

Principles for Civil Dialogue

Turning Strangers into Neighbors

A project of Flathead on the Move

- We provide a safe environment where individual perspectives are respected, heard, and acknowledged.
- We are responsible for respectful and courteous dialogue and participation.
- We respect diverse opinions as a means to find solutions based on common ground.
- We encourage and value broad community participation.
- We encourage creative approaches to engage public participation.
- We value informed decision-making and take personal responsibility to educate and be educated.
- We believe that respectful public dialogue fosters healthy community relationships, understanding, and problem-solving.
- We acknowledge, consider and respect the natural tensions created by collaboration, change, and transition.
- We follow the rules & guidelines established for each meeting.

This document is the outcome of a collaborative effort of over 80 Flathead community leaders who gathered on June 1, 2006, as part of Flathead on the Move's *Turning Strangers into Neighbors Project*. We encourage organizations and individuals to adopt and practice these principles in meetings, community gatherings, and other interactions.

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Revised January 2007