

# University Neighborhood Council Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

June 1, 2021, 6:35 PM

1. **Call to Order** Co-Chairperson Darcy Caron called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM. Darcy asked all attending to introduce themselves. Also present were Co-Chair Dori Gilels, Rick Caron, Brad Cedarburg, acting secretary Jennifer Copley, Jennifer and Sean Doty.
2. **Presentation on Composting** Jennifer and Sean Doty were invited to make their presentation on Missoula Compost. ( [missoulacompost.com](http://missoulacompost.com) ) before minutes were approved. In initiating a city-wide composting program that now serves 1000 customers, Jennifer and Sean had consulted with the City about starting a zero-waste program. The business offers customers three sizes of bins for compostable material (organic matter not including heavy grease/oil or dog and human body waste). The business then gathers materials from the bins, making them into garden-ready compost.

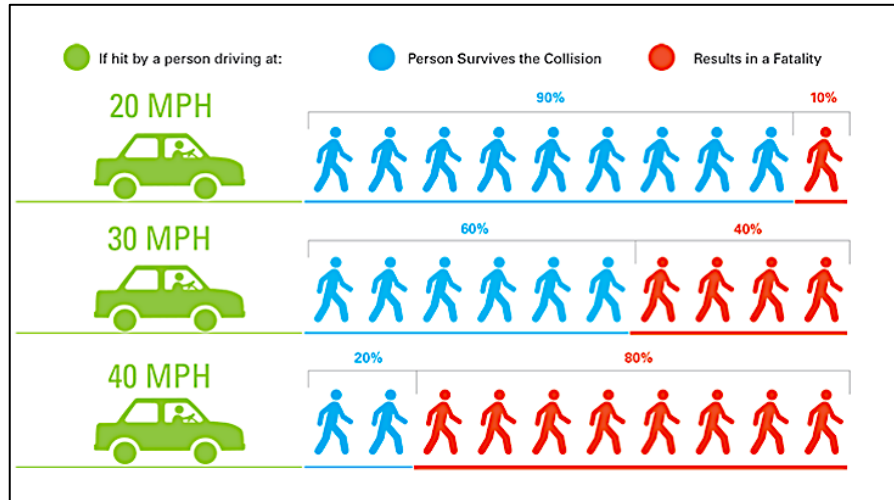
Upon a request from Rick Caron, the Doty's expressed interest in composting the leaves gathered by student volunteers Rick coordinates in the fall. They also expressed willingness to speak at our next general meeting. Rick invited both to listen to our concerns about Bonner and Jacob's Island Bark Park.

3. **Discussion on Jacob's Island Bark Park** Rick reported that on May 13, he, Darcy, Dori, Bryce, and Jennifer went to the dog park, picking up 26 pounds of dog waste in one 30-minute period on a small area at the upper west end of the dog park. Rick is looking for a City agency, University graduate student, or environmental group to examine the degradation of the area by studying runoff and erosion in the area. Rick contacted three fly tie shops and one rafting company but believes they are too busy in this season to respond right now. Jennifer and Sean mentioned that they used to play in the Jacob's Island area, as did Rick and his friends a generation earlier. Rick hopes interested groups will support converting the dog park to multiple uses. Over the summer, Rick will continue to make additional contacts. Jennifer Copley will resend him the list of possible contacts. In support of Rick's efforts, Dori reported that she contacted Vicki Watson and will let members know what Vicki says in response.
4. **Approval of Minutes from May Meeting** Darcy made one correction to the minutes of the last meeting, saying the leadership team will meet on September 7, the Tuesday after Labor Day, not September 6. Darcy moved to approve the minutes and Rick seconded. Members voted to approve the amended minutes.
5. **Discussion of Bonner Park Improvements** Jennifer said she was beginning to chart uses of Bonner Park, paying special attention to the tennis court. Darcy suggested creating a spreadsheet, and Brad Cedarburg volunteered to put a survey and chart on Google Docs so all members can add data when they pass Bonner Park. Darcy, Rick, Brad and Jennifer will participate in creating/editing a survey with Brad creating the rough draft. The goal is that residents will be able to take a succinct survey on their phones advising the leadership team about how they might like to see Bonner Park adapt to the modern era. Rick and Brad mentioned how popular the pickleball courts are in many areas.
6. **Discussion of Bear Attractants** Jamie Jonkel, Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks did not respond to Darcy's communication or attend the meeting.

