

## **Franklin to the Fort Neighborhood Council Leadership Team and Missoula Invest Health Neighborhood Walk About Meeting Minutes**

Date: October 15, 2016  
Time: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
  
Location: Franklin Park  
2100 10<sup>th</sup> St.  
Missoula, MT 59801

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1. A Healthy Neighborhood Walk About was completed and Missoula Invest Health gathered data from the attendees.
2. Public comment on non-agenda items - None

**Missoula Invest Health Notes from Franklin to Fort Neighborhood Walkabout**  
**Saturday, October 15, 2016 2 – 4 pm**

**A. What are the best things about your neighborhood?**

- Planning & Zoning
  - o Infrastructure plan created in the past which led to Johnson and Catlin projects
  - o Catlin zoned for commercial development
  - o Neighborhood zoned for infill – potential for good development
- Sidewalks
  - o Johnson has complete sidewalks, curbs and gutters
  - o Catlin has complete sidewalks, curbs and gutters
  - o New safe routes to school maps will be created in spring 2017 for Franklin in preparation for the new school opening
- Roads & Traffic Calming
  - o Many roads in this neighborhood are not very high traffic
  - o Some enjoy the unpaved road – 6<sup>th</sup> street
- Connectivity
  - o Johnson and Catlin good connectivity now
  - o 3<sup>rd</sup> street crossings provide some connectivity as well
  - o Central location
- Parks & Trees & Green Space
  - o Great improvements made at Franklin Park
  - o Neighborhood council made Franklin Park a Certified Wildlife Habitat with the National Wildlife Federation
  - o Nice Pocket Park
  - o Bridges near the park provide good connectivity for adjacent areas across the ditch
  - o Ditch is lush in summer and attracts wildlife
  - o Close to bike trails
- Community Services
  - o Sunrise Café and Kitchen south of 14<sup>th</sup> – coffee shop and commercial kitchen, other businesses including neighbor who makes salsa for sale at the farmer's market use this kitchen, also providing classes like herbal medicine class
  - o Little Free Libraries in a few locations
  - o Good bus routes
- Community Engagement
  - o If work together to advocate for something tangible louder squeakier wheel can get projects done
  - o Diverse cultural neighborhood

**B. In what areas does your neighborhood need improvement?**

- Planning & Zoning
  - o New multi-family residential supportive housing changes could impact portion of neighborhood that is zoned RM1
  - o Neighborhood zoned for infill – potential for bad development – most people seemed supportive of a mix of development with single family, multi-family and commercial – concern about potential for too much or not well done multi-family
  - o Interest in potential for making it easier to do neighborhood scale commercial without zoning changes

- Potential for more commercial development to help provide a higher tax base for the neighborhood
- Town home exemption doesn't require any shared or common space – something to consider addressing
- Sidewalk
  - Lack complete sidewalks through most of community
  - Cost sharing with city helps, but still too expensive for many residents
  - Wide range of sidewalk types – curbs with no sidewalks, sidewalks with no curbs, sidewalks with curbs, etc.
  - Resistance to creating an SID for sidewalks or traffic calming due to costs
  - Lack of gutters and drainage (example at 10<sup>th</sup> and Eaton)
  - Lack safe routes to school because of lack of sidewalks
  - Used CDBG to pay for homeowner portion of the Johnson project, something to consider for additional sidewalk projects in the neighborhood
- Roads & Traffic Calming
  - Section of 6<sup>th</sup> street is gravel road, not on city plan to pave so would require SID, unclear number of neighbors and differing opinions about whether people want this paved
  - No bike stripes or signs on Catlin but considered okay because street is wide and relatively low traffic
  - Fast traffic an issue along Garfield between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> – Marilyn has looked into traffic calming but there are a lot of steps – resident engagement and costs are both challenges to get this done – potential/need for 3 traffic circles along this section – requires full curbs on all four corners which is additional issue/expense
  - Traffic is also fast on 11<sup>th</sup> between Russell and Catlin as people try to get off of Russell
  - Kent and/or Eaton are also potential candidates for traffic calming
  - Lots of uncontrolled intersections – not a lot of talk as to whether this is good or bad – some note that people not from the neighborhood do get confused by the lack of signs
  - Consider adding traffic accidents to the Invest Health map
- Connectivity
  - Neighborhood is hemmed in by 3<sup>rd</sup>, Russell and Reserve – hard to get out of the neighborhood particularly for pedestrians and people on bikes
  - Questions about/concern about how Russell Street development will help or hinder connectivity for this neighborhood
  - Also can be challenging for bikes and pedestrians to get across Johnson and to get across 14<sup>th</sup>
  - Bus routes throughout the community but no bus shelters – maybe okay but also look at whether city could help with curbing and other infrastructure needs for the buses
- Parks & Trees & Green Space
  - Neighborhood is parks deficit – particularly south of 14<sup>th</sup>
  - Potential for trees along Catlin – need urban forestry to maintain/address old trees and plant new
  - More community gardens
  - Park equipment is deteriorating
  - Do neighborhood greenways still exist as a designation/program?
- Community Services
  - Interest in more commercial operations – particularly coffee shop and/or small market
- Community Engagement
  - Neighborhood really two separate sections – north of 14<sup>th</sup> and south of 14<sup>th</sup>
  - Portion of community south of 14<sup>th</sup> is less engaged
  - High percentage of renters can make engagement more difficult
  - Lots of young families and more working class, not as engaged as some other neighborhoods

