

University District Leadership Team Meeting – Neighborhood Council
Tuesday, Oct. 2, 2024

Rue, Amy (new to the group just moved from the northside to University District), Mike, Shirley, Tim and Jennipha

Kalina Pritchard – City of Missoula, Neighborhoods
Emily Ferguson-Steger – Student Life, University of Montana
Ian Alvano – ABC/Fox Montana news

Meeting called to order: 6:30PM

No presentations

General Meeting Planning

- Table Talks vs talking at folks
- Informational short presentations from units like Parks and Parking

Topics that we would like to address at the General Meeting

- Pickleball Issue (outreach to help understand all of the issues surrounding pickleball from the neighborhood)
- Sunday Streets Debrief
- Parking
- Street Lighting
- Hellgate High School issues
- Damaged Trees (after the storm but also due to natural aging)
- 5th and 6th street

Update - Jennipha update: she meet, as a neighbor, with the folks directly across from the Bonner Pickleball courts. The Pickleball courts were installed by the University District Neighborhood Council Leadership Team through a grant in 2022. The neighbors have paid for their own noise study which demonstrated that the noise they are enduring (due to the court) is louder than the City of Missoula noise ordinance allows. While signs have been erected by Parks and Recreation folks are still not abiding by the 10am-7pm rules. If things don't change Missoula Parks and Recreation might need to make this back into just tennis courts as it is impacting these neighbors normal every day-to-day living. (Side note: there are Pickleball courts also available at Fort Missoula (Playfair Park), Mountain Rail Link Park, UM Campus (near Aber Hall), Bonner Park and Missoula Alliance Church (by reservation), YMCA (members), Blue Mountain Gym (Peak Gym – must be members).

Kalina follow up: what is the goal? Parks and Recreation have done a lot to ensure that folks know the rules and abide by them. Could we do what Jennipha has done and share with neighbors to try to empower a change of usage of the court and that folks follow the rules (and know why it's important to do so). Since March Parks and Recreation have been trying to find a solution. This includes Black Knight patrolling the area. Until there is compliance there will be no more pickleball playing at Bonner.

Mike commented that much of this might be mitigated by winter and the more limited daylight hours.

Shirley – would like to see a community relations survey at the General Meeting which could help guide the University District Neighborhood Council on projects and goals. This could include things like: camping, unleashed dogs, noise, speeding, etc. This is a way to show this groups is just neighbors trying to listen to their own neighbors and evoke a change. If it something we cant change we can be the connector to connect neighbors to the city, county and state level.

Per the survey – Kalina can provide some samples that other districts have done. Some ideas might be prioritization survey where folks can rank things from most important to least important. Other groups have also included contact information on the survey's. Kalina would suggest that we have a paper and electronic version to ensure that we meet the needs of most of the neighbors.

5th and 6th Street issues brought to this group by University District neighbor Jen Ellison (and her husband Brad) – Jennipha will be the helpful neighbor liaison and see if there is anything else this group can do, at this time, to help.

Reminder from Kalina – anyone is able to join this monthly meeting so if Jen and Brad want to come to the meeting they are more than welcome to.

Rue - Speeding on 5th and 6th is a major issue. Many people do 40-80 mph on these streets. Many vehicles traveling this route have loud mufflers with “crackers” making the noise from this urban highway loud. There are a lot of pedestrians in this area. With two large schools (Hellgate and UM), lots of mixed housing and a large trail system – it feels like a combination ripe for a fatality. Currently the city has only installed one flashing walking sign near Higgins. Concerned neighbors have taken it upon themselves to install buckets with sticks and bright flags on them to empower folks to be seen while walking across the streets. Due to the tree overhang these blocks remain dark most of the year. With the continued urban growth so do parking making it hard to see pedestrians waiting to cross the street. Understanding this is a highway and is an emergency route what are solutions that can empower semitrucks and others to get where they are going while protecting those who live and use this area.

Amy shared that her time with the northside neighborhood council saw the change of speed signs over the Scott Street Bridge by MDT and the City of Missoula.

Kalina – the next step would be neighbors connecting with MDT to learn what can be done.

