

Riverfront Leadership Team Meeting
20 June 2024
McCormick Park
1545 - 1725

Roll Call/Introductions: Riverfront Leadership Team (RLT) members present for this meeting were: Eva Dunn-Froebig, Danny Gundlach, Christine Littig, Tristan Hustler, ,and Deb Bonk. Kalina Pritchard was also in attendance. The RLT had a quorum to conduct business.

Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting: A motion was made, and seconded, to approve the minutes from the RLT's 18 April 2024 and 16 May 2024 meeting minutes.

Items to Be Discussed:

(1) General Meeting Review. The team discussed the format of, and feedback from, our neighborhood General Meeting in May. Based on feedback from general meeting attendees and comments after the meeting, Riverfront neighbors liked the new format that was used this year (a combination of information tables on topics that are relevant to residents and updates from RLT members and our Missoula City Council representatives. In the future, the RLT would make some tweaks to the timing of the RLT remarks. The venue was not quite large enough to fully meet our needs for this meeting and we probably would look to do it elsewhere next year. The Paddleheads owners have expressed a willingness to host future neighborhood events at the Ogren Allegiance ballpark and that might be an option for the next general meeting.

The RLT then focused on reviewing and discussing key takeaways from written resident comments from the general meeting in which they were asked what they liked about the Riverfront Area and what they would like to see the RLT focus on in the future. The main themes derived from resident input include:

- The overarching themes that capture what residents said they love about the Riverfront neighborhood are accessibility, diversity, and green spaces. The most frequently mentioned “likes” centered on access to trails and being able to walk or bike to many locations, with number of parks and green spaces and sense of community also being mentioned.
- For the neighborhood’s biggest challenges they can be binned into three areas — transportation safety issues, impact of unhoused populations, and concerns about future development. Residents cited concerns about pedestrian and biker safety at multiple intersections as density in this neighborhood increases as well as what seems to be an increase in joy riding small motorcycles on some streets and trails. For urban camping attendees highlighted the increasing number of unhoused camps in the neighborhood and RVs parked on streets as being challenges. Several comments raised concerns about the number of short term rental properties, property taxes, and need for additional street parking as concerns.
- Priorities for the RLT to focus on in the coming year included — transportation safety/personal security, being actively engaged early in the process for city plans for growth in the neighborhood, and solutions related to urban camping. A theme of some of the comments focused on better signage and lighting in the neighborhood to increase safety for walkers and bikers, dealing with graffiti, and preserving green space.

The RLT discussed and made a decision to update our part of the webpage to reflect this most recent input on what the neighborhood's priorities should be. The content currently on our webpage dates from 2018. The RLT also discussed the importance of aligning our focus and efforts against these topics in the coming year, while recognizing that there will be other issues that also require attention going forward.

(2) Neighborhood Action Plans. Kalina brought copies of the Neighborhood Action Plan Guide and walked the RLT through the document. The majority of the discussion focused on why it made sense to create a NAP, how to create one, the importance of neighborhood engagement throughout this effort, and how to prepare the plan and develop priorities and follow on actions. The RLT agreed that, given the recent general meeting and input on challenges and priorities for the neighborhood, this was a good time to start to develop our NAP. The team agreed that our next meeting would focus on coming up with/reviewing priorities and the framework for a NAP. As part of this, we would first review several planning documents that already exist for the city, including "Our Missoula Growth Policy", the "Missoula Connect 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan", "City of Missoula Strategic Plan", and the Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Master Plans to make sure we understand what is planned and how to ensure our neighborhood's priorities are taken into consideration.

Community Forum: There was nothing to note as a meeting had not occurred since our last RLT update/.

Neighborhood Budget: With our current budget fiscal year ending this month (June), we have \$424.17 remaining. The majority of our expenses for the year were related to the general meeting. The RLT discussed what to do with the remaining funds and a motion was made a seconded to purchase some supplies to support neighborhood engagement such as makers and materials for the boards we use to announce our meetings. The team also discussed what we could do with respect to possibly donating any remaining funds to the United Way or other non-profit organizations. Kalina said she would check to see if this was allowed. If not, funds remaining after the supplies purchase will be returned to the City of Missoula.

Missoula Neighborhoods Report: Kalina noted that the next Riverfront update for the City Council is scheduled for 8 July. The team discussed what we wanted to highlight and decided to focus on how we are planning to use neighborhood input from our recent general meeting to inform our development of a NAP.

Kalina also distributed a flyer highlighting some upcoming drop-in Open House sessions to discuss Missoula future growth scenarios. These will be held on 17 July from 12:00-3:00PM and 24 July from 4:00-7:00PM, both in the 4th Floor Cooper Room at the Missoula Public Library. Additional information on this is available at www.engagemissoula.com/our-missoula.

Next Meeting: The RLT will not hold a meeting in July, but will resume in August. In the interim, all members will be working on reading thru documents relevant to our NAP. A draft of our priorities will be pulled together and shared with members in advance of our next meeting for discussion there.

Adjournment: The RLT meeting ended at 5:24PM.