

Franklin to the Fort Leadership Team minutes

May 20, 2021

Introductions: name/where in the neighborhood/favorite way to get around in the neighborhood

Rebecca Petit, Toffer Lehnerr, Jennie Vader, Karen Boice, Mark McClements, Caitlin Riemensnider, Jennie Mish, John Van Dyke, Kristen Jordan, Kim Walterskirchen, John Wolverton, Jaqui Reinhard, Kathy Smith, Amberleigh Hammond, Ian Zhang, Charlie Menefee, Ben Brewer, Colin Woodrow

Transportation Presentation: Charlie Menefee and Ben Weiss, City employees, presented on the Transportation Alternatives grant funding proposals (Powerpoint presentation)

Charlie Menefee, Grants

Grants are being submitted for funding for possible road/sidewalk improvements in F2F, and due on June 3, there is \$5.5 million state-wide funding that is available. There are two Phases for F2F project.

The South Avenue project grant is shared for a project west of F2F. Two grants are being submitted for the transportation grant funding, but recommendation is to submit both and hope for the best. Missoula hasn't received funding since 2012 (except for a grant from Hellgate High School). Completing the shared use path on the south side of the road and a bike lane on the North side of South Avenue from Community Hospital to Reserve Street and improved crossings at 3 locations. The Missoula Connect Project is committed. There is a possibility for enhanced crossings and continuation going East on South Ave. Ben is advocating by reaching East to Clark St., but these roads are MDT and has jurisdiction. The County ROW traditionally has the center of the road which presents challenges, but a solution is being explored with homeowners on the Northside of the street and with Community Hospital by way of an easement or purchasing. Charlie will send out letters of support templates for attendees to send in letters.

Ben Weiss Presentation: Neighborhood Greenways

In 2016 the City identified neighborhood greenways. Greenways are low volume streets that prioritize biking and walking that are parallel to busier traffic streets. Often these are promoted as great cut through streets, but if they become popular with cars, traffic calming components need to be added. F2F Greenway includes Grant Street, Schilling, 4th Street, 12th Street, and Central Avenue. Currently there is no signage, traffic calming features, identification and/or awareness. Even without this awareness of the traffic calming program, traffic calming is a common concern for residents.

Franklin Street and Maurice were identified as streets that could use traffic calming. Since then neighbors took ownership of the traffic calming circles with painted decorations and planter boxes.

Currently, the next greenway project was identified in the F2F neighborhood along the F2F greenway. Kemp St. is being overused with 1/6th drivers over 35 mph while Johnson St. is built for absorbing higher use. The total budget of \$8000 from within general funds and the goal is 4 projects per year within the budget.

- <http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/DocumentCenter/View/39172/2016-Bicycle-Facilities-Master-Plan?bidId=>
- <https://www.engagemissoula.com/neighborhood-traffic-safety-program>

Sunday Streets: F2F neighborhood

The Sunday Street event is scheduled for August 8, from noon to 3 pm. Thirty-six volunteers are needed and people are needed to have booths and provide activities. The goal is to do Sunday Streets 4 times a year to keep the neighborhoods in the loop, the bike ride covers a couple of miles for the route, and includes activity nodes.

Colin, Missoula Neighborhood Coordinator Report

Working on neighborhood improvement grants. The grants were evaluated and assessed on Tuesday and the total amount awarded is \$20,000.

Request from Neighborhood Leadership Teams to have a budget increase for the grants. The goal of the grants is to empower and help shape the neighborhood in the value and vision for the neighborhood.

This year 8 applications were received. The awarded grants are going to the Community Forum next Thursday and will then go before the City Council for approval in June. January 1, 2022 the new application will be available. Pre-application will also be available.

The Forum's strategic assessment was done last summer. Identified opportunities to grow including communication, Robert's Rules use, and engagement with the neighbors. The goal is to lower the threshold and invite more people to participate. Some neighborhood councils are strong and very active, some have less activity. If people are interested in joining the F2F Leadership Team please let Colin know.

The Strategic Assessment Purpose is Creating Connections in neighborhoods between residents, connections with elected officials, and connections with City staff that work on the policy and plans that affect your neighborhood.

Communication, Equity and Representation, Inclusive and Inviting, and a lower threshold for participating; focus on a proactive approach for helping to shape your neighborhood in your visions and values.

Energizers like NH Cleanups (9 neighborhoods in late April), tree planting with Marie Anderson and Karen Sippy, work with NTMP & MIM. The assessment includes rewriting the Bylaws, How-To Guides, Orientation Packets, and updated website.

NLT for Franklin to the Fort Recruitment is coming.

Comments:

Zoom chatting feature should be opened up so that people can comment to people individually. Colin will look into it.

Meeting Adjourned: