

University District Neighborhood Council Leadership Team Meeting Tuesday, October 6, 2020

Attendance and Call to Order The meeting, conducted via ZOOM, was called to order by Co-Chair Dori Gilels at 6:42 PM. Others present included Darcy Caron, Co-Chair; Jennifer Copley, Secretary; Jesse Dodson, Board of Directors, Missoula Urban Transportation District; Kelly Elam, City of Missoula Offices of Neighborhoods; Chloe Loeffelholz, ASUM; Jordan Lyons, ASUM Renter Director; Anna Potter, ASUM; Bryce Rowe, Treasurer; Julie Stephenson.

[Note: Colin Wilson, Director of the Office of Neighborhoods, was absent due to preparations for the birth of a child.]

Report on Proposed Mill Levy Dori invited guest Jesse Dodson to speak first. Jesse lives in the University District and chairs the Board of Directors of Mountain Line where he has served for three years. He also serves on a committee called Friends of Mountain Line, formed to encourage voters to support the Mountain Line mill levy, which will appear on the November ballot.

Jesse reported that Mountain Line conducted a strategic planning process which involved polling, focus groups, and public meetings. The board concluded that Missoulians want to continue the zero-fare program which has increased ridership by 70% since 2015. Missoulians also want expanded services for Saturdays, evenings, and Sundays, with increased frequency of service on some routes. (All services will be available to those with mobility impairments.) Jesse said the proposed mill levy would add \$3 million per year to the Mountain Line budget, while continuing to decrease automobile traffic in the valley. Jesse assured Chloe that the Mountain Line board had reached out to University of Montana Students.

Minutes and Treasurer's Reports September minutes were approved on a motion by Julie and seconded by Darcy.

Bryce reported that high costs of the fall newsletter, mailed to homes across the University District, left us a budget balance of \$248. Should we need additional money, he said, we could apply for reallocated funds. Dori pointed out the difficulty of funding a spring meeting given the current budget balance, and suggested that we could email the spring newsletter, rather than mailing it. Bryce added that we could share addresses with those known by the Neighborhood Ambassadors.

Community Forum and U District Neighbors United Bryce reported that the Community Forum reviewed the Captain John Mullan report. Because of COVID and the inability of some members to use Zoom, the Community Forum will not meet again until COVID 19 abates.

U District Neighbors United, said Bryce, seems to have lost energy and active members for now.

ASUM Report Chloe reported that Neighborhood Ambassadors, while maintaining social distancing, had high engagement over the summer, because so many were able to work online. Their blog stayed active. They completed two neighborhood cleanups and hope to maintain two traffic circles. Neighborhood Ambassadors plan to create safety blogs for Halloween, and on November 1 will modify their annual pumpkin pickup, cleaning up only the smashed pumpkins left in the neighborhood.

Jeannette Rankin Park Cleanup On September 30, Julie, Jennifer, and Dori joined two city workers and other volunteers to start cleaning up Jeannette Rankin Park. The city will provide assistance for a second volunteer effort scheduled for Saturday, October 17, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Tyler Decker, from Missoula's City Parks and Recreation, will post information about the volunteer effort on city websites, and Dori invited ASUM students to join efforts at Jeannette Rankin Park.

Office of Neighborhoods Report Kelly says the Office of Neighborhoods is encouraging all leadership teams to meet.

Public Comment and Non-Agenda Items

- a. **Communicating with NextDoor.com** With Julie initiating the discussion, the group discussed whether or not to use NextDoor.com to occasionally inform neighbors about U District Leadership team activities. NextDoor.com claims as enrollees 30% of University area households. Dori supported using the website to create stronger connections with our members. Julie and Jennifer supported posting on Next Door a link to the U District meetings.

Dori and Julie suggested that the Office of Neighborhoods should investigate any cautions for such engagement. Members decided to place the issue on the November agenda with Kelly talking to Colin before our next meeting, reporting their joint findings.

- b. **UM Athletic Department Volunteers** Rick Caron, unable to attend, had learned from a UM athletic advisor that some UM Athletic Department students will volunteer for U District yard cleanups. They will need rakes, bags, and recommendations for places to rake.

Darcy suggested creating an online form for U District elderly or disabled folks who might need help with fall yard cleanup. Jordan suggested referring requests through Missoula Aging Services. Kelly reminded members of city grant money that might be used to purchase rakes. Jordan volunteered to fill out the necessary forms and purchase the rakes. (ASUM stores shovels for student winter use.)

Darcy will act as intermediary so that Rick can let the Athletic Department know that we will make bags and rakes available to them. She also offered to get information to NextDoor.com. Members agreed raking should occur before the city cleans leaves from U District streets, November 9-13.

- c. **Lowering Printing Costs** Anna researched options for printing, sharing her research with Jordan, who will forward data to the group. Jane Kelly had previously informed us that the county provided the most economical printing.

November Meeting

To avoid conflicts with Election Day, 2020, members will convene next at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, November 10.