**C. Are there any particular projects you are working on now, or would like to see happen in your neighborhood?**

- Lots of interest in commercial businesses, particularly coffee shops and small markets like what used to exist at Garfield and 12<sup>th</sup> – old building on corner of 10<sup>th</sup> near the park could be a good location, building at corner of Garfield and 8<sup>th</sup> owner is interested in doing mixed use with a market or shop at street level, small one-story multiplex at Catlin and 12<sup>th</sup> is in a commercially zoned area
- Traffic calming along Garfield – idea to host a block party along Garfield and use as an opportunity to bring traffic calming ideas up with all the neighbors
- Lots of interest in improving sidewalks, connectivity, safe routes to school
- Park for south end of the neighborhood

**D. Are there specific properties that you think could be put to better/different use?**

- Property around Kemp and 10<sup>th</sup>
- Ronan St. Between 11<sup>th</sup> and Russell

**E. What business or service do you need or wish you had more of in your neighborhood?**

- Small Grocery
- Neighborhood Market
- Coffee Shop
- Artisanal things
- Pediatric Dentistry
- Hair Cutting Salon
- School based clinic

**F. What social activities or community facilities would you like to have in your neighborhood?**

- Indoor recreation center
- Church facilities open to the public - Adult classes
- Skill sharing
- Having a discussion with the County and with MCCHD about a branch (or something like it) of Partnership Health at Franklin School, similar to what is at Lowell School

## Franklin to the Fort Neighborhood Walkabout

10/15/16

Focus Areas:

Parks and Open Spaces

Connectivity

Safety

Services

Note: The Walkabout focused on the northern portion of the Neighborhood

## PARKS AND OPEN SPACE



### Franklin Park

- Asset to the neighborhood
- Large, central location for the northern portion of the neighborhood
- Bridges near the park provide good connectivity to the neighborhood
- Great improvements made at the park but some equipment is also deteriorating
- There is likely a small portion of Franklin Park land that is on the other side of a ditch, separate from the park. Is there any benefit to attempting to reclaim it for public use? It is currently being used as storage for adjacent property owners (see bottom photo this page). Would need to confirm the details and the interests.



## 8<sup>th</sup> St. Pocket Park

- Small reclaimed property
- Portrays neighborhood pride
- Small park with a lot going on – education, activity (horse shoes)

The Neighborhood is park deficit – especially south of 14<sup>th</sup> Street



### Ditch & Green Infrastructure

- Several ditches run through the neighborhood
- Unique characteristic of this neighborhood
- Can be lush in the summer and attracts wildlife
- Results in many disconnected streets.
- Creative use of bridges for non-motorized crossing
- Watch for safety concerns

## CONNECTIVITY



### Trail & Connectivity

- N on-motorized trail system helps to connect areas of the neighborhood
- Disconnected streets create extra travel patterns and are especially challenging when alternative routes and sidewalks are not available
- Since lots of uncontrolled intersections it can be difficult for pedestrians and bicyclists to cross busier streets



