

University Neighborhood Council Leadership Team Minutes

February 1, 2022 at 6:30 PM, Virtual Zoom

1. **Introductions and Roll Call**

Chairperson Darcy Caron called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM. Present were Kalina Wickham, Specialist and Kelly Elam, Coordinator from Missoula Neighborhoods; Kat Cowley, Bear Necessities and Neighborhood Ambassadors; Emma Kiefer, Neighborhood Ambassador; Allison Wilson, Neighborhood Ambassador; Lacey Zinke, Director of Student Involvement; Vickie Watson; Brad Cederberg; Rick Caron and Jennifer Copley, Secretary.

2. **Approve Minutes for January 4, 2022**

Brad moved and Rick seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

3. **Program Presentation**

Though invited, WGM groups chose not to meet with us because we must first meet with the City Parks and Recreation, UM, and the Montana Department of Transportation.

4. **Items of Discussion**

a. **Planning for Neighborhood General Meeting**

Area council members have been invited. Deborah Postma will present on the topic of pedestrian and bike traffic. Her department is monitoring traffic in the University District area and will report on their study. Neighborhood Ambassadors and Lacey Zinke will also be on the agenda. (Because of a scheduling conflict, Lacey asked to speak at the end of the meeting.)

Kat suggested allowing the audience to question both the leadership team and the city council members. Brad and Jennifer discussed brevity, with Rick saying that we should tell speakers up front that they are on a timer. Darcy said one of us could monitor incoming comments and then respond/or seek responses before the end of the meeting. Darcy says she will explain at the outset of the meeting and how the rest of the meeting will proceed.

All members were asked to recruit friends to serve on the University District Leadership Team. At the general neighborhood meeting, with Kalina leading the process, we will vote to renew and add new members by voting.

Jennifer thanked Darcy for her work on sending out the 3000 postcards to announce the general meeting. Darcy found the online company Vista Print far less costly than Alpha Graphics. However, Missoula city officials have not figured out how to clean up and update the mailing list for neighborhoods because they differ from ward boundaries and postal routes.

b. **Grant Writing Update**

Having already met to strategize, Darcy and Jennifer will meet with Parks and Recreation on Friday afternoon. They hope that Parks and Rec may be willing to partner with the

University District team and share some of the costs for a study to get the adult park started. Brad spoke with enthusiasm about the adult exercise equipment at Fort Missoula and his view that such equipment at Bonner Park could be very helpful.

To document community support, Kalina urged us to get letters of support from people in the University District. Brad suggested a rough draft for the letter, and Kalina added that we could draft a letter of support from the council signed by many people in the neighborhood. After discussion, the motion was passed. February 19, is the pre-application discussion date. Jennifer volunteered to draft the letter with Darcy's assistance, and we will print the letter and send it to each person on the leadership team.

Rick suggested that the university representatives circulate the letter around their neighborhoods and then forward the letters in hard copy or electronic format.

Jennifer moved that the University District Neighborhood Council officially support the grant proposal to add pickleball lines and adult equipment to Bonner Park. Rick seconded the motion. Darcy amended the motion to include each member seeking letters of support from members of the neighborhood. Members voted to approve.

5. **Community Forum Report**

Jennifer Copley had forwarded to members detailed notes and images from the meeting she attended via ZOOM. A copy of her notes is attached.

6. **UM Representatives Report**

Kat Cowley reported that UM is bringing back the Neighborhood Ambassadors to maintain good relations between students and residents of the university area. However, neighborhood relationship complaints will go to ASUM legal department rather than to untrained student advocates. Emma and Allison hope to get some spring service activities organized. For first-time renters, Emma plans to develop informational handouts that will include both rights and duties of first-time renters. Jennifer described a conflict that arose in her neighborhood and thanked Emma and Kat for their work to inform students before conflicts escalate.

