

# University District Neighborhood Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2023

6:30 PM

UM University Center, Room 329

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## **1. Introductions and Roll Call**

The meeting began shortly after 6:30 PM with Darcy Caron, Chair; Rick Caron; Hayden Whipple; Herman Haw; Allison Wilson; Esteban Castillo, Director of Fraternity and Sorority Involvement; Marie Noland, Missoula Wastewater; Vickie Watson, resident; and Jennifer Copley, Secretary, in attendance.

## **2. Approve Minutes**

Minutes for February 7, 2023 were approved as submitted.

## **3. Items for Discussion**

- a. Marie Noland, Missoula Wastewater, reported that for the first time in 25 years, the Missoula City Street Department was unable to pick up any leaves (about 850 dump trucks full in an average year). In April, the City will attempt a pickup combined with normal street sweeping. The leaves are not compostable at this time and will be taken to the dump. The oldest trees and the most stopped up drains are in the University area, so the residents can check the City of Missoula leaf collection website which will be updated daily or call the City to report blocked drains and street dangers arising from blocked drains.
- b. Rick reported that on March 15, from 6:00-7:30 at the UC Ballroom, the Parking Commission will hold hearings on the citywide parking plan. Citizens can offer comment at any of the hearings to be announced on the city website.
- c. Kalina, not present, sent a message that the City is currently scoring the grant proposals and we should hear by this Friday. Allison served on the evaluation committee.
- d. Beginning at the April meeting, Allison agreed to serve as secretary for the University District.
- e. If the University District gets its requested grant, Jennifer volunteered to meet with the City Parks and Recreation to choose style and location for the bike racks.
- f. Jennifer moved, and Allison seconded the motion to get involved in the citywide cleanup day Saturday, April 29. Members voted to approve the motion. Darcy will contact the Pickleball Facebook group to get a demonstration for the day of the city-wide cleanup. Herman will check with the campus pickleball group to see if they will do a demonstration or teach community members how to play pickleball. Haydn will reach out to a prospective food truck to offer food that day.
- g. Gabriel announced that Greek Life is holding a barbecue on April 23, weekend before the cleanup date, but Haydn promised that the intra-Fraternity Council will talk about involvement.
- h. Darcy proposed a Bonner Park Improvement Survey in connection with the cleanup. Allison suggests a table to talk directly to students about what people want to see in the neighborhood, Gabriel will be willing to assist in surveying a diverse group of students. Allison

and Jennifer supported surveying residents about what they would like their neighborhood council to lobby for. We will finalize plans at the April meeting.

- i. Rick and Hayden expressed concerns about the numbers of homeless/unhoused people camped around town. Herman and Gabriel expressed concern about relocation of homeless to Missoula from surrounding communities, while Allison talked of the error the City made when it closed the campground for the homeless. She noted the difference between transients and homeless. Rick and Allison would like to hear from the City about its plans and problems for the homeless, perhaps from NGO's, as well. Jennifer volunteered to look for speakers.
- j. The plan to create a welcoming design for entry into the University area of Missoula is still under discussion by the Montana Department of Public Transportation.

**4. Neighborhood Budget: \$1141.82**

Funds must be spent by June 30, 2023

**5. UM Representatives Report**

Esteban Castillo reported that fraternities on campus would host both a "Men We Love" weekend and statewide professional videogame competition with about 600 expected to attend.

**6. Community Forum Report**

Jennifer Copley sent out written notes two weeks prior to the meeting.

**7. Missoula Neighborhoods Report**

Neither Kalina nor Kelly were in attendance.

**8. Public Comment on Non-agenda Items**

Vicki Watson announced a "Your Heritage Dance" on March 18, at 7:30 PM at the Missoula Senior Center with a live performance on Sunday, April 9, at 5-7 PM. Vicki also explained that city voters will be asked to approve a community center at McCormick Park. Supporters of the ballot initiative want to speak to all Neighborhood Councils. Darcy directed Vicki to talk to Kalina about scheduling a time to speak to Neighborhood Councils.

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.