

University Neighborhood Council Leadership Team Agenda

February 6th, 2024 | 6:30 PM | UC Room # 224

University of Montana Campus

Members in Attendance: Darcy Caron, Rick Caron, Shirley, Jenny, Tim Edwards

Guests: Kalina Pritchard, Nicole Henningfeld and Emily Ferguson-Steger

Meeting Called to Order 6:34PM

1. Introductions and welcome

2. Approve meeting minutes for UDLT- December 5th, 2023

- a. Rick Caron moved for the minute for December
- b. Shirley seconded Rick's motion
- c. All approved, no opposed

3. Program Presentation

- a. None

4. Items to be discussed:

a. Wildfire Mitigation Competition- Nicole Henningfeld, Director of Saws & Claws

- Nicole Henningfeld has recently moved back to the Bitterroot area and is working on establishing a 501c3 that focuses on Wildfire Mitigation. She is working on empowering folks to do a better job at home hardening, protecting their homes from embers and zero scaping.
- She is trying to establish a neighborhood competition wherein each of Missoula's neighborhoods would compete against each other to ensure their neighborhoods are wildfire prepared.
 - May is Fire Awareness Month but due to Graduations and other events happening in May the competition would be in June.
 - The needs/goals of each neighborhood would differ dependent on what the risk factors might be.
 - One of the outcome goals is to bridge the gap from have and have nots to neighbors helping neighbors.
 - Overall goal is that Missoula County would be able to compete against Ravalli County in future years.
- She plans to distribute information about these competition via social media, word of mouth and have activities on educational platforms such as Kajabi or Canvas.
- Follow up discussion and questions:
 - Rick asked if Nicole had connected with City/County folks yet.
- Plan moving forward: advertising via grant funds, sharing on social media, and reaching out to tv and radio for free spots. The target audience is younger people and older people now don't want extra costs and who are worried about additional work/up keep.
 - Yes, I have connected with folks from the city and county such as Dave Strohmier, Fire Adaptive Missoula, Missoula County, Missoula Fire Department, City Zone and Planning and more.
 - Rick stated that he appreciates this as we have an aging unnatural urban forest in Missoula and thus fire danger is a real threat. He encourages Nicole to dig into the history of what Missoula was and what we are today as that could be a way to get folks interested in participating.

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- Ideas to connect with Missoula Parks and Recreation, UM College of Forestry to see if there is some collaboration that is desired.
- Suggestion to come back to the University Neighborhood District Annual meeting and present on this.

b. Election of Officers

- Treasure position can be kept with Missoula City Staff as now Kalina has support with Melissa.
- Co-Chair position Darcy is willing to stay on as chair as the additional city staffing has assisted with the load she used to bare. Shirley is also interested in a Co-Chair position if one becomes available.
- Community Forum Liaison(s) Jenny and Shirley will share this role to ensure between their busy schedules someone can attend. (4th Thursday at 6:30 PM in Council Chambers or via Zoom)
- Emily will continue to do notes until someone else would like to take on this responsibility.
- Tim Edwards, a long time Missoula resident, former UM employee, willingly accepted nomination to be elected to the Board.

This slate of nominations was moved by Rick and approved by all.

c. Parking Committee Study Recommendations (Rick)

- This was held until after the open meeting to have a closed discussion with neighbors only.

d. PROST Community Working Group Updates (Darcy)

- Our thoughts and ideas aligned with many of the neighborhoods.
 - Big talking points included: dogs – off leash, on trails and waste and unhoused camps along the river.
- Task for each neighborhood council member to go to a city part in the winter and see what the usage is.
 - Darcy and Rick went to Bonner and it was being well used.
- Our next meeting falls on the same day as the PROST open house at the Missoula Public Library (March 5th from 5:30 – 7:30 PM)
 - Come share what you and other Missoulians are looking for (young and not as young alike)
 - Formalize ideas and give feedback to the consultants as they are in their very early stages of this planning and development.
- Since the importance of getting feedback in their early stages of this process is so vital the University District Neighborhood Councils next meeting will be held at the Missoula Public Library.

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- Rick is looking into a space that we can use for a quick meeting – with the primary focus on providing the consultants feedback.

e. A Frame black signs desired for notifying neighborhood of meetings and events.

- This will replace postcards and door plaques.
- Due to cost might purchase a couple in this fiscal year and then a couple more next year.
 - Still determining where to store them

5. UM Representatives Reports

- Black Solidarity Summit happening Friday, Feb. 9th and Saturday, Feb. 10th in the UC
- Upcoming concerts and fall events already in the works

7. Missoula Neighborhoods Reports – Kalina Pritchard or Melissa Glueckert

- April 27th Neighborhood Clean Up day – with gathering at Bonner Park
 - Darcy suggested that PROST come present at Bonner Park
 - Darcy suggested that CERT comes with their demo rig to Bonner Park to present
- Changes coming to City Council Meetings
 - Goal to re-energize city council meetings
 - 30 days from the rules changing
 - The new format will make room for :03 minutes updates from neighborhoods. A neighborhood rotation will be created and each of the 18 neighborhoods will be given dates where they are to create a :03-minute brief (that will be provided to council person before the meeting) and then space is provided for the neighborhood representatives to present to council.
 - The goal is building better relationships between neighborhoods and City Council
 - City Council agendas to be streamlined and efficient
 - This will begin in March
 - Dates will be sent out once set so each neighborhood can plan and prepare
- Action Plan and Engagement Tool Kit update
 - Final documents coming soon from Kalina/Melissa

8. Public comment on non-agenda items

9. Announcements

Meeting Adjourned 8:10 PM