

University District Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2021

1. **Introductions and Roll Call:** Colin Woodrow from the Office of Neighborhoods asked each member to list a thorn and a rose in their day or week. Darcy Caron, Bryce Rowe, Jordan Lyons, Jennifer Copley, Dori Gilels, Anna Porter, and Chloe Loeffelholz each made brief responses. Members reminded Colin that our chairperson was in attendance. Colin turned the meeting over to Darcy who called the meeting to order at 6:41 PM.
2. **Approve Leadership Team Minutes for February 9, 2021** Bryce Rowe moved to approve the minutes, and members approved unanimously.

Approve General Meeting minutes for March 9, 2021 Darcy moved to approve the minutes from the March general meeting, and all voted to approve.

3. **Treasurer's Report** Bryce Rowe reminded members of potential funds in the form of neighborhood grants. Colin reported that advertising for the General Meeting Tuesday, March 9, depleted our \$260 funds with the Missoula Neighborhoods supplementing that amount to pay for advertising.
4. **ASUM Report** Anna Potter reported that ASUM volunteers completed a neighborhood cleanup. ASUM, she said, may be reconfiguring their student rental center, centralizing student services. Chloe added that Neighborhood Ambassadors will still carry on, though they may be part of a different office at ASUM. As Chloe and Anna prepare to graduate, they will end their service on Neighborhood Council.
5. **Community Forum Report** Bryce and Jennifer attended, and Jennifer sent members printed notes on March 25.
6. **Office of Neighborhoods Report** Colin Woodrow reported that internal revisions of by-laws for University District Councils will offer suggestions for changing meeting structures.

Neighborhood Improvement Grants are available, and limited funds are available for beautification in the 48 traffic circles in four neighborhoods. Focus will be on soft traffic circles costing around \$700 rather than the \$19,000 to \$20,000 for concrete circles. The city hopes to align traffic circles with vehicle crash data, Colin said. Neighborhood Ambassadors maintain three circles in the area, but two circles in the University District still need caretakers. Darcy posted a request for volunteers on the NextDoor app.

Darcy inquired if city money could be used to start plants in pots at traffic-calming circles. Beautification is the goal, Colin says, with first requested, first served by available funds. Jennifer and Darcy volunteered to help at the circle on the corner of Woodworth and Maurice.

7. **Discussion Items** Darcy first asked members to identify what significant ideas/concerns we should support based on what attendees suggested at the March 9 General Meeting.
 - a) Darcy started the list by reminding members of continuing concerns about slowing traffic on side streets. Colin interjected that Montana cities do not have the power to do a blanket lowering of traffic speeds. The city's interim plan, he said, includes a "20-is-plenty" campaign. Colin offered to line up Ben Weiss to talk about neighborhood traffic after Ben presents to City Council and hosts a ZOOM forum in May. Darcy suggested that we invite Ben to our May meeting, and Colin suggested we check crash data before hearing Ben speak.
 - b) Darkness on Maurice Avenue remains a problem.

- c) Environmental and safety issues with Bark Park remain of concern. Jennifer reminded members of the Clark Fork Coalition's environmental concerns. Darcy suggested investigating multiple use for that area. Colin said we might bring in someone from Parks and Recreation to explore long term planning for that area. Jordan reminded members about the large numbers of locals who own dogs and mentioned concerns with riverbank erosion caused by human and dog access. Darcy and Jordan suggested talking to the environmental health officers at Public Health. Darcy and Colin Woodrow suggested a clean-up program for the Bark Park. Dori suggested hearing from City Parks and Recreation on the matter. As a first step, Jordan suggested an email of inquiry to that agency.

- d) Affordable housing remains of concern to our neighborhood.

After the list of concerns was completed, Jordan suggested seeking comment on social media and posting the recording of the General meeting on YouTube. Colin explained that the city has strict policies about any social media posts and lacks capacity to monitor and record social media transactions. Social distancing will be maintained into the foreseeable future, and Colin's office will be sending out policy updates.

Colin continued by announcing that the Missoula Neighborhoods will sponsor an Earth Day Neighborhood Clean-Up on Saturday, April 24, one week before students move out for the summer. He asked neighborhood leadership teams to recruit and organize clean-up crews. Parks and Recreation will provide bags, pickers, flyers, and clean-up tools, he said. Republic Services will provide a free dumpster on the east side of Bonner Park. If we could get three clean-up captains, Colin said he will bring tools.

Dori and Bryce urged meeting at Bonner Park, then cleaning neighborhoods from 12:00-4:00, our goal being to limit some of the alleyway code violations of dumped mattresses and furniture. Bryce volunteered to serve as leader. Colin promised get flyers out, with phone numbers for contacts. Jordan reminded members that ASUM has garbage bags and rakes. Colin said that no effort has been made to document achievements on this clean-up day, but he is considering prizes for best trash find.

- 8. **Improvement Grants for Bonner Park** Jennifer asked members to consider applying for grants to improve Bonner Park, noting that she met with City Parks and Recreation officials to look at needs. They made three suggestions for grants: (1) overlay Pickle Ball courts on the tennis courts for multi-use; (2) update the volleyball courts with new poles and sand; (3) replace the eroded basketball court.

Bryce said he supports the idea of a developing a pickleball court at Bonner Park and suggested seeking a water-testing grant for the river near Bark Park. Jordan expressed concern about getting ADA compliance improvements for Bonner Park. To build support for our infrastructure concerns, Jordan said we should keep our issues before the City Council.

The deadline for the highly competitive Missoula Neighborhood improvement grants is April 30, with notification of intent to apply due on April 15. Given complex support data required for the grants, the many needs at Bonner Park, and the limited time, members agreed after a lengthy discussion to (1) explore long term plans for Bonner park; (2) seek additional information about needed improvements at Bonner Park; and (3) gather data over the next year to use in seeking a grant for improvements.

Colin said the city will sponsor visioning workshops for neighborhoods. We could, he said, bring our ideas for potential action/improvements to that meeting. We might, he suggested, energize the neighborhood around such larger goals. (As Bryce serves on the grant evaluation committee, he will not vote on our proposal.)

9. **Leadership Team Candidates** Brad Cederberg expressed interest in serving on the Neighborhood Council. We can nominate him now and he could serve as interim member, but, explained Colin, we would need the general membership to confirm his membership.

10. **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items** There was no public comment.

11. **Announcements** The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 4, at 6:30 PM. We will invite City Parks and Recreation to the meeting.

Colin asked for feedback about having Neighborhood Office staff at each of our meetings. Jordan suggested perhaps a City staffer could come every other meeting. Dori concurred that staff attendance at every single meeting was not necessary. There was no motion on the inquiry.

12. **Adjournment** The meeting adjourned at 8:29 P.M.