



Missoula Neighborhoods

Lower Rattlesnake Neighborhood Council Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

June 13, 2024; 4:00pm

Greenough Park Shelter

1. Roll Call: Peter Lesica, Robert Schultz, Kathy Tonnessen, Marta Meengs, Gracie Sanford, Joan Bessac-Steelquist

Neighborhood Office: Kalina Pritchard

City Council: Eric Melson

City of Missoula: Andrea Davis, Jeremy Keene

Neighbors: Nicholas Bloch, Emily Schultz, Cass Chinske

2. We approved the May 2, 2024 LRLT meeting minutes.

3. There was considerable discussion about the train horns at both Madison Street and Taylor Street crossings. Jeremy Keene, Missoula Public Works, shared the noise analysis and a letter from BNSF – they are willing to work with the City on these crossings, but will not contribute funds. The estimate for installing a wayside horn at Madison Street and safety gates at Taylor Street will run about \$700.000-\$800,000. Some funds have been allocated by Missoula Redevelopment Agency (\$192K) and there may be Federal grants that we can apply for.

Eric Melson suggested some possible sources of funds:

- 1) Link to Section 130 funding - GoRail thinks this would be the best federal funding opportunity given that the program is specifically designed to reduce hazards at rail crossings. Section 130 is \$250M annually. Given the proximity of the neighborhood, foot traffic, parks, etc – it seems like we'd be a strong contender for funding through this program. Note, "highway" is a loose term that includes roads and streets. <https://highways.dot.gov/safety/hsip/xings/railway-highway-crossing-program-overview>
- 2) [Railway Highway Crossing Program Overview | FHWA](#) : The Railway-Highway Crossings (Section 130) Program provides funds for the elimination of hazards at public railway-highway crossings. The Section 130 Program has been correlated with a significant decrease in fatalities at railway-highway grade crossings. highways.dot.gov
- 3) The Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) program is a \$3B fund with \$600M+ annual distributions. FY23/24 were combined so this next round will be close to \$1.6B. We can pursue this pot too, but GoRail mentioned the minimum award threshold is \$1M, and we might not hit that with this project.
4. There was discussion of “painting lines” at Gregory Park tennis court so that people can play pickleball there. The citizen advocate for this change did not attend this meeting. Kalina will follow up with Missoula Parks and Rec regarding noise regulations.
5. Our leftover budget amount is \$402.50. We agreed to spend some of that money on new “sandwich boards” and possibly to repaint the “Gateway to Rattlesnake” sign. Kalina will check with the sign maker to see if the “new sign” is under warranty.
6. Robert agreed to do the LR neighborhood report at the July 22, 2024 City Council meeting. Kalina will circulate some “bullet points” for us to approve before that meeting.



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7. One of our neighbors brought up an issue of noise in the late evenings from people hanging out in their cars in the Greenough Park parking lot, near to the shelter. Complaints have not solved the problem. Kalina will confer with Parks and Rec to see what might be done to control after hours parking.
8. Next Leadership Team meeting will be scheduled for August 2024. Kalina will propose dates for this meeting. We agreed that we would have a November 2024 General Neighborhood meeting. Peter will reserve a meeting room at the Missoula Public Library.