

Riverfront Neighborhood Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2022

4:00 PM

Cambium Place Apartments, Old Sawmill District

1. Introductions and Roll Call:

Christine Liddick, Tyler Horne, Tristan Hester, Jonathan, Deb Bonk, Kalina Pritchard, Missoula Neighborhoods.

2. Approve meeting minutes for June 15, 2022

Christine asked if RLT members had any changes to make to the notes from our last meeting. There were no changes offered and a motion was made, and seconded, to approve the minutes.

3. Presentations –

Leadership Team Training: Christine and Kalina reviewed the key points from RLT training at the last meeting. There were no questions from new members, but we did review again the importance of the Sunshine Law requirement that calls for most business to be conducted in the public sphere. RLT members understand the importance of ensuring that discussions and decisions are handled in a manner that is open and transparent. The RLT also discussed an interest in insuring we have an effective mechanism to communicate with, and seek input from, the Riverfront Community. We also briefly discussed how the City's Engage Missoula website might be able to play a role in public input or comment. Kalina noted that the City of Missoula is in the process of updating parts of the website and she will explore for future discussion prospects for updating the Riverfront portion of the neighborhood website, soliciting public comment, and the potential for a neighborhood newsletter.

Election of Officers: After discussion, a slate of officers was put forward for vote. The outcome of this vote was unanimous and resulted in the following members being elected to RLT officer positions:

- Co-chairs: Christine Littig and Johnathon
- Treasurer: Tristan Hester
- Secretary: Deb Bonk
- Community Forum Rep: Eva
Alternate Community Forum Rep: Tyler Horne

Continuing Discussion of Sculpture Park Proposal: The RLT discussed the status of a proposal that was briefed to us at the last meeting — the creation of a sculpture park. Missoula's public arts committee is exploring the feasibility of working with local artists and installing the park into the Clark Fork Natural Area just east of the Orange Street Bridge on the south side of the river. Since our last meeting, the Missoula Parks Board voted unanimously to authorize the Parks Department to work with the Missoula Public Art Committee and a local artist to determine the feasibility and costs of creating and maintaining the park. At present, no funding source has been identified. Discussion of the sculpture park suggest that it could run all the way from near Higgins Bridge to Silver Park. The Parks Board believes the location of a sculpture park at this location would increase visitation to this area. The RLT noted its concern about the lack of public engagement and comment on this proposal, to date, and Christine was planning to reach out to the head of Missoula Parks and Recreation to discuss this further. In particular, the RLT wants to make sure that other possible locations are considered as part of this process.

4. Neighborhood Budget - \$1500

The Chair reminded RLT members that we have a \$1500 annual budget for neighborhood improvement projects. We also have an opportunity to develop a proposal for a \$20,000 neighborhood improvement grant. As our fiscal year runs from 1 July - 30 June we agreed to have solicited some ideas for further discussion at our next meeting in November.

5. New Business:

This discussion focused mainly on neighborhood engagement and issues that Riverfront residents have highlighted for members of the Leadership Team. Topics that were discussed included:

- A request from residents in the area around the Missoula International School (MIS) to be able to have neighborhood children use the playground there. It was noted that the RLT has a letter from the MIS that was prepared for our last meeting, and we will review that and use that as the basis for ongoing engagement.
- Another concern was the increasing amount of thru traffic around/along certain areas near 1st street. The RLT will look to explore this in additional detail at a future meeting and discussed inviting a City engineer to that meeting to be part of the discussion.

Similarly, there is interest in speeding up the process for a traffic light to be installed at the corner of Orange and Clegg Streets. That is another issue that would benefit from discussion with the city engineer.

The RLT also reviewed and discussed input received from Riverfront residents at the June meeting. In general, Riverfront residents love our location close to parks and the river, the abundance of bike paths, and the character of our neighborhood. Concerns highlighted included Silver Park maintenance and development, crime, a transient homeless population, and lack of affordability. This led to a deeper discussion of what seems to be rising crime, especially theft, in the Riverfront area. The RLT decided to invite the Missoula Police Department and the city's Neighborhood Watch point of contact to a future meeting. Our goal is to ensure they understand neighborhood concerns in this regard.

6. Community Forum:

Kalina provided an update on the most recent Community Forum before the meeting was closed.

6. Public comment on non-agenda items - None

7. Announcements:

The next meeting will November 18, at 4:00 at a location to be determined.

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Riverfront Neighborhood Council Leadership Team

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