### Bus Stop

- Good bus routes through the neighborhood, but
- Very limited curb, gutter and sidewalk on some routes
- No bus shelters

## SAFETY



### Roads

- Very few roads are considered complete streets with curb, gutter, sidewalk, street trees, bicycle lanes, etc.
- Eaton Street is a main road in the neighborhood with no sidewalks, curb or gutter



### 6<sup>th</sup> Street - Gravel Road

- Perhaps the last gravel road left in Missoula
- With improvements comes potential loss of perceived yard space
- Pavement is an important way to address air quality concerns
- No sidewalks or curb and gutter
- Some may enjoy the unpaved road
- Costs to pave would be on the property owners directly accessing road

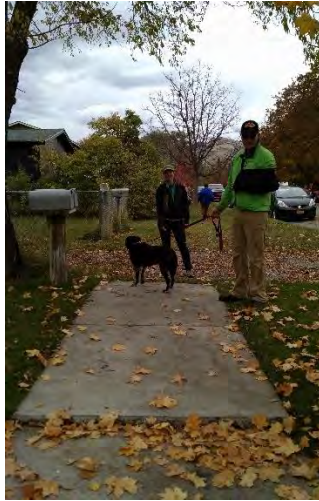
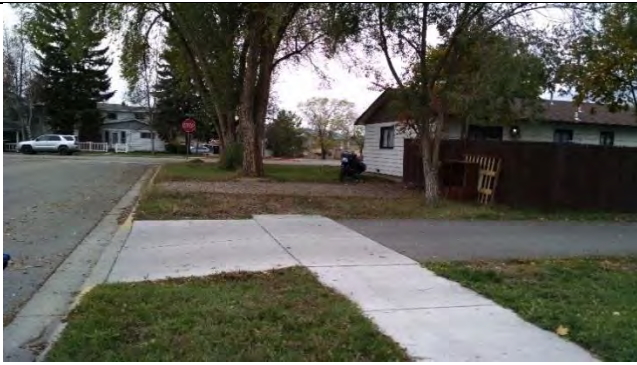


#### Drainage and Curb & Gutter

- Drainage issues make this sidewalk impassable
- Many other streets without curb and gutter – lead to greater disrepair of the pavement and issues with connectivity

#### Traffic Calming:

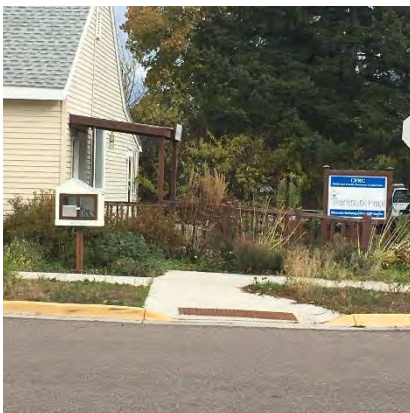
- Lots of uncontrolled intersections
- Traffic is funneled to a few main roads through the neighborhood
- Attempts to install traffic calming are very costly, and the burden would be on the adjacent property owners to cover the cost
- Traffic calming requires adjacent curbs to be installed – an added expense
- Potential increases in traffic through neighborhood with improvements to Russell Street



#### Sidewalks:

- Lack complete sidewalks through most of neighborhood
- Lack of safe routes to school because of lack of sidewalks
- Disjointed
- Deep curbs in some cases and no curbs in other cases
- Condition of existing sidewalks vary greatly
- Can travel from concrete to gravel to grass/asphalt or dirt

## SERVICES & DEVELOPMENT



### Community Services

- Churches
- Neighborhood services vastly spread apart in such a large neighborhood
- No current neighborhood commercial located within the neighborhood.
- Some services are placed at the neighborhood edges
- Some parcels with commercial zoning could support new interests in neighborhood commercial
- Previous commercial spaces could be reconsidered for neighborhood commercial
- Little Free Libraries in a few locations



## Residential Character

- A mix of housing types
- Strong character of older houses with great landscaping surrounding them
- Infill development has been changing the character – in some cases beneficial and in other cases not
- Potential for additional resident displacement
- Additional redevelopment expected



#### Redevelopment

- Use of townhome exemption development could circumvent typical subdivision requirement to establish park space for developments over a certain size (although new zoning requirement works to address this)