Amy suggested that the speed signs that they had installed on Scott Street Bridge helped as it shows the driving speed and flashes when you are over speed.

Kalina – perhaps UDLT could help with buckets, flags and Drive Like Your Kids Live Here signs that the city provides. Perhaps even, reflectors and signs on the buckets that are already up.

Sunday Streets

Shirley and Tim both attended and reported it was very nice. It would have been nice to have more vendors but there seemed to be a fair amount of people in attendance. It is hard to judge this event due to the fact it was spread over 1 mi. Jennipha loved the chalk pictures left after the event. Big shout out to Tim for hanging all of the door hangers and for Jennipha for putting them out on the poles throughout the neighborhood.

Parking

Tim met one of the meter dudes. He was asking questions about the regulations and nothing has gone into effect at this point. The gentleman he met did know Jenni ☺. The Parking Study done by Missoula was just a study that came with recommendations. This is something the Missoula Parking Commissions wanted to they understood the growth vs. need of Missoula. That they could drill into the difference of parking needs and management from mid-town to UDistrict.

Kalina – so maybe we should invite Jodi Pilgrim to join the UDistrict Neighborhood General Meeting in December.

Some of the bigger talking points from the group:

- Does definable permit parking area mean that other areas are impacted due to people parking outside of the parking permitted area?
- Will the permitted area be patrolled or is it only complaint based?
- It sounds like the original plan had up to six parking enforcement folks to patrol both UDistrict and mid-town but we understand some of those folks have left. What does that mean to UDistrict?
- Monday of Charlie Kirk was one of the worst days for parking in the UDistrict.

General Meeting – December 4th from 6-8pm in the UC Commons – potluck style

Topics to touch-on via mini-formal presentations and table-top discussion (:30 minutes)

Goal would be to have a moderator/note taker at each table to capture what is being said.

- Parking Commission
- Parking Study
 - Jodi Pilgrim presents
- Speeding
 - Ben Wise

University District Leadership Team Meeting – Neighborhood Council
Tuesday, Oct. 2, 2024

- Trees/Parks/Pickleball
- Hellgate High School/Education

Table Talk (:30 minutes)

- Each table is presented with the mini-presentation and then shares ideas and thoughts to help identify solutions and projects that UDLT could take on.

University District Leadership Team share out (:10 minutes)

Elections for new members on to the UDLT (:10)

City Council folks are invited to come but to participate not to present.

UDLT would like post-its and flip boards for ideation at each table.

UDLT would like sheets for moderators with guides and prompts

Outreach for the General Meeting

- Sandwich Boards (UDLT has 6)
- Graphic on Next Door and other social media sites
- QR code for notify me list to learn more
- Posters at coffee shops

Next Meeting (Nov.) we will talk more about:

- Snacks – General Meeting
- Outreach – General Meeting
- Schedule – General Meeting
- The UDLT getting nice nametags to wear at events like the General Meeting

Homework (for the Nov. meeting)

- Questions for the table top discussions
- Format for the survey

Street Lighting

- UM's new lights that face down and flood the ground are quite nice.
- How could UDistrict get some of those lights as many of the neighborhood streets are quite dark.

Concerts

- They were wonderful. Will there be more next year?

Kalina – City Update

- Nov. 6th is our next meeting
- Community Forum – we have Shirley and Jennipha down to attend the Oct. meeting on behalf of the UDLT
- Neighborhoods Report
 - Oct. 8th 5:30 – 8pm Government Policy Institute

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- Tim, Rue, Amy all interested in attending – we can send up to 5 to 6 folks
 - Only for leadership team members
- City Council Report
 - Oct. 28th meeting with City Council for report
 - This is where the UDLT would have a 3-minute window to present things like our upcoming General Meeting
 - Jennipha would like to have a QR code so that we can have more exposure at the City Council report. The QR code would have the “Save the Date” information on it.
 - Tim moves to approve this request with Shirley seconding it
 - This proposal was approved by voting members Shirley, Jeff and Jennipha

Non-agenda items

- Jennipha has closed the free produce store for the winter.

Meeting is adjourned. Tim motioned and Shirley seconded at 8:06pm.