

Lewis and Clark Neighborhood Council Leadership Team Minutes

Date: November 6, 2019 Time: 5:30 pm

Location: Lewis and Clark Village Community Room 3000 S Higgins Ave. Missoula, MT 59802

Present: Terry Conner, Colleen Biehl, Dave Westfall, Kathleen Hanson, Susan Schott, Tammy Cunningham, Mike Painter-Rose Park Neighborhood, James Walter-Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Board Claudia Houston-AmeriCorps Volunteer for Nat'l Wildlife Federation, Naomi Alhadeff-Nat'l Wildlife Federation, Karen Gasvoda, Office of the Neighborhoods

1. New team member, Tammy Cunningham was welcomed to the Leadership Team. Welcoming Mike Painter with Rose Park neighborhood, James Walter with the BPAB and Claudia Houston and Naomi Alhadeff with the National Wildlife Federation.
2. October 2, 2019 leadership team meeting minutes were approved as posted. Park Neighborhood
3. Neighborhood Traffic safety – James Walter, Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Board Member presented the neighborhood with several ideas of how to start accomplishing traffic safety. James is a resident of Lewis and Clark Neighborhood and very interested in helping the neighborhood with the safety priorities as he has encountered them. One suggestion is if you see an illegally parked car, you may call 911 stating that this is not an emergency and report the violation. A policeperson will be summoned to the location of the vehicle. He encouraged positive solutions. Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Broad meeting at 3pm first Tuesday of the month, City Council Chambers.
-Rose Park collaboration with Traffic Safety – Terry Conner and Colleen Biehl attended the Rose Park Neighborhood Team Leadership meeting They are still very interested being a part of the South Ave Safety priority and were going to discuss further collaboration with us.
-Jeff Miller was seeking an endorsement from the team for a proposal from his additional findings for the traffic issues on South and Bancroft Streets. He felt that cross walks needed to be marked at 3 intersections on both sides of the 4-way stop at Bancroft and South. Also, Changing the Speed limit in changed from 30 to 25 on South in this area mentioned.
-Mike Painter from Rose Park was very interested in Jeff's proposal and was taking the information from him and James Walter back to Rose Park.
Discussion was held on the proposal from Jeff Miller and noting that traffic safety is a priority stated by the neighborhood, the Team decided that a Traffic Safety Committee should be formed for Lewis and Clark Neighborhood to address the traffic concerns involving the local schools and the neighborhood residents particularly on South and Bancroft Streets. Colleen so moved and Susan seconded, all were in favor. Karen will send out a doodle request for dates. Terry Conner, Jeff Miller and James Walter have said they will be on the committee. There is always room for more.
4. Large Grant Interpretive Signs Update was given by Terry Conner. The Grant for 4 Interpretive Signs for Bancroft Ponds was submitted with support from the neighborhood and individuals. The Outdoor Classroom Grant is on hold as presentations need to be given to the Conservation Lands Advisory Board and Parks Broad this January or February. The Outdoor Classroom will involve an architect and landscaping, even though there will only be natural elements being used.
5. Updates on Bancroft Ponds pending projects –
-Trails and Benches –There is gravel left over from the Trails project. John Conner and Colleen Biehl talked with Morgan Valliant, Conservation Lands Manager, about a trail to the birding area. Morgan supported this.

-Birding area planting: As the weather turned to winter in October, We are not aware of any additional planting then what was done earlier.

6. Interim Treasurer for Neighborhood Leadership Team will be Susan Schott while Jerry Dirnberger is in Arizona for the winter.

7. Community Forum Report -Colleen Biehl reported that in September the Parks Department gave an overview of the what the Open Space Bond will help improve along the Clark Fork River where floaters put in/out at and the Conservation Lands sections of town with mapping and signage. In October, the artist who painted the mural on the soil wall at the Van Buren round about talked about how her vision of rebirth in the Missoula Valley was the theme for her work. An update on the Higgins Bridge project informed the forum that work will start in January 2020 and continue for the year. Each side of the bridge will have a wider pedestrian lanes and traffic will have access during construction. Garden City Compost gave a fiscal report of improvement on less odor for adjacent neighborhoods and the continued support from city residents and businesses.

8. Office of the Neighborhoods Report – Karen reported on Nov. 19 there is a training session for Neighborhood Leadership Team Member that the County is putting on. Need to RSVP to Sarah Bell at sbell@missoulacounty.us or call 406-258-4230. Training is at the courthouse from 6-8pm and is free.

9. Claudia Houston presented information on the Garden for Wildlife. She reminded us that Bancroft Ponds is a Certified Wildlife Habitat in Missoula. She answered questions from those in attendance.

11: Meeting Time Change: Discussion was held and with the information from the doodle poll that the Lewis & Clark Leadership team Meeting will be held at 5:30pm – 7pm at Lewis and Clark Village Community Room on the first Wednesday of the month.

11. No public comments

12. Announcements: No January Meeting for the Lewis & Clark Neighborhood Leadership Team. They will resume February 5th at 5:30 pm at the Lewis and Clark Village Community Room.

Proposal to improve safety on South Avenue between Park Street and Holborn Street, and on Bancroft Street near Sentinel High School

Situation:

South Avenue is used by over 5350 cars per day and passes through a residential area. The current

speed limit between Park Street and Holborn Street is 30mph.

South Avenue is also crossed by many dozens of school students who go from Lewis and Clark neighborhood to Rose Park neighborhood to attend Washington Middle school and from Rose Park neighborhood to Lewis and Clark neighborhood to attend Lewis and Clark Grade School. Older children also must cross South Avenue or Bancroft Street as they walk from these neighborhoods to Sentinel High School. South Avenue not only has relatively high density traffic in the morning and during mid to late afternoon, it also has a high number of inexperienced drivers who are associated with Sentinel High

School.

Recent modifications to the crossing at Bow Street include a pedestrian operated flashing crosswalk sign and a newly painted crosswalk. A crossing guard is stationed at Park Street and South Avenue to assist children crossing at that intersection during pre and post school hours but the other intersections do not have flashing lights or crossing guards.

Proposed changes/additions:

(1) Repainting and/or adding single crosswalks along South Avenue at Park Street, Hollis Street, and Queen Street, plus repainting the crosswalks at the four corners of South Ave and Bancroft Street which has a flashing red light would remind drivers that children are likely to be crossing South Avenue and help focus where children cross the street. In addition, single crosswalks should be repainted and/or painted along Bancroft at Livingston Avenue, Dearborn Avenue, and Fairview Avenue. This would remind drivers of the likelihood of children crossing Bancroft Street and help focus where children cross

the street.

(2) The speed limit in front of Sentinel High School and between Park Street and Holborn Street along South Avenue should be lowered to 25 mph. This is the speed limit on all other streets near Washington Middle School and Sentinel High School. The speed limit between Holborn Street and Brooks Street (Highway 93 South) is 25 mph.

(3) South Avenue for at least one block either side of Sentinel High School should be designated a School

Zone.

Remember: Average risk of a pedestrian sustaining a severe injury reaches 10% at an impact speed of 17.1 miles per hour (mph), 25% at 24.9mph, 50% at 33.0mph, 75% at 40.8mph. The average risk of death reaches 10% at an impact speed of 24.1mph, 25% at 32.5mph, 50% at 40.6mph. [Tefft, B.C. 2011 Impact Speed and a Pedestrian's Risk of Severe Injury or Death. AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. <https://aaafoundation.org> or Accid Anal Prev. 2013 Jan;S0:871-8.