

## **River Road Neighborhood Council Leadership Team and Missoula Invest Health Neighborhood Walk About Meeting Minutes**

Date: October 15, 2016

Time: 10:00 a.m. – Noon

Location: Westside Lanes  
1615 Wyoming 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 River Road Neighborhood Walkabout 10/15/16

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

- Lights along part of the trail
- Milwaukee trail
- Not a lot of cross-streets (mostly cul de sacs) → traffic calming → Safety for kids
- Active neighborhood leadership team
- Community gardens
- Parks & rec are good at plowing trail in the winter
- Social services:
  - food bank
  - Salvation Army (planning a gym)
  - MUDD
  - Home Resource
  - Emma Dickinson Lifelong Learning Center
  - Boys & Girls Club at Council Grove
  - Market garden at corner of Wyoming & Curtis (Frank's Little Farm)

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

- Better signage along trails
- Sidewalks
- Need to address how Russell St. improvement will impact traffic in neighborhood
- Food bank & West Side Lanes got permission not to do traffic studies – this is a concern.
- Utilization of available parks
- Utilization of neighborhood common areas that are owned by defunct homeowner's associations.

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

- Trail lighting – have looked at funding (city says they can't do a lighting district because it's a trail)
- Recycling
- Wayfinding
- Connectivity – ways to get through the neighborhood

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

- Lots on the corner of River Rd. and Reserve St.
- Lot across Catlin from Corso apartments
- Space North of River Road & South of the river: site of Diversified Materials. The site is supposed to go back to the city. Neighborhood council has been told there is strong potential for a park there as part of a reclamation plan.

- Bentley park
- Lafray park
- Neglected common areas in defunct homeowner's associations

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

- Restaurants
- Coffee shops
- Affordable grocery store

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

- Gym space that would be open for community use
- Tennis courts
- Basketball courts
- Coffee shop

## River Road Neighborhood Walkabout

10/15/16

Focus Areas:  
Parks and Open Spaces  
Safety  
Way-finding

# Parks and Open Spaces



Lafray Park

## Lafray Park

- Asset to the neighborhood
- Trail connectivity is lacking
- Not well utilized – question was raised as to why this is
- Residents would like more playground equipment



Public area adjoining Lafray Park

## Underutilized public area

- Paved and fenced on one side, but no clear purpose



Luella Ln.

## Effective common area

- Actively maintained by homeowner's association
- Frequently used
- Available only to residents who are part of this homeowner's association



Sherwood Ln.

#### Underutilized common area

- Defunct homeowner's association owns common area
- No one is responsible for maintenance
- Area is neglected and largely unused.



Milwaukee Trail & private drive south of N. Grant St.

#### Effective pocket park

- Good provision of amenities (dog bags, garbage can, park bench, signage)
- Positive aesthetics (landscaping)



Milwaukee Trail between Curtis St. & Davis St.

#### Pocket park that could be further developed

- Currently has a bench and grass
- Trail lighting would improve safety at this corner

# Safety



Milwaukee Trail adjacent Corso apartments

## Lighting on a portion of the Milwaukee Trail

- Promotes safe navigation at night
- More is needed: lighting extends only a short way into the neighborhood (Russell St. to S. Garfield St.)



River Rd.

## Sidewalk discontinuity

- Few through-streets exist in the neighborhood, thus traffic is concentrated on these streets and sidewalk connectivity is especially important on these streets: River Rd., Wyoming St., Curtis St., & Davis St.



N. Davis St.



N. Curtis St.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Although some form of sidewalk exists past the point in the photo on N. Curtis St., it is constructed of asphalt, making it difficult to distinguish from the road



River Rd.

A section of road with adequate sidewalks; this is unfrequent in the neighborhood



Junction of S. Garfield St. & Trail St.

Trail route creates some safety concerns

- Current trail route in this location forces two road crossings
- Suggested improvement: move trail to the opposite side of Trail St.



Junction of Milwaukee Trail & Davis St.

Concern exists that excessive signage in this location distracts motorists from seeing pedestrians



Milwaukee Trail between Catlin St. & S. Garfield St.

Blind corner on Milwaukee Trail: Safety concern for trail users when bicyclists are travelling at speed



N. Johnson St. & N. Grant St.

Open/unfenced irrigation canals

- Potentially dangerous to trail users
- Good place for dogs to get a drink on walks
- Suggestion: railing directly along trail, while maintaining access for people with dogs



N. Johnson St.



Wyoming St. & Garfield St.



Trail St.

Traffic calming and trail placement are of limited effectiveness

- Motorists sometimes drive on this portion of the trail



Wyoming St., between N. Johnson St. and N. Garfield St.

Parked vehicles obstructing sidewalk

- Cause believed to be inadequate parking infrastructure for housing density



Wyoming St., between N. Johnson St. and N. Garfield St.

Street too narrow for two lanes of vehicular traffic to pass safely

# Way-finding: Pedestrian and Bicyclist traffic



Milwaukee Trail between Trail St. & N. Johnson St.

## Sidewalk-trail discontinuity

- Uncertainty exists as to why this portion of fence was erected across sidewalk-trail junction



N. Johnson St. & Idaho St.

## Trail discontinuity

- If walkway through Lafray Park extended two blocks it would connect the park to the Milwaukee Trail



Junction of Milwaukee Trail & Catlin St.

## Way-finding signs are effective in some areas



Justus Ln. & Trail St.<sup>1</sup>



Justus Lane<sup>2</sup>



Justus Lane<sup>3</sup>



Milwaukee Trail & N. Johnson St.<sup>4</sup>



Milwaukee Trail & Catlin St. crosswalk<sup>5</sup>

Way-finding is difficult in several areas along the Milwaukee Trail: Improved signage is needed

<sup>1 & 2</sup> Trail changes from a separate path to the street; clarification re: location of trail route is needed

<sup>3</sup> Larger sign would improve visibility from a distance

<sup>4</sup> Signage is needed pointing to Lafay Park (3 blocks north on N. Johnson St.)

<sup>5</sup> Although the crosswalk is well marked, increased signage is needed for route clarity for trail users here