

**University Neighborhood Council Leadership Team Minutes**

**April 2, 2024**

**6:30 PM**

**UC Room 224**

**University of Montana**

Members in Attendance: Darcy Caron, Rick Caron, Tim Edwards, Jennipha Lauren Nielson

Guests: Vicki Watson, Julie Robitaille, Representative Missoula Firefighters Union, and Jodi Pilgrim

Meeting was called to order at 6:32.

1. Introductions and welcome

2. Approval of meeting minutes for March 5th, 2024 postponed

3. Program Presentation

Missoula Fire Levy - A representative from the Missoula Firefighters Union provided valuable information about the significance our community passing the levy. The Missoula Fire Department relies on taxes from the general fund, which are capped under state law. The law allows an increase in this cap if the majority of voters approve a special mill levy. The fundamental problem is that the city of Missoula has grown and is growing, yet the Fire Department hasn't grown with it.

Missoula's population has grown 17% from 68,660 (2008) to an estimated 78,000 (2024) since our last operational staffing increase.

Missoula's city limits have expanded significantly since 2008, resulting in a larger response area.

Missoula's population density has increased and continues to increase due to infill and new construction.

Calls for service have nearly doubled since staffing was last added, increasing from under 6,000 calls in 2008 to nearly 12,000 calls last year.

Cultural changes have resulted in increased demand for Fire and EMS services.

The Fire Department is required to respond to a growing variety of call types to meet new challenges within our community.

Missoula County Public Schools Levies—The General Fund levies will be used to pay the increased cost of operations, including salaries and benefits. The Safety Levies would help MCPS pay for:

- Improved campus security systems and facilities
- Technology upgrades and maintenance
- New equipment and system upgrades
- Preventative services (nurses)
- School Resource Officers (SROs)
- School counselors and behavioral interventionists
- Staff who provide safety support for their school building or for the District

4. Items to be discussed.

a. Parking Privileges - Jodi Pilgrim, Parking Services Manager and Rick Caron provided some updated information about parking in the university neighborhood. Topics addressed included the cost of parking permits will be raised to \$45/year per vehicle. Residences requesting more than two permits will see an increase in cost. Commuter permits can be purchased by nonresidents who work in the university neighborhood, excluding UM students, staff, and faculty. Contractors hired to work in the neighborhood will also be required to purchase a \$45 permit. The entire university neighborhood will be open for short term parking for no more than one hour/24 hour period. Prior to short term parking being implemented several parking monitors need to be hired. Once hired one will be designated to monitor the university neighborhood. Parking permit prices will be implemented on July 1, 2024. Open one hour parking is expected to begin on January 1, 2025. Parking conditions will be monitored and modified, if necessary, every six months.

b. Neighborhood Clean-Up on April 27<sup>th</sup>

Darcy Caron shared a DRAFT of the door hanger that will be printed and a few edits were suggested. The Bonner Park Shelter has been reserved from 1 to 3 PM. Nicole Henningfeld from Saws and Claws will share information about wildfire mitigation, Darcy Caron will lead a PROST Mobile Listening Session, and Rick Caron will share updates on parking in the university neighborhood. A dumpster will also be available adjacent to Bonner Park for resident use.

c. Sidewalk Boards

Members voted unanimously to approve the purchase of 4 sidewalk boards and cables to promote neighborhood events.

5. Community Forum Report

None reported

6. Neighborhood Budget

No update provided

7. Missoula Neighborhoods Report- Melissa/Kalina

Kalina and Melissa were attending a Neighborhood General Meeting

8. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

9. Announcements

10. Adjournment

Rick Caron moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM.

Tim Edwards seconded the motion

All approved; none opposed