

Northside/Westside Neighborhood Council Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

April 19, 2023

6:00 pm

Burns St. Bistro, 1500 Burns St.

1. **Introductions and Roll Call:**

LT Present: Roe, Timmothy, Gretchen, Joyce, Derek

Neighbors: Chet Phillips (NMCDC), Brittany Palmer (NMCDC), others?

City and Guests: Ty Christensen (MCPS), Aaron Wilson (City), Amy Ragsdale (Converge Foundation) Kalina Pritchard (Missoula Neighborhoods)

2. **Approve meeting minutes for March 15, 2023**

No quorum. Minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

3. **Debrief from previous meeting: Mayor / City Council / neighborhood topics, etc. (if necessary)**

The last meeting was very busy. We had guest speakers from the City and neighbors who attended and had questions and items they wanted to discuss. In the future, what steps can we take to make attendees feel welcome and moderate discussions to stay on topic without feeling like we are cutting people off?

Maybe we should ask people to sign in, so we make sure we have contact information from our attendees. We can also ask questions such as what neighborhood they are in, and how they heard about the meeting and what topics are of particular interest to them. One suggestion is to ask people to introduce themselves when they arrive.

4. **Crossing location and infrastructure for Scott Street (NS) Guest speaker (Aaron Wilson from City of Missoula) topics include timeline, location, logistics, etc.**

Some of the topics and ideas talked about and discussed included:

– Scott Street design study – Ravara to Scott Street & bridge to Lowell (Walking audit study) How are we going to accommodate all the existing and additional traffic?

--2-way cycle track on the west side of Scott Street up to Turner or the bridge. Roundabout at Turner and potentially Scott / Phillips intersection.

– design work to inform construction project scope. 2-3 years is the scope of work for implementation.

Short near-term improvements:

Turner Street rapid flashing light across Scott Street is a temporary strategy to control traffic.

Phillips / Scott street – visual cues such as high visibility striping, etc. Local quick build projects in the neighborhood.

Joyce asked about development revenue and how does this impact and support the local community? Specific neighborhood. Impact fees
There are legal limits on what you can require from a private developer.

Longer term improvements:

Street connections such as the railroad crossing from N. Side to connect to other parts of town, the cost is \$40 million.

Best way to control speed is to create friction.

Speed humps are a legitimate option and the City Street Department is in favor of this.

Discussion about how to improve Scott Street bridge crossing in the short term:
Provide protective buffer to separate bike/peds from vehicle traffic.

Different types of railings and paint them.

Connection underneath Scott Street bridge could be improved.

5. Summer Gathering – see email from Amy O’Hoyt

Brittany, NMCDC discussed the neighborhood survey. They were seeking 300 responses and received over 700 surveys from the N. Side community. They desire to have another event at Burns Street or another venue to share data results and have a discussion and seek input from the community and neighbors. The Summer Solstice Survey Spectacular is a working title for the event.

Once the analysis and report are finished, we will have a more polished and informative document to share with the greater City and appropriate stakeholders.

The ask is to come up with a plan to coordinate neighborhood interests between LT and the NMCDC presentation. Gretchen reflected on the experience from last summer and said it was very successful and engaging so it would make sense to do something similar again this year.

Two other options include combining N. Side Sunday Streets in August or September and there has been discussion with Brittany about welcoming the new neighbors to the N. Side neighborhood event and a NMCDC meet and greet.

Kalina said we need to separate this event from the official LT meeting business. Brittany suggested that we keep things moving forward and contribute as neighbors instead of the Leadership Team.

An unofficial agreement at the meeting reached to pursue this out of personal interest. Chet will follow up with an email to the group. June 21 is the proposed date.

We discussed allocating funds to purchase ice cream and/or other treats to help attract neighbors and socialize. Details to be discussed and agreed at the next

meeting.

Interested neighbors will reach out to Brittany and/or Chet if interested to be on the list for organizing, etc.

6. Neighborhood Spring cleanup

Gretchen provided an update for the event:
Kalina brought posters to be posted.

The large format prints will be printed for 4-5 sandwich boards on both sides.
Donuts and coffee have been advertised and will be available. Dumpsters will be located at Northside Park and at Lowell School on Sherwood St. Roe is doing social postings the week after Earth Week weekend

7. Neighborhood Grant update

The recommendation for the NS/WS grant was fully awarded for \$4900 and will be announced at the Community Forum meeting. Details will follow at the next meeting. Funds should be available in late May.

8. LT positions, attendance, quorum, process / policies discussion

Table the larger discussion. At the next meeting we will discuss roles, process, purpose of meetings, keeping time (time stamps), introductions when people arrive, and have sign-up sheets, etc. to help people feel welcome and collect contact information.

Timmothy officially resigned (via email) his role as the LT chairperson and will remain a member of the neighborhood leadership team. Kalina confirmed that Derek existing co-chair will assume the position of the chair position.

9. Community Forum

Discussion tabled until the next meeting.

10. Missoula Neighborhoods Report

No neighborhood report

11. Budget Discussion

Some funds will be used for the neighborhood cleanup event.

There was a brief discussion about using some funds for the neighborhood ice cream social, the community bulletin board(s) and purchasing sandwich boards.

Next meeting we will have to make decisions about the budget and priorities with the funds.

12. Future guests to NS/WS meeting:

Discussion was tabled.

13. Public Comment

- Amy Ragsdale, Treasurer for the Converge Foundation is a 501c3 organization. She said there is a need for a central gathering place in Missoula. Amy started in 2013 at McCormick Park in a facility of 85,000 ft.

Amy brought visual aid boards of the project presentation and noted the project will require a bond to fund it. The Real Campaign will begin in January 2024 and is a 45-million-dollar project. We need a campaign to convince the City to support and fund this type of resource and provide a center for the city of Missoula. The Converge Foundation has a goal to have an endowment and a capital campaign to make this happen and serve the greater community and make it affordable and accessible.

It can be complicated to share bricks and mortar projects with private philanthropy and municipal funds. Kurt is the person in charge of looking for funding. He was involved with the Butterfly House, Meadowlark, etc. Tenacious Campaigns involved.

Do citizens have tax increase anxiety? Both the Crisis levy, and Fairgrounds were both turned down this past election. However, the Crisis Levy passed in the City.

For more info visit: www.engagemissoula.com or www.convergefoundation.org

- May 2 Elections for Mill levies - Tyler Christenson Communications Specialist with Missoula County Public Schools

Tyler gave a presentation about the General Fund levies: The School system is tied to student enrollment, and they can only ask for funding based on enrollment. More Information can be found at www.mcpsmt.org/levies

Meeting adjourned 8:10 p.m.