

# Missoulian

## Missoula city councilwoman urges more women on committee

By KEILA SZPALLER of the Missoulian | Posted: Monday, November 1, 2010 9:30 pm

One city committee is overrun by dudes - and sorely in need of girl power.

That's the perspective of Councilwoman Stacy Rye, who on Monday urged the administration to recruit and appoint more women to the Impact Fee Advisory Committee. Just one female is slated to be on the board of nine members.

"If we are looking at the community, and the community is not represented on the boards, then I think there is a problem," Rye said. "We definitely need to have more than one woman on any given board or commission."

That committee keeps tabs on impact fees, levied on new developments to pay for related public improvements. Members include representatives from the building industry and an accountant.

Rye's comments came during a regular Missoula City Council meeting, where board appointments rarely cause dust-ups. The council, charged with confirming the mayor's picks, agreed to keep Jerry Ford and Jim Galipeau on for another board term. It kicked a third reappointment back for more discussion, but not because of gender.

Rather, Rye also had questioned whether any city department heads should be voting members of the board and possibly pull for their own interests. In this case, Missoula Police Department Chief Mark Muir is in line for the job again.

Mayor John Engen said the board work feels more like "punishment" for the managers, but he was willing to talk. In short, when someone wants to volunteer, he's eager to give them a green light.

"It's another meeting in your life and additional responsibility that sometimes is a little unwelcome," said Engen, who also said Muir serves as the city's liaison on the board.

The mayor also said he's sensitive to gender equity, and his picks for the Tourism Business Improvement District Board are skewed in favor of women.

In other business, the council signed off on \$10.3 million in sewer bonds for a headworks upgrade, a project approved earlier. The headworks building is the first stop for sewage headed to the wastewater treatment plant.

Councilors Dick Haines, Renee Mitchell and Lyn Hellegaard opposed the measure. Hellegaard said the headworks should have been replaced years ago, and the plant just keeps consuming more and more money.

"We're not doing something right," Hellegaard said.

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