

In attendance

Missoula of Missoula, Neighborhood Specialist: Melissa Glueckert
University District Leadership Team Members: Tim Edwards and Jennipha Nielsen
University District Members: Rue, Amy, Robin, Mary, Jannette
University of Montana Representative: Emily Ferguson-Steger
City Council Representative: Gwen Jones
House District 98 Representative: Bob Carter

Meeting Called to Order by Melissa Glueckert, motioned by Jennipha and seconded by Tim at 6:13PM.

Melissa Glueckert asked if folks had reviewed the last University District General Forum notes. Seeing notes, she asked for a motion. Jennipha motioned to approve the minutes from the last Oct. General Forum and Tim seconded that motion. All members in attendance moved in favor.

Melissa Glueckert walked through the ground rules for this discussion-based meeting.

Elections

Since some folks had to depart a little early the suggestion was made to move the elections to the start of the General Forum. No objection was raised.

The University District Leadership Team consists of five to seven members. Three members serve two-year terms. Currently we have three to five openings for new leadership team members as our two leadership members Tim Edwards and Shirley Morkrid have just completed their first year of their two-year term.

Four nominations were made for the open positions on the University District Neighborhood Council. Those nominees include:

- Rue
- Amy
- Jennipha
- Mehrdad

Hearing no objections to any of these nominations, Robin moved to approve the slate of candidates for University Neighborhood Council Leadership Team for two-year terms. Tim seconded that motion and all in attendance voted to approve.

Introductions

Jannette – owns at Eddy and Hilda, not in parking district, has a driveway but it is still hard for workers to find parking near her house.

Rob and Mary – owns at Connell and Ronald at the Lynwood, underground parking for one vehicle per unit. Challenges with both High School and Fraternity parking around their block.

Amy – new to the area so doesn't have much to share at this point.

Rue – rents at 6th and Hilda, parking behind her four plex, four parking spots but many of the renters have more than one vehicle. No assigned parking making parking challenging. Other people during big events park in their parking spaces behind their building. Not in the parking district. Many times, during large Adam's Center events unless you have something to do during the whole event – it is better just to stay home to prevent folks from parking in your space.

Melissa – used to rent/live in University District on Eddy and Arthur

Jennipha – owns at Arthur and McCloud and has a driveway and alley behind her house. She has all of the parking permit options. She has purchased for additional fees due to the fact she has a short-term rental and lots of serve people come to her house and thus she needs parking options for them. She struggles with people parking everywhere: her alley, wrong way, in front of her driveway. She knows the City of Missoula Parking Commission folks really well. They only know to come and ticket when neighbors call and share their issues. They have been really responsive and come to assist when they can. One incident she encountered on the leave sweeping day is where a person parked her into her driveway. She called the non-emergency police line and they let her know that she should call 911 as they can't act until the car is considered abandoned which takes five days or more (of non-movement). She didn't feel comfortable connecting with 911 (as it is for emergencies) and contact UMPD to find that within minutes they could run her plates and notify her. This UM staff member quickly and apologetically came over and moved her car. Once she posted about the parking issues in the neighborhood on Next Door she saw more Parking Enforcement folks handing out tickets.

A couple of issues that have been brought to her include:

- people struggling to find parking after dropping their school aged children off at school and returning to their homes.
- Issues with folks parking in the alley without parking permit
- Reminder to call Missoula Parking Authority if you are having issues around your house/apartment about parking. They are unaware of the issues unless they are shared with them.
- Move-In Day at the University. University folks were told that they wouldn't be towed if they parked in the special district for this day – but the neighborhood was not informed. University folks (new and returning) should have to pay \$25 a day for this privilege. Parking in the district should not just be given away.

Robin – owns on the 500 block of Keith on Arthur. Had issues with parking for UM's Move-In Day. When she warned a student/family about the parking district they are the ones that informed her about the free parking in the University District. She is concerned about the proposed increase for parking passes. Liked the proposed parking changes that were presented in last years General Forum and wanted to hear more of when and where those changes might be implemented. She has also found the tone when she calls the Parking Commission about parking issues near her house has changed for the better. For a year or two when she connected with the Parking Commission she found them to not very nice to work with.

Tim – owns at Keith and Ronald, outside of the parking district. His house has both a garage and a driveway. During the day around his house he is parked in – making it hard for service people to come and service his house. Since he is outside of the parking district it also makes him feel like the people who are seeking parking just push the two blocks off campus and then park.

Bob Carter – Legislator HD 96(also on the State Transportation Committee) lives within the corner edge of the University District. He is working with some neighborhoods (as his district covers a couple neighborhoods) in conjunction with NeighborWays. Others with connections with Montana’s Department of Transportation on the issues their neighborhoods are/have had. He also goes to most of the City Council meetings so feel free to connect if you need something (Bob.Carter@legmt.gov).