7. **Discussion on Disseminating Relevant Information to Neighbors** Dori suggested we send a short email to the neighborhoods to inform residents about our studies, concerns, and our survey. Jennifer suggested we also post on the Next-Door App.

8. **Report on Community Forum** - Jennifer reported that at the May 27, Community Forum, the meeting focused primarily on the City's response to its increasing number of car crashes. Montana prohibits its cities from reducing city speed limits below 25 miles per hour without a specific study and state approval. At any one time the City of Missoula has, on average, only 2.5

traffic police officers on duty at any one time. Ben Weiss, Senior Planner at the Transportation Planning Office, demonstrated the increasing risks within Missoula. Jennifer shared information from one visual, included to the right.



In response to its many traffic challenges, Missoula plans to (1) develop neighborhood greenways for pedestrian and bicyclist safety; use crash data to develop (2) safer, slower local streets; and (3) create through streets with sidewalks and bike lanes.

Jennifer urged members to visit the City's website to find other clear, informative visuals from the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program now posted on the City's website.

<https://www.engagemissoula.com/neighborhood-traffic-safety-program>.

The Community Forum also approved the best grant proposals from Neighborhood Councils and one PTA, rejecting incomplete proposals, those that included only a fraction of the total costs.

**Projects Recommended for Funding**

It is the recommendation of the Scoring Committee to fully fund 3 projects (\$15,431) and to split the remaining balance(\$4,569) between the next top 2 scoring projects.

1. Lewis & Clark Bancroft Pond Outdoor Classroom - \$4935
2. F2F – Place-Making Together - \$5996
3. Grant Creek Traffic Signal Box Art - \$4,500
4. Rattlesnake Outdoor Classroom - \$2284.50
5. Paxson PTA - \$2284.50

○ Total \$20,000

9. **Report from Office of Neighborhoods** Colin Woodrow reported that his office continues to seek more funding for the popular neighborhood grants. Nonprofits will be ineligible, and the office will not approve grants that are meant to pay costs normally paid by Homeowners Associations. Community Forum, Colin reported, approved paying a contracted graduate student for services provided to his office allowing his office to repurpose some funds.

Colin said that a new draft of simplified bylaws will be coming soon for leadership teams to review and approve. The documents coming from his office will include an orientation guide for leadership team members along with how-to guidelines for leadership teams.

Colin offers words of support for seeking press coverage of fall student cleanup efforts in the University District.

Colin reports that most City meetings will continue via ZOOM, live recording by You Tube and MCAT. In the fall of 2021, neighborhood meetings will be conducted in person, but following social distancing outdoors.

The League of Women Voters and Forward Montana will be asked to help with the candidate forums and mayoral forum sponsored by Missoula Neighborhoods after the September primaries.

10. **Public comment** There was no public comment.

11. **Announcements** Dori said that she will stay on the Leadership team unless elected to the City Council. Members shared their impressions that we will all stay on until elections are held at the next general meeting.

The Leadership team will send a thank you note to the Hamilton Nursery which donated plants to the Maurice Avenue traffic circles on Friday, May 27. Jennifer, Darcy, and Jessica Tuberty planted them. The deer have already eaten some of the plants, but Jennifer will spray periodically with deer repellent. Rick will find some sweet grass to replace destroyed plants.

Jennifer moved to adjourn, and Dori seconded. The motion passed with the next meeting scheduled for September 7, 2021.