

Riverfront Neighborhood Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2023

3:45 pm

Willard Alternative School Room 208, 901 S 6th St W

1. Introductions and Roll Call
 - a. Present: Melissa Glueckert, Kalina Prichard, Jonathan Qualben, Tyler Warren, Tristan Hester, Eva Dunn-Froebig, Danny Gundlach
 - b. Absent: Christine Littig, Deb Bonk
 - c. Guests: Ian Silberstein (Urban Forestry), Bob Giordano (Free Cycles)
2. Approve minutes from [September 21, 2023](#) and [October 19, 2023](#)
 - a. Moved by Tristen-Tyler, UC (Unanimous Consent)
3. Items to be discussed:
 - a. Urban Forestry- Ian Silberstein
 - i. The DNRC (Department of Natural Resources and Conservation) and the Forestry Department focus on educating and reaching out to western Montana about urban forestry. While forestry has funding for education, it lacks support for urban forestry. Ecosystem Services oversees trees under Parks and Recreation, emphasizing the importance of growing approved tree species listed by the DNRC. The Forest Service is working on updating the climate species list, as the previous one dates back to around 2015, and there aren't many native trees to Missoula. To ensure tree success, there is a limited selection of tree types, with a preference for hardier trees. The main responsibility of the Urban Forestry Department is to identify problematic trees (such as dead, diseased, or with hanging limbs). Certain trees such as fruit trees, may not be planted in boulevards. Internally, there is a focus on educating neighbors and other city departments. Efforts are underway to improve communication with residents before tree removal, and there is hope for a dedicated fund in the future specifically for tree planting. A hotline number is available on the website for reporting trees.
 - b. Letter regarding Traffic Light at Intersection of Orange St and Clegg Lane
 - i. Adjust all references of a traffic light to "Safety Improvement" to emphasize safety improvements, stressing the urgent need within the body of the paragraph. This approach allows for an ongoing discussion without imposing immediate demands.
 - ii. Bob advocates for the implementation of a roundabout, citing the absence of documented injuries at Missoula roundabouts compared to

the numerous accidents at intersections with lights. He proposes a transformation of Orange Street from a 5-lane road to a 3-lane configuration to better accommodate the installation of a roundabout.

- iii. The team collectively decided that the debate regarding a roundabout and the potential transformation of Orange Street into a 3-lane road should be reserved for a future discussion. The primary focus should be on fostering an ongoing conversation about interim safety improvements.

- 1. Changes to the letter were proposed and moved by Johnathan-Tyler, UC.

- c. Neighborhood Leadership Team Positions

- i. The Leadership Team discuss new positions. Christine has served as chair but has expressed a desire to step back due to time constraints. Decide Deb will continue as Secretary, and they do not want to elect a treasurer as the neighborhood's office can take care of neighborhood finances. The following leadership changes were made:

- 1. Eva as co-chair
 - a. Moved by Danny-Johnathan, UC
 - 2. Danny as co-chair
 - a. Moved by Johnathan-Eva, UC
 - 3. Community Forum Rep- Tyler, Alternate- Tristen
 - a. Moved by Johnathan-Eva, UC

- d. Park updates- Eva Dunn Froebig

- i. A neighbor had come forward previously to advocate for more pocket parks in the neighborhood, the leadership team voted on a ad hoc committee at a past leadership team meeting however that committee has yet to meet.
 - ii. Discussions have arisen regarding the potential transformation of the plot at Ivy and 6th Street into a pocket park. However, the city intends to install solar panels in that location.
 - iii. Donna from Parks and Recreation has expressed reservations about the creation of new parks, citing existing plans within the Parks and Recreation department. However, the masterplan developed by Parks and Recreation could serve as a future avenue for advocating for such parks in the neighborhood.

- 4. Neighborhood Budget

- a. No Report

- 5. Community Forum Report

- a. Eva attended the last community forum and informed the team of Geoff Badenoch's (From the League of Women Voters) Local Government Review presentation. There is possible interest in asking Geoff to come to a future meeting and present to the whole team.

6. Missoula Neighborhoods Report – Kalina/Melissa
 - a. Grants are due next week (Nov 22nd) and the neighborhoods office is looking for people to be on the grant review committee soon. Work planning for the annual local government academy will start soon. Sometime in January the neighborhoods office should hopefully have a toolkit/workbook available to leadership teams to help them develop a strategic approach to the work the team wants to do and help them with tools to better engage neighbors.
7. Public comment on non-agenda items
 - a. None
8. Announcements
 - a. Want to talk about a new meeting time and day as this time has conflicts with some leadership Team members.
9. Adjournment
 - a. Moved by Tyler-Tanner, UC

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