Lacey Zinke says that with Rick's support, snow shoveling is going smoothly. A fraternity hoping to reestablish itself on campus needs 5-10 service hours per member to get reinstated on campus. They currently plan a February 12, community service day with additional hours completed by May. Lacey is looking for service projects. Jennifer suggested that the men volunteer to clean up the Bark Park. Rick added that they could do the work in any month. Lacey will ask the men if they have interest in volunteering at Bark Park.

Jennifer asked about how to get publicity for a Bark Park cleanup. Rick responded that the population is divided on the future of the dog park and said we may not want to publicize.

Attendees noticed a for sale signpost in front of a former fraternity house. Now closed, the fraternity may or may not be coming back in a few years. There is speculation that entrepreneurs may be looking at making the former fraternity house into a condo.

7. **Missoula Neighborhoods Report**

Kalina Wickham reminded members that grants are soon due. She also reported that the Affordable Housing Coordinator will host two listening sessions and hopes to hear from residents on February 8, and 17, from 6:00 to 7:30 PM on ZOOM.

Darcy asked if the City would sponsor an April cleanup this year reminding Kalina that her office had organized the effort last year and describing how helpful the cleanup had been. Kalina responded that she thought the cleanup would be ongoing.

Vicki mentioned the annual Clark Fork River cleanup. Vicki and Rick suggested that the river cleanup could be coordinated with the city-wide cleanup. Vickie Watson said that a cleanup date could be posted on the University information sites as well.

Vickie also asked members to pay attention to what is going to happen to the Missoulain Building. Rick relayed comments from Mayor John Engen suggesting that the city will have little control over what can be done with the Missoulain property. Brad noted, however, that builders may ask for City permits and variances for which they may need community support.

8. **Public comment on non-agenda items**

Vickie Watson asked that when we speak about Jeanette Rankin Park, we plan to invite Jeanette Rankin staff to attend. Darcy and Vickie will confer about how to make those contacts.

9. **Announcements**

Rick offered thanks to Lacey for her energetic help with snow shoveling volunteers. Vickie Watson urged us to question what UM will do to replace trees destroyed with UM's new building projects.

10. **Next Meeting on Tuesday, March 1.**

The 6:30 PM March meeting will have the sole purpose of planning for the General Meeting. Darcy asked Kelly to send out a meeting link.

11. **Adjourn**

Rick moved to adjourn, Brad seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Community Forum Report for Thursday Evening, January 27, 2022


The meeting was called to order at 6:04 by Kalin Wickham who replaced Colin Woodrow. Eleven Neighborhoods, a quorum, were represented. Minutes from November were approved by majority vote. There was no public comment on non-agenda items.

Ben Brewer Missoula City planning supervisor, presented "Our Community Development Guide"


First developed in 2007, the guide sought to find space within in the urban area for residential development and to trace ongoing development of residential housing and infrastructure. In 2021, there was a 3-year update seeking to align goals of the Community Development Guide with the city's growth policy.

Missoula's 2018 map of building capability appears below.

Building the OMDG model: Capability



OMDG Yearbook: 2018-2020



Suitability Tiers:	Suitability Features
Tier 1: "Minimally Suitable" <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Within 500 ft of public sewer and water	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commercial Service Area
Tier 2: "Fairly Suitable" <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Within 500 ft of public sewer and water• Any 2 Suitability Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grocery Store• Transit Stop
Tier 3: "Suitable" <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Within 500 ft of public sewer and water• 3+ Suitability Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commuter Trail• Park
Tier 4: "Very Suitable" <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Within 500 ft of public sewer and water• All Suitability Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School
Tier 0: "Future Potential" <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NOT within 500 ft of public sewer and water• 2+ Suitability Features	

