

# University District Leadership Team Minutes

September 6, 2022

6:30 PM

Microsoft Teams

1. **Introductions and Roll Call:** The meeting, via Microsoft Teams, was called to order at 6:30 PM. Present were Chair, Darcy Caron; Kelly Elam, Missoula Neighborhoods; Rick Caron, Kelly Elam, Kat Cowley, and Emily Steger and Jennifer Copley after 6:50.
2. **Approve Minutes for June 7, 2022:** Minutes, presented with the agenda, were approved.
3. **Budget:** The University District has \$2380.00 to spend.
4. **Items for Discussion:**
  - a. **UM Social:** Kat Crowley announced that the 10th Anniversary Ice Cream Social would be held for the public on September 17, in Bonner Park.
  - b. **October General Meeting:** The regular leadership meeting will be held October 4, with a public meeting to follow at 6:00 PM, October 11, perhaps at UC theater, if that room is available. Tuesday the 18th is a possible backup date.

Potential topics for the October general meeting were discussed at length. Members agreed that residents in the University District have strong concerns about parking in the area and will probably bring up those issues at our public meeting. Kat Cowley urged us to have a speaker from the University to talk about UM and student parking concerns, as well. Darcy said, as per tradition we will invite city council members and consider inviting Ian Ortlieb, Missoula's Parking Services Director. Jennifer added that it is our duty to listen to constituents, even if they are angry.

Kat suggested that that we should keep our discussion on a strict timeline. Kelly advocated for a 45-minute discussion period with a 3-minute limit per speaker. Darcy recommended that members of the public wanting to speak should put their names on a sign-up list, to be called on in order by the topic for which they signed up. Kelly says she thought such a sign-up list was a good idea and within the boundaries of rules for public meetings.

Darcy said that if we should send out cards asking for an RSVP, and then run out of food, so be it!! Rick suggested that we trade food donations to the UM food pantry for a piece of pizza. Darcy responded that our flyer would include a request for contributions to the students' Food Pantry.

Emily Steger said she would love to report out at the meeting about the wonderful things that the University students are doing.

Members decided to make available comment boards at the October meeting so constituents could write their opinions about a city-wide 20 miles per hour speed limit, a discussion issue posed by Ben Weiss at the June Community Forum Meeting. Jennifer will type questions upon which we seek comment, and Kat will bring large tables where citizens can comfortably write their comments.

5. **UM Representatives Report:** Kat Cowley introduced the new group life director for UM, Emily Steger. She reported that fraternities just completed recruitment and sororities will soon complete theirs. A Welcome Feast will be held next week. National trainers are coming to campus. From 11:00 to 2:00 on Friday, the UM will host tables from the various campus groups, with carnival games for guests.
6. **Missoula Neighborhoods Report:** Kelly Elam reports that the deer issue will neither win support from city council nor from the new mayor. If Fish and Game or Parks and Recreation come forward with more assistance, then Kelly will let us know. We have so many bears because they are having an area natural food shortage and, so bears migrate into the city looking for food. Rick and Darcy saw children and a bear approaching each other along the river, and they said they are worried about the danger to children. Members suggested that someone, perhaps Jamie Jonkel, could talk to us at some time in the future about how to handle bear problems, the discussion to include bear-proof garbage cans. Darcy asked Kat Cowley to find a group at UM who might have bear advice for the neighborhood. Kelly reminded members that the city of Missoula has a bear ordinance.

Kalina is getting married on Saturday in Kalispel, so will be out for several days. She has worked to simplify the Neighborhood Grant Program and new requirements will be ready to distribute by the end of September to give neighborhoods more time to prepare their applications.

Almost all neighborhoods have had a Leadership Teams meeting at this time, with no community forum in November or December, but one in October. (Notes forwarded to Darcy and attached here.)

7. **Announcements:** Kelly says there is a city-wide shortage of meeting places for teams, and she will, consequently, try to find a place for us to meet when we begin in-person meetings. The University has shut down meeting rooms we previously used. Rick suggests we could consider churches and volunteered to contact some neighborhood churches. Emily Steger says she is also a liaison for Campus Ministry and will help out in finding a place to meet.

Members commented that pickleball lines were not yet painted on the tennis courts. Kelly said she believed that may be in place soon.

Reminding those in attendance that there are more elders than children in the community, Rick brought up the issues of the lack of city exercise equipment now available for seniors: only one exercise area at Fort Missoula. Darcy requested a study to examine another to add exercise equipment elders. A petition was suggested.

8. **Adjournment:** Jennifer moved to adjourn with Rick seconding the motion.. The meeting adjourned at 7:58.

### **Community Forum Meeting: Thursday, September 22, 2022 6:06 PM-7:27 PM**

- Kalina Wickham Pritchard took roll at the meeting conducted via TEAMS and in person. Minutes were approved.
- Michael Painter, citizen advisor to the 911 Board, asked for new volunteers for that board.
- Maci MacPherson, Communications Specialist for the 5-member board of the Missoula Redevelopment Agency, talked about the purposes of her agency.

1. To oversee Tax Increment Finance projects (Urban Renewal Districts) within the six Missoula areas of urban blight, making sure any projects align with the city's 2020-2023 strategic goals.
2. To support improvements in areas of urban blight with the goal of increasing property values, and thus raising property tax revenue.
3. To fund urban renewal projects that rely on public-private cooperation. (Riverfront Triangle and Front Street are examples of such Urban Renewal Districts. The new Missoula Public Library and the old library building also received urban renewal funds.)

The city's nine-year plan includes sidewalk and water main improvements, lighting in the Milwaukee Trail, and development of the Sleepy Inn Motel site. This coming winter there will be planning for a renewed Brooks Street Corridor and new uses for the winter homeless shelter off 14<sup>th</sup> street.

The Scott Street Village and the Villagio Apartments on the Northside received URD funds. In total, 1,834 Housing Units have been completed, with 590 housing units under construction, of which 960 units will be affordable housing.

The Hellgate URD also hopes to create a railroad quiet zone.

- This fiscal year, \$20,000 will be allocated for neighborhood projects, and the grant application has been simplified. Information will be posted this month, with a grant application workshop in October, meeting with city officials in November, and grant applications due in December, 2022.
- Neighborhoods presented reports on their efforts. (a) About 500 people showed up for a block party in the Franklin to the Fort area which will also plans tree planting. (b) Lewis and Clark area had a Missoula in Motion block party and works on improvement for Bancroft Pond. (c) A cleanup crew worked in one neighborhood. (d) The Northside/Westside struggles with getting a leadership team put together but hopes to support a survey of residents at their general meeting. At Holmes and Defoe there is a newly decorated traffic circle. Lowell School will soon boast a new mural on one of its buildings. (e) Many new members joined the Riverfront leadership team. (f) About 90 attended a general meeting and ice cream social in the Slant Street area. (g) The Southgate Triangle finally got water to the north end of the park and wants to beautify the bike park on 39<sup>th</sup> and Russell, adding a family restroom.
- Gwen Jones, City Council, reported that (a) Jordan Hess will serve as mayor for the next 13 months with an election in the fall of 2023. (b) Since Jordan Hess represented Ward 2, the city is now accepting applications to represent that area by Monday night, October 3. (c) The midtown master planning process is ongoing for the Brooks Street corridor first developed for the car culture of the 1950's and 1960's. Pedestrian-friendly improvements are sought. (d) On September 28, the city will be taking comments on its Bear Smart Resolution.