

Lewis and Clark Neighborhood Council General Meeting Minutes

Date: September 4, 2019 Time: 5:30 pm Location: Playfair Park Shelter

Present: Leadership Team: Theresa Conner, Dave Westfall, John Wilkins, Kathleen Hanson, Jerry Dirnberger, Office of the Neighborhood: Jane Kelly

- 1) Welcome to 25 plus neighbors with introductions of the Neighborhood Leadership Team members and the Office of Neighborhoods by Dave Westfall.
- 2) History of Neighborhood Councils by Jane Kelly, Neighborhood Coordinator. Jane brought City of Missoula Charters to hand out and review.
- 3) Bancroft Ponds update by Morgan Valliant, Missoula Conservation Lands Manager. Bancroft Ponds is one of the most used parks in the area. It gets heavy school use due to its close proximity to several area schools. The trail improvement project this spring helped to increase accessibility. Thank you to Washington Middle School and the 100 participating students!!!!
- 4) Birding Area update by Morgan Valliant. The habitat improvement project funded in part by 5 Valleys Audubon will create birding habitat in the SW corner of the ponds. Planting will take place September 19th from 2-5pm. Help is needed if you are able, bring gloves and shovels. Deer fencing will be installed around the plantings to increase chances of survival. Buckets will be provided for visitors to help water the new plants.
- 5) Outdoor Classroom Update by Morgan Valliant and Dave Westfall discussed the need and desire to provide a gathering space in the ponds that will fit the natural area and serve a wide range of users. This Fall there are plans for the addition of stone benches. Possible signage will be added in the future to increase awareness of the importance of the area. Self-guided tours? Cattail Corner (near Albertson's on 39th) is a good example of signage use.
- 6) Traffic Issues updates by Jeff Miller. Jeff gave an update on the Big Sky High School construction. A pedestrian crossing at the school, a new user operated crosswalk sign and a new bus stop facing South Ave have all been added. More parking has become available with construction wrapping up. Three big issues have been identified: The need for repainting crosswalks at Queen, Hollis, and Park. The need to address 30 mph speed limit on South Ave. Bus stops to be moved to the middle of blocks. Dave will report how important it is to the people that we have crosswalks.
- 7) Election of Leadership Team members – Susan Schott and Tammy Cunningham joined the Leadership Team. John Wilksons made a motion to approve their nominations and Clancy Kenck seconded the motion.
- 8) Setting neighborhood priorities lead by Jane Kelly. The neighborhood prioritized their concerns (in order of **most to least** important) as follows: Lack of painted crosswalks, Urban deer, Speeding, Duck Pond Maintenance including mowing, Dogs off leash, Duck Pond patrol (drinking and other behaviors), need for traffic calming circles and Sidewalks not being shoveled.
- 9) Q & A with City Council - -- Jesse Ramos arrive after the meeting was ended so no questions were asked.
- 10) Announcements – Candidate Forum is 9/24 at 6pm in City Council Chambers. Grants are due 10/28 and up to \$6,000 is available.
- 11) Public comment on non-agenda items – Amber Sherrill and Alan Alt, both candidates for City Council Ward 4 we present for introductions. Urban deer and the question of what to do about them eating landscaping was brought up.

I have driven past the High School several times to look at what has been done.

(1) The crossing at the school entrance is improved by the outward curb extensions

(2) The new User-operated flashing signs at the cross walk are an improvement

(3) The parking lot facing Bancroft is a bit larger (at least more space is available this year because the construction is finished) and should alleviate some of the side street parking,

(4) The new bus-stop and shelter in front of the school is an improvement [but when a bus is present it blocks the view of the school-side of the cross walk].

(5) The South Ave street parking is not improved because students still have to back into an active traffic lane.

I see three remaining issues.

(1) Painting other cross walks to the East on South Avenue (at Queen, Hollis, and Park) and in the first four blocks of Bancroft from the flashing light.

(2) The speed limit reduction to 25 mph [at least between Park and Stephens, if not from Higgins to Brooks St]

(3) The location of Bus Stops on South Avenue which cause students to cross South Avenue at various places that are unprotected. [I have heard that Bus Stops will be re-positioned toward the middle of the blocks but this will not address the crossing safety issue as much as speed limit reduction and painted crosswalks. These should be addressed by getting the locations of the new/moved Bus Stops and then watching the crossing patterns of the students during the first few weeks of school. Data are important.]

We need to get Rose Park involved. Their support for crosswalks and speed limit reduction is essential.

L & C Accidents on South Ave and Bancroft 2007-2017

