

Moose Can Gully (MCG) and South 39th Joint Neighborhood Council Leadership Team Meeting

May 12, 2021 4:00 PM,

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

MCG Present: Carol Garlington, Betsy Weber, Janet Van Dyke

MCG Absent: none

South 39th Present: Paul Kilzer

South 39th Absent: Jeff Stevens-Chair, David Touchette, Ruth Burke, Dave Bell

City Staff Present: Kelly Elam, Program Assistant

City Staff Absent: Colin Woodrow Neighborhood Coordinator

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:05 PM by Carol Garlington.

1. Roll Call and Introductions

2. April 7, 2021 meeting minutes

Paul moved to approve the minutes; second by Carol. Minutes approved by unanimous vote.

3. Neighborhood Clean-Up Day—Follow up

Group members described Clean-Up Day as exciting and well-attended (30+ people participated), despite the Riverbank Run occurring on the same day.

For the event, Ruth premade map assignments for trail work, created a sign-up sheet to ask neighbors about their interest in being in neighborhood leadership, and provided attractive painted rocks. T shirts were offered to participants, as well as balloons and donut holes.

Several members commented that there did not seem to be city-wide coordination of clean-up efforts.

Kelly acknowledged that more notice would have been helpful for organizing and Missoula Neighborhoods will know what to plan for in the future cleanups.

4. Disposition of Neighborhood Funds

There was further discussion of Neighborhood Needs. The following decisions were made.

- Cleanup Day costs (sign printing, laminating etc) will be split between So 39th and MCG Neighborhoods.
- MCG **sandwich boards** are in fairly good shape after cleanup by Janet. Carol estimates the price for one sandwich board to be under \$200. It was decided that one more sandwich board will be purchased for MCG to add signage above 55th Street. Carol will find a suitable product for purchase.
- T-shirts will be provided by first using available supply in the Neighborhood Office, then purchasing remaining shirts needed.
- No funds will be needed for a General Meeting this fiscal year (see below).

Betsy moved that remaining funds be forwarded to the Neighborhood Grant program. This was seconded by Carol and unanimously approved.

5. Urban Deer Study Update

Paul reported that in January 2021 Taylor Mudford, a University of Montana graduate student, emailed our two leadership teams to request our assistance with his Masters project on investigating new management strategies for community involvement in addressing urban deer in Missoula. After getting approval from other Neighborhood Council Leadership Team members, on February 1, Paul and Ruth met with Mr. Mudford via Zoom, gave answers to his questions, described our efforts to pursue a study of urban deer in Missoula, and showed him the Missoula City Neighborhood Priorities list, our 2019 NPF Grant request, and other online sources. We learned that Mr. Mudford's Master's project has no connection to the prior contact between Missoula City Council Chair Bryan von Lossberg and UM Professor Josh Millspaugh. There has been no subsequent communication from Mr. Mudford.

Paul mentioned the irregular process in which our S39th/MCG Neighborhoods' October 2019 application for NPF grant funding of a proposed urban deer study in Missoula was removed from competition by Mayor Engen and City Council Chair von Lossberg, who said that this study would be funded by the City through another source.

Urban Deer Study Update continued:

On January 28, 2020, Ruth and Paul met with Mr. von Lossberg, Dr. Millspaugh, and UM students at UM. The COVID-19 pandemic intervened, and we have received no subsequent communications on the proposed urban deer study. It is understood that Mr. von Lossberg is not seeking reelection as Ward 1 Alderman.

Carol agreed to take our concern about the lack of progress on this multi-neighborhood issue to Community Forum.

6. Schedule Joint General Meeting – Communication to Neighborhoods

Because of the lack of recent activity, a decision was made to hold a Joint General Meeting in the fall. Getting announcements mailed could be difficult with inaccurate mailing lists. Kelly explained inaccuracies are more in areas with new developments and apartments.

Possible agenda items are a Chief Charlo School request for community funds to revamp their playgrounds, organic waste provider presentation, general elections.

Paul invited discussion about other ways to communicate with Neighborhoods. Several members of the group thought the sandwich boards were visible and successful. There was a suggestion for door-to-door delivery of flyers. Another method discussed was NextDoor internet application. Betsy described difficulty getting non-pertinent communications from vendors and other neighborhoods. Betsy agreed to ask Ruth about ways to filter NextDoor to receive only pertinent posts.

7. Community Forum Report

Carol reported on several meetings attended.

- October 2020 meeting had a presentation with the long-range transportation plan. Zoning was discussed. She learned that in areas zoned residential, builders can only build residential structures. In areas zoned commercial, builders can build commercial or residential structures.
- Another meeting involved a presentation about parks and trails and the Downtown Master Plan. Carol noted that master plans include city needs and wants. Proposals then are expected to fit with master plans. Example: there is a plan to connect all river trails. When existing buildings blocking trails are changed, they will be expected to accommodate the trails. Carol noted that master plans also allow the city to coordinate work with other projects, i.e., sewer and water.
- During the Jan 2021 meeting Colin introduced a plan for Neighborhood Strategic Operations. Small group sessions revealed that there is a perceived disconnect between Neighborhood Councils and City Council, and this is noted across neighborhoods. Neighborhood Councils don't seem to represent their diverse populations well (i.e., renters) and there isn't great participation.

Paul asked about getting City Council members to meetings. This has rarely happened.

8. Missoula Neighborhoods Report

Kelly reported that a "refresh" of the Neighborhoods website is planned, modeled after the Boise ID website.

9. Public comment on non-agenda items (none)

10. Announcements (none)

Adjourn: Move to adjourn by Betsy, 2nd by Carol. Unanimous agreement. Meeting adjourned at 5:07 by Carol.

Next meeting: In person at Wapikiya Park, Wednesday July 21st at 6:00 pm. Agenda items: Urban Deer Study Update, planning for General Meeting

Minutes submitted by Betsy Weber - Secretary