Gwen Jones – City Council Women for Missoula. Ian Ortlieb conducted a big parking and traffic survey for the City of Missoula as the Missoula Parking Commission Director. Ian has since left this position and it is now under Jodi Pilgrim and while it is moving slowly ahead it is not dead. The parking district that the some in the University Neighborhood are within was established in the 1980’s and it no longer works how it was intended to work.

Robin – shared that it seems that when folks have to pay to park there are limited people who choose that option but when you don’t need to pay then there is an abundance of folks who are trying to park there.

Bob – I moved to Missoula in 1983 and parking was a big issue – it seems to be the same today. He is surprised there isn’t a new parking structure.

Moderated Talking Points

Parking

For the most part folks were able to talk about parking during their introductions thus we did not spend much more time discussing this in interest of time for the meeting.

Theme: Parking continues to be a pain point for folks in the University District. Especially those located closer to UM and Hellgate High School and heightened during large events such as concerts, performances, games, etc.

Questions: It would be nice to have Jodi Pilgrim come and speak as the Parking Commissions Director about the now and the future of parking and transportation in Missoula.

Transportation/Speeding/Lighting

Tim – speeding on 5th and 6th is quite bad. Homeowners have gone to such lengths that they have installed their own buckets and made their own crossing flags for folks to use as they cross the street. The lack of light in the neighborhood adds to the challenges – but how bright do we want the neighborhood is also a question. Also, there are not stop signs at intersections and the high schools tend to race down the streets without regard to other cars at the unmarked intersections.

Rue – Speeding is a big issue on 5th and 6th street where it is 30 miles per hour but after 10PM many people go between 40-60 miles per hour – sometimes drag racing. She had motion

Halloween decorations up in her yard and they were triggered almost all of the time due to people speeding down the street. The loud glasspack mufflers are also really disruptive at all hours of the day and night. Also, while there is a crosswalk closer to Higgins on Gerald to assist the High School students access their field, most of the streets including the new trail access close to the new Condos on the Riverfront do not have crosswalks or any lights to assist drivers or pedestrians see each other. More lit crosswalks would be preferred. Her neighbors have taken the time to make crossing flags (out of oil rags, paint sticks and buckets) to try to assist the dangerous situation. Parking on both sides of the street compounds the issue. She appreciates the new lighting that campus has gotten that directs lights downward without creating a While she understands that it is a Highway which precludes the use of roundabouts and speed bumps we need something to happen before someone is killed.

Robin – appreciates the dark that the University District provides

Gwen – 5th and 6th are part of the state highway system. The parking on both sides and narrowing to a single lane after Higgins adds to the hazards. She is glad that Bob Carter is at this meeting to hear this information. She would like to see more crosswalks but reminds folks it is state law to stop for pedestrian. [Safe Routes for Schools](#) is a collaboration between parents, schools, and community members. These routes are well lit and can be used by anyone.

Jennipha – She has heard from someone in transportation that only 9% of people on 5th and 6th are using the entirety of Highway 12 (the bypass through the city). She would love to encourage people attending Dennison performances who need to walk across Arthur to think twice about wearing all black. Arthur is dark at night and especially in the winter making it hard to see folks crossing – even at the cross walk. She like others in the neighborhood love the darkness but also feels like some places in the neighborhood are too dark making walking on the aging and wearing sidewalk hard if not a hazard. She is concerned about folks tripping and hurting themselves. She also attended a meeting with about 35 people who live on 5th street. They have strong concerns about the speeding on that street, lack of visible crosswalks, hotboxing, and more. Jennipha is going to provide the letter that they drafted. Many folks would love to learn how they might be able to get one of the flashing speed signs like the one coming down Rattlesnake or on Scott Street bridge.

Amy – came from the Northside/Westside neighborhood and they were working on the Phillips and Scott Street expansion which came with lots more traffic. The neighborhood council worked on getting permanent speed reader signs on the Scott Street bridge and roundabouts. They were able to get flashing lights for the crosswalk. One idea that University District could consider that the Northside/Westside did and that was to pay to repaint some of the road lines with some of the grant funds.

Rob and Mary – Rob parks on the street as the Lynnwood does not have parking for residents with more than one vehicle. He makes plans to avoid most high school events as parking becomes more problematic. Also, if there is any way to help folks merging onto 5th from the bridge know that they can't just merge into the left lane – as cars are coming straight and from Arthur in that lane. If the candle barriers could be extended or signage would be great.

