

Riverfront Neighborhood Council Leadership Team

Meeting Minutes

Date: May 14, 2018

Time: 5:30 pm

Location: Dog and Bicycle Bakery Cafe

875 Wyoming St #102, Missoula, MT 59801

Leadership team members present: Jim Whitney, Ramona Flightner, Will McLaughlan, Ed Nolder, Janet McMillan, Jon Van Dyke

Others present: Jane Kelly, Sherry McLaughlan

1. The minutes from the April 9, 2018 Riverfront Leadership Council Leadership Team meeting were approved and posted.
2. Ed Nolder was absent and unable to provide an update on California Street Project and Urban Renewal District 2.
3. Sherry McLaughlan discussed the closure on Hickory Street:
 - a. Discussed Missoula Civic Stadium Lease and Use Agreement:
<https://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/DocumentCenter/View/622>
 - b. Discussed the draft of the letter to the Mayor.
 - c. Will McLaughlan provided that there was no update on Orange Street and the Clegg Lane Traffic Light.
4. The leadership Team planned for the upcoming General Meeting on May 22, 2018 at Silver Park Pavilion, 5:30 P.M.
 - a. Ed will moderate the meeting.
 - b. Sandwich boards were displayed.
 - c. Amended bylaws will be on the agenda for approval.
5. There was no public comment on non-agenda items.
6. Ed Nolder was not present to provide the Community Forum Report.
7. Jane gave the Office of Neighborhoods Report.
8. In the announcements, the barricade removal on Hickory Street was discussed. Sherry McLaughlan drafted a letter outlining issues and reasons for removal of barricade and will send it to the Mayor.

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Riverfront Neighborhood Council Leadership Team

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Riverfront Neighborhood Council

May 14, 2018

Dear Mayor:

The Riverfront Neighborhood Council Leadership Team would like to make you aware of some concerns related to the closure of Hickory Street during baseball games and events at Ogren Field.

In general, we feel the closure of this street by a gate at sporadic times unknown to many drivers creates an inconvenient and potentially dangerous situation for residents and visitors to the area, including the Old Sawmill District, McCormick Park, Silver Park, and Ogren Field itself.

Access to this area is at either end of Wyoming Street/Clegg Lane and through the neighborhoods to the south via California Street or Hickory Street. Traffic on Orange Street and Russell Street makes left and even right turns very difficult at many times during the day, forcing the path through the neighborhoods to reach a traffic signal. There are traffic calming circles on Hickory. With the current construction on Russell Street, due to last for many months, and the proposed construction on California Street, which is badly needed, the only viable access at times could be via Hickory Street. Periodic closure of that street could lead to severe traffic congestion with dangerous results. Adding to the problem is that anyone not aware of the closure could be blocked once they reach the gate with no way to turn around.

It is our understanding that this limitation was made part of the Missoula Civic Stadium Lease and Use Agreement signed in 2012 "in order to mitigate and control the impacts of parking and traffic generated by the Civic Stadium on the neighborhood and other public facilities." The neighborhood at that time did not include the residential units developed as part of the Old Sawmill District, and the potential impact on those units was apparently not considered. Even so, it is hard to imagine how limiting even emergency access by fire/police/ambulance to a location which could be the site of a major incident could have been considered a safe way to mitigate impacts.

It is our request that this clause be reconsidered and the agreement be amended to remove the barricade effective prior to the start of the baseball season. This request was supported by a unanimous vote at the May leadership team meeting. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this issue if you feel it is necessary.

Sincerely,

Riverfront Neighborhood Council Leadership Team

Sent by:

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