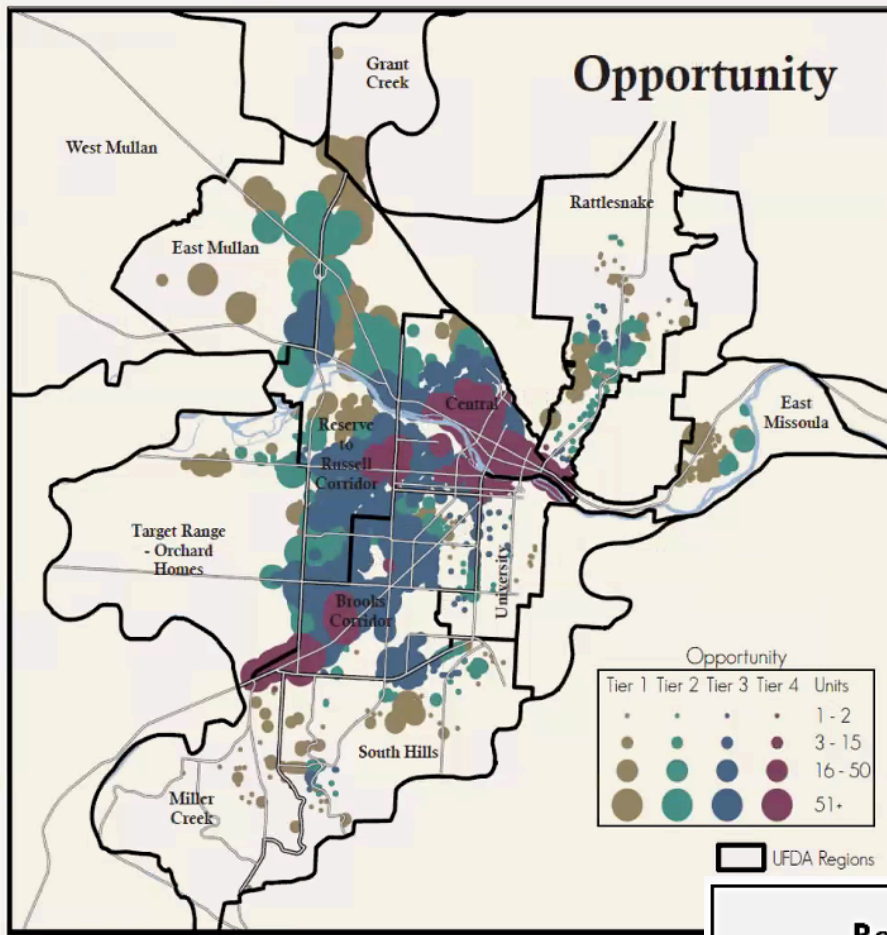
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For all lands within its authority, Missoula has developed guidelines to describe areas suitable for development. **Missoula guidelines for sustainable development, prioritized, appear below.**

But where is development actually occurring? We are not building around existing services and infrastructure. We have not figured out ways to create infill so that people will be less reliant on cars to commute to work and services. In other words, we are not creating a compact community where residents can rely on existing services and infrastructure without commuting and build a sense of community. See the data which follows on page three

Using its guidelines, where does the city believe development should occur?

Building the OMDG model: Opportunity



Opportunity:

