

# University Neighborhood Council Leadership Team Meeting

April 5, 2022 at 6:30 PM by Virtual Zoom

## 1. **Introductions and Roll Call**

Darcy Caron called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM. Present from the Missoula Neighborhoods were Kalina Wickham, Neighborhood Specialist and Kelly Elam, Neighborhood Coordinator. Also present were Rick Caron; Kat Cowley, Bear Necessities; Jennipha-Lauren Nielsen; Allison Wilson, Neighborhood Ambassador; Jennifer Copley, Secretary; Liza Nicholas, a new member from Bozeman; and new member Brandon McMahon, commercial photographer, and manager of a commercial property management company. Vicki Watson, retired University of Montana professor, joined the meeting later as did Jenny Nielson, who volunteers in Missoula and pop-up-free stores.

## 2. **Approval of Minutes for February 1, 2022 and General Meeting March 1, 2022**

Rick moved to approve the minutes and Liza seconded. The motion was approved.

## 3. **Community Forum Report**

No Community Forum was held in March.

## 4. **Missoula Neighborhoods Report**

Beginning with a land acknowledgement to the Salish, Kootenai, and Kalispell people, Kalina Wickham began a presentation at 6:45 and ended at 7:07. She reviewed the reasons for the existence of Neighborhood Councils created by the City Charter and summarized their purpose by showing and reading a PowerPoint program.

Community Forum, Kalina said, consists of one representative from each neighborhood council. Both the Neighborhood Council and the Community Forum loosely follow Robert's Rules of Order, obey Montana's Sunshine Laws by keeping all meetings public, and follow the City's inclusivity practices. Members must conduct business in gender-neutral language. As vacancies arise, Neighborhood Councils must elect co-chairs, secretaries, treasurers, and a Community Forum Representative/ Alternate. Both groups must post agendas on the City website one week in advance of any meeting, and the Missoula Neighborhoods will post reminder emails before the meeting.

Jennifer noted that in the past, training was required of those seeking to serve on Neighborhood Councils. She asked if such training was still available. Kalina responded that training could be held again if more citizen engagement occurs.

Jennifer also asked if, as promised at the last meeting, Kalina had sought guidance about whether or not it is the place of the University District Leadership Team role to comment on certain environmental practices at the University. Kalina suggested that concerns about UM should go directly to UM.

Darcy asked, "What is our authority?" Kalina responded that Neighborhood Councils are more advisory in most roles except in adopting bylaws, submitting grant proposals, making budget decisions, or voting on the Community Forums. Darcy followed up by asking if this University

District Neighborhood Council should address our new bylaws? Kalina Wickham said there is no urgency, so the review could be done at future meetings.

Darcy noted that we still need to get an alternate delegate to Community Forum.

Jenny Nielson said that we need to encourage those who are renters to get involved in the Neighborhood Councils. Darcy explained that we include the ASUM delegates many of whom are renters, noting that some renters are being forced out by those buying and renovating old houses in the neighborhood. Rick urged us to invite even more renters, a valuable part of our neighborhood. Jenny promised to urge some renters to serve on the Neighborhood Council.

Kalina announced that scoring on grant applications will be next week, and the Community Forum would approve the committee's recommendations at their May meeting.

## **5. UM Representatives Report**

April 24 will be a spring raking day led by UM's Lacey Zinke and Rick Caron. Rick reminded those presents that crews had served four area residents who needed help due to advanced age or physical limitations. Three seemed happy with the service, and the fourth requested the service again next year. Subject to when the students are available, April 24, this month, Lacey, head of Greek Life on campus, sent her best wishes and will be involved in getting students involved for spring raking service. Members are asked to look for neighbors who may need help and to send those names out to Rick.

Kat reported that they have revised the ASUM Bear Necessities newsletter (and the UM Food Pantry newsletter), publishing online at <https://medium.com/griz-renter-blog>.

Neighborhood Ambassadors, Kat continued, are gearing up for setting up more renter tips and have put out the call for artists for the traffic circles on one of the adopted traffic circles on Maurice Avenue. Ideas are due on April 19. The winner would build the sculpture, do cleanup, and enjoy a celebratory party.

## **6. Discussion Items**

As announced previously, Neighborhood Cleanup is Saturday, April 30. Both Darcy and Jennifer said they would be glad to help on that day. Kat also volunteered to help.

Kalina said neighborhoods should choose an area for cleanup focus. The city will provide dumpsters in several areas around town.

Jennifer asked if a cleanup of Jeanette Rankin Park could be planned for the future. Academic demands make it difficult to recruit student volunteers, but Rick promised to talk to Lacey about that Rankin Park labor. Darcy added words of support for work on Rankin Park.

Vicki Watson reminded the audience that the weekend before April 30, people will be cleaning banks of the Clark Fork River, gathering paper trash, but not animal waste in the dog park.

## 7. Public comment on Non-Agenda Items

Rick expressed his ongoing concerns about the Bark Park on Jacob's Island area and wants to present a resolution on that issue soon.

Vicki Watson expressed concerns about the building of a massive stadium size winter practice facility on what is now a grassy practice area. The University did this without dialogue with neighbors. Dan Carlino called the President, urging the University to hold a briefing. Rick asked if we should contact the President's Office to get information about the impact to the neighborhood. Darcy volunteered to reach out to Dan Carlino. Rick will contact both to attend our next meeting. Kalina wants them to contact her office, as well.

Jennifer asked how to best publicize such a meeting. Kalina suggested using the City's list serve, the Missoulian, and the Next Door online site.

Vicki Watson said she was told by the Missoulian that Cole Bergquist, realtor, thought he might be willing to talk with a Neighborhood Association about developments on the old Missoulian site near the river. Kalina said that the developers are required to have neighborhood meetings. She urged us to invite Bergquist to a Neighborhood Council meeting. Vicki says she likes the idea of having people submit questions in advance, so the developer can prepare his answers.

Jennifer suggested that these developments might be topics for the September meeting. Kalina said that the public meetings would occur before designs were set in stone and will seek an update to bring to our next meeting. Rick said that some of the development partners have changed. Vicki says we should tell these people that we do not want to fight with them, merely to communicate.

Brandon expressed interest in the City's Brooks-to-Broadway plan. He has concerns about how changes will affect traffic, like that on the one-way 6th street. He is also interested in the plans for the uptown and Hip Strip areas. Darcy responded that we have not had discussion about those plans, but as the city moves forward, she said we will need to get involved.

Kalina reminded members that the Higgins Avenue Corridor planning is still open to comment and offers opportunities for further comment. Three options for Hip Strip area include protected bike lanes, necessary parking, and dedicated transit lanes. Kalina said that she can connect Brandon with involved city officials whose meetings that will be ongoing. Brandon also expressed concern that traffic lane reduction could negatively impact traffic on Higgins and wants us to put this issue on our radar.

Vicki attended a meeting at Senior Center and saw much support for dedicated bike lanes. Kalina will gather more feedback.

Darcy said that we would like to invite speakers on the issue to our next meeting, Rick adding a request for a comfortable physical space for next month's meeting. Brandon said an outdoor

meeting with a printed agenda would be successful, but we must wait to see what the weather brings and ascertain the willingness of potential speakers from UM.

**8. Adjournment**

The next meeting was set for the first Tuesday on May 3, 6:30 PM. The agenda will include considering adding a co-chair, a Treasurer, and an Alternate to the Community Forum.

The motion to adjourn was made by Jennifer Copley and seconded by Rick Caron. The meeting adjourned at 8:07.