Jannette – I hate to see more lighting as it impacts my ability to sleep at night. It is also concerning that the crossing sign on 5th and Hilda often blinks without folks there and people are becoming aware of this. Thus, increasing the possibility of someone running the warning lights and hitting someone actually in the crosswalk. Also reminded all that with the new river trail access at Ronald we might need to be advocating for a lit crosswalk there as well.

Bob – shared how he is moving forward a bill (LC2123) to Generally revise transportation laws into include language that if a Montana city has completed an inclusive transportation study and MDT would like to consider moving on it – they might be able to take the study already completed and move forward without conducting their own study. This would cut out some redundant bureaucracy and additional costs. This bill has been drafted for consideration in this next 90-day legislative session.

Education (Hellgate High School/University of Montana)

Jennipha – People have raided my yard, they leave beer cans and cigarette butts in my yard and gazebo.

Tim – Hellgate adapted their bell schedule – and removed most of the free periods that enabled much of the bad behavior in the neighborhood. The University is interesting – most of us chose to move near a University and understand that it is a privilege to be in the neighborhood but we also pay taxes to be in this area. He remembers a time when the Fraternities and Sororities would clean up the neighborhood after large events like football games and wonders whatever happened to that program.

Melissa – that was a Neighborhood Ambassador Program that is no longer in action within the University Neighborhood.

Janette – Enjoys living in the University Neighborhood because of the diversity of the neighbors it brings. Her block is about four occupied owners and four to six renters. It does get congested during UM Move-In, Homecoming and Griz-Cat times.

Rue – also enjoys the diversity of her neighbors. Many of the folks around her are graduate students who come from all over and have a wide array of difference backgrounds and prospective.

Gwen – brought up that Missoula has [Quality of Life Liaison](#) – Mark Puddy, who is assigned as the Quality of Life Sergeant. He acts as a liaison to many different groups in the community. This position is a person with great interpersonal skills. They stay calm and help neighbors come to constructive solutions when issues like noise complaints and other non-life threatening but challenging neighborhood situations arise. Gwen is happy to be the liaison between the University Neighborhood Council, Missoula City Council and the Quality of Life Liaison.

Rue – is excited about this position and what they could do to assist the situation especially near 5th and 6th. Once we know more about when this will happen she is happy to share the information with her neighbors.

Gwen – reminded folks that many times it is as easy as reminding folks at 10PM just go inside and close your windows. Many noise complaints come from folks who don't even realize how the noise is traveling and impacting other people.

Parks/Trails/Trees and Pickleball

Tim – summer is when the real issue is. Since pickleball has picked up momentum – all of the city courts are being inundated. In the winter – it gets – darker earlier and thus the noise complaints become less.

Jennipha – There are day, evening and night [noise ordinances](#) for the City of Missoula. Will follow up with the concerned neighbors as a neighbor to neighbor connection. Wants neighbors' feelings to be validated. Maybe next year for the Neighborhood Grant the University District Neighborhood Leadership Team could submit for:

- some additional educational signage at the court,
- a paddle/ball dispenser that would provide options for [quitter paddles/balls](#)
 - If the Leadership Team decided they could put \$1000 or so towards an initiative like this

Emily – the University just installed a couple of pickle ball courts in the new tennis court area between McGill Hall, Aber, University Center and Natural Sciences. These will be open to students and community members in the spring, summer and fall with the winter being closed due to the instillation of an ice rink beginning in the Winter of 2025/26.

Janette – asked Gwen if she knew more about the timeline for tree debris removal.

Gwen – I just saw some of the Urban Arborists around her house yesterday. To learn more about Forestry contractors deployed through the city starting the week of Nov. 18th and their project dashboards please visit <https://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/2197/Storm-Damage-To-City-Trees>.

Improvements (grant ideas)/Misc.

Re-brand Bonner Park – using grant funds to market correct use of the pickleball courts as well as promote the other pickle ball courts in town.

It would be nice to have a better understanding of the specific complaints that are coming from the Bonner Park Pickleball court noise so we can look at solutions and market the reason for the rules established.

Replace the homemade crossing flags with some that have reflective material and buckets for them at some of the major intersections on 5th and 6th with grant dollars or even the annual funds that University District Council has. (Jennipha – would like to add foam fingers to that so you cross with a foam finger not a flag ☺).

Non-Agenda Items

MCAT would be willing to promote our meetings going forward on their channel. They will also attend our General Forum and record along with do a couple interviews with interested parties. If

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people watch the meeting on MCAT it could increase awareness of the Neighborhood Council along with providing the information about what is happening in the neighborhood to more residents. We could also work with them to do information segments including topics like: parking, police, speeding, traffic, etc.

Meeting motioned to end the meeting was made by Jennipha and seconded by Rue at 8:01PM.