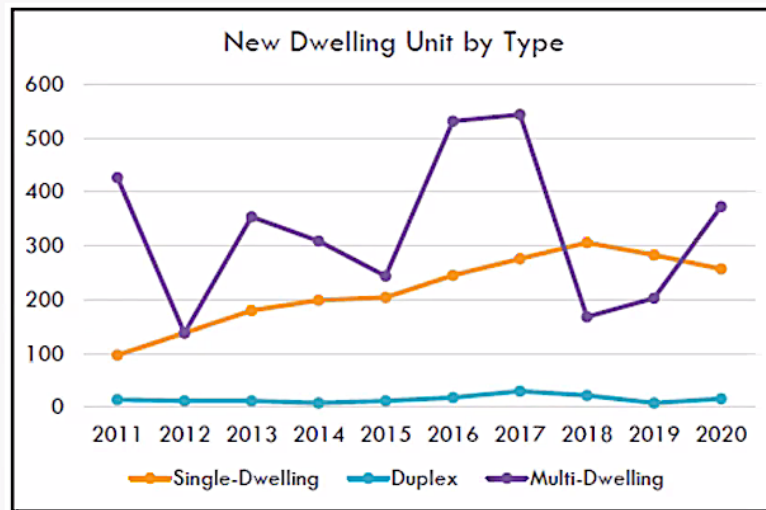
Where Dev't Can and Should Occur

Capability
+ Capacity
+ Suitability
= Opportunity

Gwen Jones, present at the meeting, pointed out that cities are bound by state law and must use carrots where legal sticks are unavailable. In other words, cities can develop plans, but state laws do not always allow cities to enforce their guidelines. (Most recent Missoula residential development has occurred in the infrastructure-sparse East Mullan, Grant Creek, and West Mullan areas.

Region Name	2018-2020
	Units
Bonner - W. Riverside	0
Brooks Corridor	72
Central	65
East Missoula	40
East Mullan	232
Grant Creek	105
Miller Creek	27
Rattlesnake	7
Reserve to Russell Corridor	62
South Hills	35
Target Range - Orchard Homes	0
University	3
West Mullan	96
Wye	0
Total	744

Multi-dwelling Development



Year	Total # MD Units	Units/Project	Units/Acre
2018	168	11	33
2019	203	11	36
2020	373	21	39

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Additionally, the number of dwelling units being built is inadequate to meet projected needs in the city. Most housing created is not affordable when weighing average Missoula incomes. (To learn more, use the Engage Missoula website to learn about housing efforts and the City website to review this report in full.)

Proposals for Neighborhood Grants are due March 18.

February 18 is the deadline for Neighborhood Council grant writers to meet with Kelly Elam or Katrina Wickham about their proposals. (University District Chairperson Darcy Caron and Jennifer attended the city's grant-writing workshop.)

Neighborhoods reported on their activities.

One Neighborhood Council will seek funds to do a study of the deer problem, another to develop the one and only park in their neighborhood. Lewis and Clark Council continues work on Bancroft Park and on traffic circles near Sentinel High School.

Grant Creek is working cooperatively with the Salish - Kootenai tribe to add historical markers to its trail. The Rattlesnake team is developing a citizen's proposal on a bus initiative for the entire Rattlesnake drainage. Lower Rattlesnake procured ground horns that will replace the louder onboard train whistles as trains move through the neighborhood. Jennifer reported on University District efforts to work cooperatively with students, survey constituents about their hopes for the heavily used Bonner Park, do shoveling and raking for needy residents, and explore plans for the creating a welcoming entry to the University corridor.

Some leadership team councils experience difficulty with involvement of community members. Some councils are not meeting at current time.

One council added a moment of levity. They procured signs which read: "Drive as though your kids live here." Buried in the snow, however, in some places the signs read, "Drive like your kids."

Gwen Jones, President of City Council, presented the liaison report from the Council.

She and other experienced members are helping prepare the four newly elected members learn their duties. New members are meeting with City departments to gain a broad view.

The city increased fees for city parks and its facilities.

By putting in about one mile of sidewalks yearly, the City is working to follow its master sidewalk plan. (Gwen quipped that it may take more than 100 years to complete!) Getting kids to schools and parks and residents to bus stops and commercial areas takes priority when the City chooses areas for sidewalk paving.

The council is working on decorum rules for meetings attended by council members and the public, a chore that members have found daunting and time-consuming. Gwen hopes to get the city council back in face-to-face meetings that will help members build better working relationships with one another and constituents.

Gwen suggested that Neighborhood Councils consider hiring an ice cream truck to come to neighborhood gatherings, no matter the cost. A number of years ago, she found such an activity brought a neighborhood together.

The meeting adjourned at 7:23.