

Northside/Westside Neighborhood Leadership Team Minutes

January 18, 2023

6:00 p.m.

In person: Lowell Elementary School, 1215 Phillips Street

1. Introductions and Roll Call

- a. Leadership Team (LT) Membership present: Leah Whitney, Amy O'Hoyt, Timothy Garrison, Gabrielle Sather-Olson, Joyce Gibbs, Roe Erin, & Derek Kanwischer.
 - i. Gretchen Hooker, Courtney Perreten, and Mikyla Veis alerted LT of scheduling conflicts.
- b. Neighborhood representative: Rick Mcleod
- c. City Representative: Kelly Elam

2. Approve meeting minutes for December 7, 2022

- a. Approved

3. Items to be discussed:

- a. Neighborhood concerns
 - i. Several issues came up. If not herein, they are otherwise reflected in the agenda of discussion items.
 - ii. NS softball field- There have been rumors about the NS softball field being removed. Is this true? And, what could possibly be utilized in this space. Perhaps a market? Café? Etc?
 - 1. Nobody on the LT or from the City has any more details. Perhaps we add this to the subsequent meeting agenda if there are any updates.
- b. Outreach to neighbors
 - i. There was discussion about best means to connect with neighbors about pressing issues. Neighborhood bulletin boards might be installed in convenient/common locations. Neighborhood meetings have been a great way to connect. Leadership Team meetings are open to the public and advertised as such. Email neighborhood lists are reserved for high priority city topics. Postal mailings have been regarded as a valuable strategy to reach all residents on the Northside and Westside (to advertise annual or semi-annual neighborhood meetings). Mailings do have a significant cost so should be utilized strategically. With new growth and development, it can be difficult to keep address lists updated (ie: new infill townhomes, ADUs). This will continue to be a challenge/issue with the Villagio and Scott Street Development.
 - ii. Gabe is going to attend next PTA meeting and bring up the association with the NS/WS neighborhood group and that this is an

additional forum to raise concerns and work with neighbors on important issues.

- c. Northside pedestrian crossing
 - i. Report from the Parks and Recreation Board suggests that bridge will be too costly to repair. Unclear regarding next steps for this project. When/will existing structure be taken down? Where and when will new structure be sited and constructed?
- d. Neighborhood cleanup in April, maybe loosely tied to Earth Day.
 - i. Team agreed this was a good project to be involved with. Kelly explained how the annual spring neighborhood cleanup is run by the Missoula City Neighborhoods Office. City does the planning and organizing and will ask the NS/WS LT to help recruit volunteers for this event. Date is somewhat weather dependent (April/May). Kelly will follow up.
- e. What community groups exist as stakeholders and partners in the neighborhood?
 - i. There was some discussion about status of CREW and other community groups. Businesses seem like they might have a vested interest in the neighborhood discussions / policies if their employees live in or are impacted by the traffic / congestion in the area.
- f. Follow up on Community Art Proposal
 - i. Proposal was submitted consistent with past review. There has been no response at this time regarding an award or next steps. According to Kelly, scoring will begin by the grants committee in February. Will continue to add to next meeting agenda.
- g. Follow up on Burns Street technology proposal
 - i. No update from Brittany (NMCDC) or Courtney who presented on their behalf at the last LT meeting.
- h. Phillips Roundabout (Lowell School – traffic)
 - i. There was discussion more generally about how to help control speed impact of the vehicles utilizing Scott Street Bridge and Phillips Intersection. How can we slow vehicles around Lowell Elementary, especially on Phillips Street? Can we add specific “School Zone” signage or flashing lights at crosswalks during school hours. Discussion included inquiring about what other safety/signage infrastructure other schools have such as Paxson, Porter Hellgate, Rattlesnake, etc and how they were able to acquire their safety signage.
 - 1. LT will email Aaron Wilson from the City to inquire about potential efforts that can be made for this intersection and school area to help keep children and people safe.

4. Neighborhood Budget:

- a. Northside LT Budget (current): \$935.76
- b. Westside LT Budget (current): \$1,485.77

- i. Remaining funds shall be spent before end of fiscal year (June 30, 2023).
 - ii. Gift cards (Big Dipper & Fresh Market can be used to support community meetings / celebrations in addition to the remaining funds.
- 5. Community Forum Report –
 - a. Next Community Forum meeting is January 26, 2023
- 6. Missoula Neighborhoods Report: Kelly Elam
 - a. Community Forum meetings open to all members to attend. Next meeting is January 26, at 6:00 in person at 140 West Pine (Council Chambers) or by Microsoft Teams. Kelly sent recent email with info about accessing meeting on Teams or by using the City of Missoula meeting calendar link.
 - i. Next meeting will include presentation from Ben Weiss about the West Broadway Corridor Project.
 - b. Local Government Academy is a city run program seeking applications for interested residents. Six week course begins February 9. Apply today.
 - c. Neighborhoods Grant Committee is seeking new members. Email Kalina if you are interested in joining this committee.
- 7. Public Comment on non-agenda items
 - a. None
- 8. Announcements / Discussion
 - a. LT meeting location: There was conversation about best meeting location which is convenient to all LT members and the general public. LT will email Brittany and Chet from NMCDC to determine if Burns Street Bistro would be available when desired and at no charge. The Missoula Public Library was discussed as a potential location – also free of charge when meetings are open to the public. Lowell School may also be considered for future meetings.
- 9. Agenda items for next meeting
 - a. Report back and discuss best use of neighborhood budgets
 - b. Community Art Proposal – grant submission status/update
 - c. Meeting location
 - d. NS softball field status
 - e. West Broadway plan update from City
 - i. Community Forum presentation on Jan. 26
 - f. Phillips / Scott Street intersection update from Aaron Wilson?
 - i. Lowell School signage update from Aaron Wilson?
 - g. Northside Pedestrian Bridge Crossing Structure – update
 - i. From Missoula Parks and Recreation?
 - h. NMCDC community survey update
 - i. Overlap with City/County survey?

- i. Record keeping for LT agendas, minutes, grant proposals, documents, institutional / neighborhood memory, etc. that can be easily shared or accessed by all. Ie: Google Drive or Box Folder?
- j. Other items?

10. Meeting Adjourned

- a. Meeting ended at 7:20 p.m.

11. Next Meeting:

- a. Wednesday Feb. 15, at 6:00 pm. Location TBA.