

River Road Leadership Team Meeting

Wednesday, January 5, 2011 at 7:00 AM
Missoula Plans Exchange

1. Call to order
2. Roll Call
 - Jeremy Flesch, Chairperson
 - Dax Kuehn, Vice Chairperson
 - Mike Hathaway, Community Forum Representative
 - Andrea Kuehn, Special Projects
 - Chance Eaton, Unofficial Secretary
 - Not Present: Robin Spaziani, Communications
3. Rezone request for 217 & 235 Catlin Street & 1715 Trail Street
 - Written request has been sent to Office of Planning and Grants to postpone the public hearings for the rezone proposal that was to be held January 4th
 - New dates are Planning Board for February 15th and City Council on March 7th
4. Milwaukee trail connection – Davis Street – Elevated Speed table
 - December 15th Leadership Team meeting voted unanimously to recommend an elevated speed table on Davis Street to be included as part of the Milwaukee trail project, and Jeremy Flesch wrote a letter of recommendation to Missoula Parks and Recreation and WGM concerning this recommendation
 - Missoula Parks and Recreation and WGM responded to Jeremy Flesch a verbal understanding that the table is a high priority for the River Road community and agree that an elevated speed table will be beneficial at Davis street
 - There is now a conversation taking place with the Missoula Parks and Recreation and WGM about funding the elevated speed table through the Recreation Trails Grant
5. Demo River Road Website Blog
 - Dax Kuehn demonstrated to the Leadership Team how to gain administrative access to the River Road blog, how to add new posts, categorize posts, tagging the post, and last, how to publish
 - Dax talked about the desire to keep the blog as unbiased as possible. The blog is not the place to air a personal frustration, grievance or priority.
6. New Business
 - Discussed concerns about a potential Lafray – Johnson through street connection, as it is increasing in concern to the local community
 - Leadership Team will further research the issue and place on the agenda at future Leadership Team meetings
7. Curbs & Sidewalks

- Leadership Team held an open discussion on the topic of sidewalks (*general discussion and comments captured*)
- Question: Are curbs and sidewalks a good thing for our neighborhood?
 - Pros:
 - ...safety for pedestrian movement...
 - ...allowance for pedestrian movement...
 - ...makes property looks nicer...
 - ...safer for drivers as well...
 - ...makes snow removal easier in cases where there is a boulevard because there is a place for snow to go...
 - ...safety for kids...
 - ...safety for people walking in the dark...gets them off the street where hard to see them...
 - ...increases transportation options – walking, bicycle, etc...
 - ...creates an interconnectivity in the neighborhood...
 - Cons:
 - ...the costs on installing sidewalk...
 - ...more work for homeowner, such as snow shoveling and maintaining the boulevard space between sidewalk and street...
 - ...it reduces the rural feel of a neighborhood...
- Question: Are they high, medium, or low priority?
 - ...priority depends on location...
 - ...priority depends on interconnectivity...
- Question: What street(s) is most critical?
 - ...major streets within neighborhoods are highest priority...
 - ...high priority streets include Curtis, River Road, Wyoming and Davis...
 - ...Russell and 3rd high priority, but will have sidewalks in the reconstruction projects...
- Question: How are they paid for?
 - ...approximate cost for sidewalks is \$40-\$60 per front foot...
 - ...concern that cost may be too significant for home owners in the high priority streets...
 - ...alternative funding could offset the homeowner cost, and perhaps be split with, for example, Community Development Block Grants...
 - ...it is believed that the Franklin to Fort community did significant sidewalk develop in the past using grant monies...
- **Action Item**: Jeremy Flesch will visit with and invite to a future Leadership Team meeting member(s) of the Franklin to the Fort community that are familiar with sidewalk development in their neighborhood, and discuss their experience and funding options for sidewalk development

8. Next Meeting

- Scheduled for February 2nd, 2011, 7:00 AM at Missoula Plans Exchange