it through County central services.

Commissioner Carey: That would be worth looking in to for sure.

Jack Ballas: One last thing, do we need maybe from the group here whether it's a motion or something like that, to recommend the number of seats on the council? Like, we recommend five or is that County Commissioners decision?

Commissioner Carey: It's our discretion, we could certainly if there's a strong feeling from most folks that they wanted seven, then we would of course have to take that into consideration. But, basically it's all our decision for starters.

Commissioner Curtiss: I see some hands coming, so how many think five is plenty, to start anyway? (all hands came up)

Rhonda Callison: I'm curious...talking about the money that we can use to mail and stuff like that, do Community Councils normally have a website?

Commissioner Carey: They can, it's up to the council really.

Rhonda Callison: Do you have resources to help people build websites?

Commissioner Carey: Hmmm....

Rhonda Callison: I'm sure someone probably in the community could help....

Commissioner Carey: Yeah, that would be the place to look. We're stretched pretty thinly in terms of our resources to go out and create a website, because then you'd have to have someone to maintain it and so on, so it would be a good thing for the community to look into, if it has some resources.

Rhonda Callison: It seems like it would be a great way to get information out.

Commissioner Curtiss: I know there's an annual fee to host, usually...so you might be able to use some of the money for that.

Commissioner Carey: They're pretty easy to set up now days.

Rhonda Callison: Yeah. Okay.

Commissioner Curtiss: Not just so Bill and I don't have to do it! Hahaha.

Jack Ballas: After the council...let's say the council is voted on in November, you solicit names, then would that council then go ahead and start their public meetings? Because one of the things that is kind of sticking in the back of my mind, the councils to basically report to the County Commissioners and do you have any particular time frame of when you want the council to report to you from their goings on? Like Lolo or Seeley Lake, do they have a particular time when they come in and report, or just whenever?

Commissioner Curtiss: They often come in when there's something happening in their community, like a subdivision, they may come and comment. Mr. Palmer from Lolo often does. We don't have a regular scheduled thing, but we've talked about that...just adding a regular time to the Commissioners agenda to get a report or adding it to an administrative meeting like the rural initiatives meeting. We've talked about that. We haven't done it officially, but it's a good idea I think.

Jack Ballas: So it's something that's roundtable?

Commissioner Curtiss, Carey, Mike Sehestedt: Yes.

Mike Sehestedt: What I would say, Jack, is that the Commissioners have always made time to meet with any of the Community Councils whenever they wanted to come in and see them and I think that's probably more important than having a set time...like we'll see on the third Monday of every month. When something comes up that's got them bothered, they get in touch with the Commissioners and they meet pretty promptly.

Jack Ballas: Do the Commissioners get back to Community Council if they are looking for input like on a subdivision or maybe a highway or something like that? Then do the Commissioners then more or less get back to the council right way?

Mike Sehestedt: Again, I think the answer is yes. Let's... the big highway projects are generally pretty interactive. In the case of Lolo and the 93 project, the Lolo Community Council was involved early on kind of as an integral part of the County's participation and I think maybe even the lead in terms of public community input. I know they're working with it up in the Seeley Lake area and working on some ancillary stuff like bike paths, snow mobile/pedestrian walkway sorts of things.

Commissioner Carey: Pat, did you have anything to say?

Pat O'Herren: Sure. One of the things that Rural Initiatives is tasked with is working with the individual Community Councils and in Seeley Lake, their main project right now is trying to develop a land use plan for the entire planning region there as well as implementation – which in their case looks like zoning – and so the staff has actually been up there on a weekly basis. When we meet with the Commissioners every Monday morning at 10:30 we provide them with an update and feedback from the Community Council – what they're doing, what they're thinking – anything the Commissioners want to pass back obviously goes the other direction also. So it's a very close working relationship. Lolo is a little quieter at the moment. One of the requests I received recently from them is a little better notification when subdivisions are being proposed and the Commissioners have a consultant that's looking at rewriting subdivision regulations and she has actually incorporated into that an automatic notification for the Community Councils, where they exist, as a general reviewing agency. So Community Councils are starting to become much more aware of what's going on and are getting much more notification much earlier in the process.

Bruce Baxter: I just thought of two more questions...does the County have guidelines as to how the officers are nominated to a Community Council?

Commissioner Carey: The Commissioners will go ahead and appoint the first, as Mike said...

Mike Sehestedt: Is the question is as the Community Council the organizes...we've got five members and they come together for their first meeting and they say we need a chairman, vice chairman, secretary, treasurer and somebody's going to be left out with no office at all. Is that what you meant?

Bruce Baxter: No, my question was more about do you accept volunteers or people who are nominated by other people...

Mike Sehestedt: Oh, I think what we typically do is for boards and such, you self nominate – you volunteer.

Commissioner Curtiss: Or somebody twists your arm.

Bruce Baxter: Yeah. My second question was how often do the other Community Councils meet?

Commissioner Curtiss: I think most of them pretty much meet monthly.

Pat O'Herren: Pretty much monthly. In the case of Seeley Lake, they're so involved in this process they've been meeting three, four sometimes five times a month, so it depends on the project that's ongoing.

Bruce Baxter: Okay thank you.

Commissioner Curtiss: We also have some model bylaws so you don't have to make up or write your own bylaws. Some people get really freaked out by that, but we have some samples that you can tweak and that kind of thing.

Seeing no further public comment, Commissioner Carey closed the hearing.

Commissioner Curtiss moved to place on the November ballot a decision for the voters in East Missoula to vote on whether to have a Community Council consisting of five members, based on public comments heard at the August 3, 2006 public hearing. Commissioner Carey seconded. The motion carried on a vote of 2-0.

There being no further business to come before the Commissioners we're in recess at 7:25 p.m.