

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.
For more information, contact Project Coordinator Ned Cooney at 406/212-7242 or ncooney@montanasky.us

Revised January 2007