

**Nick Kaufman**

COC Board member

WGM Group, VP/principal planner

Nick Kaufman first got involved with the Chamber of Commerce in 1987 and quickly took on the role of chairman of the chamber's Government Affairs Committee. At that time the committee was smack in the middle of the local political election scene — it was a fun and rewarding time, he says. "Candidates sought chamber endorsement and chamber advice on issues." Connecting business issues and local government policy directly was rewarding both personally and for the community.

Through the years Nick has been active on and off the board, rejoining the board most recently in 2007.

Born and raised in Spokane, Washington, Nick moved to Missoula in 1970 where for a while he owned and operated a retail business while he attended The University of Montana. Earning his bachelor's degree in economics and a Master of Science degree in rural town and regional planning, Nick started his career in land use planning and design. Today, a senior member of WGM Group, he has more than 30 years experience in the planning and design of residential, commercial and industrial development, mixed-use development, traditional neighborhoods, shopping centers and sports facilities. His experience includes the development of comprehensive plans and implementation through land use regulations and capital facilities planning.

His ties to Missoula are deep and active: Missoula Building Industry Association, Missoula Organization of Realtors, Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation, Missoula Kiwanis Club and the Missoula Fair Commission, among other groups. And, he is an adjunct professor at UM.

When not thinking about land use planning, neighborhood design or community involvement, Nick enjoys horse packing, farming, hunting and fishing. His daughters, Rachel and Isabella, are woven into his life in all of his outdoor activities from gathering eggs to organic farming.