

University Neighborhood Council Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

Date: February 3, 2020

Time: 6:30-8:30 PM

Location: Lewis and Clark Village Community Room, 3000 S. Higgins Avenue, Missoula, MT

Members Present: Julie Stephenson, Bryce Rowe, Darcy Caron, Rick Caron, Dori Gilels, Jennifer Copley (acting as secretary for Tony LaPlante)

Others Present: Jordan Lyons, ASUM; Jane Kelly, Neighborhood Coordinator; Claudia Hewson, National Wildlife Federation Education and Outreach Assistant

Julie Stephenson called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Rick Caron moved and Jennifer Copley seconded the minutes for approval.

Due to the relocation of member Peter Drakos, Jane Kelly, Neighborhood Coordinator, gave a treasurer's report. She described the city's uneven transition to a new program for handling the funds of Neighborhood Councils. As of February 3, the University District had \$1264.11 (53% of its budget) left to expend by June 30. The bulk of that amount will be needed for the spring mailing. In the past, \$200 to \$500 was left over.

In response to inquiry, Jane explained how to activate a purchase order for the sign that will add the Bonner Park perimeter to city RX Trail System.

Dori Gilels urged that for our general meeting we use environmentally friendly materials. Jane replied that she now has in stock, thanks to donors, many available materials not good enough for Garden City Compost. Rick Caron voiced criticism of the local landfill, and Jordan Lyons said that ASUM has paid to compost products it uses. Jane voiced her preference for using the already-donated materials for upcoming neighborhood meetings.

Jordan Lyons said that ASUM had not yet purchased shovels but will contact Jane Kelly for a purchase order. Mike Jakupcak's large donation of used shovels has provided needed tools for ASUM to lend out so far this year.

Jordan also explained ASUM's point-in-time homeless count on January 30. Part of a national survey, the count aimed, especially, to get more accurate counts for younger homeless persons. ASUM believes that 1 in 4 UM students experiences food insecurity every month and 2 in 3 students face food or housing challenges yearly.

Jane Kelly reports that Neighborhood Councils asked for \$63,000 with 14 grant applications. The city had \$18,000 to award, funding 5 of the applications, none from the University District. The city's deer study will proceed, however, with support of the Ward I representative on the Missoula City Council. Additionally, Jane noted that traffic calming circles may not be funded by Neighborhood grants.

Jane Kelly's office will sponsor its annual city bus tour on the 3rd Thursday in April. Buses depart from the Beach Bus parking lot at 4:45 PM on April 16 to tour the Franklin to the Fort, Grant Creek and Westside areas.

Jane reminded members that March is the deadline for "Outstanding Volunteer of the Year" awards. She noted, too, that residents willing to care for the vegetation have not yet adopted traffic-calming circles at the corners of Daly/Hilda and Central/Gerald.

With probable relocation of two members of the University District Neighborhood Council, Jane reminded members of the need to review roles.

As Julie Stephenson will be embarking on a medical mission trip to Africa in March, Dori Gilels agreed to chair the University District Neighborhood Council meeting in March and Bryce Rowe agreed to act as Treasurer.

After a short discussion of optional sites, including UM, members decided to use Hellgate High School for the May 12 general neighborhood meeting. Julie Stephenson will confirm the date and location with Hellgate High School officials.

Claudia Hewston, National Wildlife Federation Education and Outreach Assistant and an AmeriCorps volunteer, described the Federation's "Garden for Wildlife" program, outlining what citizens must do on their property to be certified as "wildlife habitat." The certification involves supporting native wildlife by providing food, water, cover, a place to raise young, and sustainable gardens.

Jennifer Copley moved to invite Claudia to give a brief presentation at the May 12 community meeting. In the discussion that followed, Rick Caron described high interest in such programs in the University District neighborhood. He mentioned efforts to help schools become green schools and suggested a spring tour of wildlife-certified habitat in the University District. He mentioned that Hellgate High School is on a path to become the state's first Green Flag high school, while noting that Clark Fork School is the Green Flag School now in Montana. Members voted to include Claudia on the spring agenda.

Dori Gillels expressed her concern that the Neighborhood Council should get involved in helping residents understand rationale for the 4th Street building approved by the Missoula City Council. Dori shared a prepared statement by Gwen Jones justifying Gwen's vote in support of allowing development of the area. Dori said it is important to help residents understand the limited space in the Missoula Valley and Missoula's need to create affordable housing. Additionally, Dori suggested that residents need help in understanding tax-increment financing. Verbalizing the need for members of the Neighborhood Council to maintain public neutrality, Dori suggested that the University District should bring outside speakers to our general meeting to help bring understanding to these issues. Tasha Jones, Missoula Redevelopment Agency board member, was named as a potential source of clarification.

Members then brainstormed University District needs that might be addressed by this year's grant proposals:

- a. ADA accessible band shell storage units for Bonner Park;
- b. Adult exercise equipment for Bonner Park;
- c. Bike racks for the park.

Members discussed the importance of getting more information from Donna Gaukler, Head of Missoula Parks and Recreation. Jennifer Copley volunteered to rough draft a letter for the March meeting that would urge The Department of Parks and Recreation to investigate of completion of these projects at Bonner Park.

Rick Caron reminded members of his strong feeling that the University District "bark park" area could be better used for community recreation. He brought up the labor-intensive problems of cleaning up dog waste in a riparian area. He expressed the willingness of Morgan Valliant, Missoula Conservation Lands Management, to attend the spring meeting to discuss with residents issues involving the dog park and its

potential multiple uses. Members discussed the importance of surveying constituents to assess community feelings about the issue.

The issue was left for additional consideration at the next meeting, and the February 3 meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.