

Nov. 5, 2025 | 6PM | University Center Room 215, University of Montana

University District Neighborhood Council Leadership Team Members: Amy O'Hoyt, Jennipha-Lauren Nielson, Mehrdad Mostafavi, Tim Edwards, Rue Orford, Lisa Carpenter, Adam Rasmussen  
Missoula Neighborhoods: Melissa Glueckert

Guests: Vicki Watson (University District Neighbor), Bob Giordano (Free Cycle), volunteers from Montana Rise and Emily Ferguson-Steger (University of Montana representative)

[University District Neighborhood](#) Council Leadership Team November Meeting Notes

- 1. Introduction and Roll Call**
- 2. Approval of Minutes – [October 1, 2025](#)**
- 3. Presentations:**

- a. Bob Giordano, Executive Director of [Free Cycles Missoula](#)

- i. Bob Giordano, Executive Director (Introduction)

Bob Giordano, Executive Director and founder of Free Cycles and MIST, has been an active citizen of Missoula since 1994. Beginning his higher education at North Carolina State University with a Business Management major and Environmental Ethics minor, Bob was "always intrigued by the West." He soon discovered the Rocky Mountains, submerging himself in the rivers of Montana.

Bob received his Master's in Resource Conversation from the University of Montana in 2003, becoming passionate about social and environmental justice in the process. He likes to engage on these topics with individuals and groups through conversation, public presentations, and creative forms of communication.

By learning and teaching about bicycles, sustainable transportation and healthy city design, Bob is striving to create a more sustainable way of life for people and our relationships with the Earth. Other passions include enjoying music around a fire, promoting the benefits of clay, spending time with friends and family, carrying a wok on long-distance bike trips or spontaneously taking an adventure.

He founded Free Cycles in 1996 and [Missoula Institute for Sustainable Transportation \(MIST\)](#) with the mission to create a system of mobility that is safe, equitable, and environmentally sound.

- ii. 1 in 100 Americans will get into a car wreck within their life time.
- iii. Over 40,000 people die of car wrecks every year (including persons walking and hit by a vehicle) equaling over 100 person per day.
- iv. With mixed use developments the goal would be to also include more walkable/ridable areas verses the focus on only vehicle only streets.
- v. Currently Bob lives up the Rattlesnake and while they have a good variety of transportation but limited [mixed-used development](#) infrastructure.
- vi. Bob chooses to engage in most of the street projects within Missoula.
- vii. Presentation with visuals of different types of streets:
  1. Arterial Street
    - a. Five lanes (two each direction) with a center lane for turning and parking on the sidewalk side of the streets.

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- b. Three lanes (one in each direction) with a center lane for turning and parking on the sidewalk side of the streets.
  - i. Tim Edwards asked if it was legal to ride on the sidewalk in Missoula?
    - 1. Bob Giordano – yes, it is as long as they yield to pedestrians
- 2. Bob Giordano shared with the team that protected bike lanes can really help keep folks safe.
  - a. Bike lanes on the side of the road still allow for folks who are inebriated, distracted or are demonstrating aggression to hurt bikers.
  - b. Missoula's North Higgins Avenue Rides Cycle Track, is a form of a protected bike lane, and when completed in 2010 was one of the first protected bike lanes in the US.
  - c. The city has extensive networks of trails, including the Milwaukee Trail and Riverfront Trail system.
  - d. The city has various bike-friendly policies and infrastructure, such as Neighborhood Greenways and winter plowing of bike lanes.
  - e. Intersections control the flow of traffic.
    - i. Roundabouts or traffic circles cause folks to:
      - 1. keep their eyes on each other,
      - 2. they cause folks to slow down, and
      - 3. only empower right hand turns.
    - ii. Traffic lights do not control these aspects.
- 3. Looking at 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> street
  - a. History: these streets used to be two lanes both directions with bike lanes on each side and then parking closes to the curb.
  - b. 6 years ago: 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> became one lane roads with two lanes of traffic going the same direction (less 6<sup>th</sup> between Arthur and Maurice when it goes down to one lane of traffic, one bike lane on the right side and parking on both sides of the street).
    - i. This shift made an extra 6' per street.
    - ii. Every 11 days there is a vehicle wreck between Higgins and Russell.
    - iii. While 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> are designated Federal Highways they see about 4,000 vehicles per day (Higgins to Russell) and 5,000 vehicles per day (Russell to Campus).
    - iv. Ronald and 6<sup>th</sup> have seen four crashes in the last 30 days.
    - v. Free Cycle Staff ideas:

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1. Change parking to angle parking

2. Install more protected bike lanes

vi. Neighborhood Leadership Councils suggestions:

1. Shift the highway to Russell

2. Reduce the speed limit to 20 or 25

3. Moved the parked cars further over making it easier to see bikers and pedestrians.

4. Invite Bob Carter and Ellie Hill to an upcoming meeting to learn more about their bills and initiatives

5. Synchronize the lights from 6<sup>th</sup> to Arthur.

6. Separate bike path not on the road directly or a raised bike lane.

7. Neighborhood Greenways or bike boulevards

8. More pedestrian crossings

4. Suggestion: don't take MDT's/City of Missoula's no as a firm answer.

- a. Talk to Ben Wise to see if this might be the right time to bring the conversation about 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> street up again.

- b. Perhaps UDLT could consider inviting Bob Vossman(sp?), Bob Carter (MDT) and Bob Giordano to talk more about reviewing what could be proposed or done with 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Gwen Jones and other council persons could also be good additions.

- c. Consider writing a letter to support the idea of changes to 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> along with additional multi-use streets through the neighborhood.

- d. The flags – while only at a couple of intersections are working. A couple have walked away – but Rou Orford has gotten thank you's for the UDLT's instillation of them.

**4. Items to be Discussed:**

**a. Survey Results**

- i. [26 responses](#) with the summary of these located [here](#).
- ii. Melissa Glueckert and Kalina Pritchard are working to compile the results into a document but the surveys are available to view.
- iii. Melissa Glueckert shared an email template that included space for some of the feedback learned at the general meeting, a call to action to take the survey if they hadn't already, and what the team does (or why the survey matters).
- iv. Mehrdad Mostafavi shared that he read the survey results and noted that some comments included things about AUD's (like the one going up near Liquid Planet) and how some of the houses going in are really changing the architecture of the University Neighborhood.

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1. Perhaps guiding them to the right departments that handle things like code enforcement or zoning could be a place we direct those folks who might have challenges with these new builds – as it is out of our control.
2. [Engage Missoula](#) has a wonderful website that empowers folks to engage with the City of Missoula in a read time way. You also can see projects that are currently underway or asking for community feedback.

v. Amy O'Hoyt share that lightening in University District – especially on Arthur needs to be addressed.

1. Emily Ferguson-Steger, shared that a group of her students also had tackled the darkness on Arthur but ran into challenges on their plan as they wanted raised lights on the cross-walks which would impact snow and street sweeping.
2. It would be nice to have the University District Neighborhood Leadership Council and University of Montana pen a letter to the city to get the urban foresters to come and ensure that the lights are visible on the ground/road.
  - a. Perhaps inviting Vice President Leslie Webb to talk more about this in a future meeting would be nice.
  - b. Conversation about how some people really like the street lights as they flood the sidewalk and street – while other neighbors find the light flooding into their windows a bother.

vi. Areas of opportunity identified via the survey:

1. Parking (Jody Pilgrim)
  - a. Especially with the new residence hall going in – parking could get much worst.
  - b. Jennipha-Lauren Nielson would like to learn more about the history of the residential parking permit.
    - i. The history
    - ii. A lawsuit?
    - iii. A promise of a parking garage by UM
  - c. Jody Pilgrim has already confirmed for Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting and Melissa Glueckert will ask her to prepare to talk more about the University District Parking Districts and it's history.
2. Deer
  - a. Concerns about deer with mange and them possibly spreading that to domestic pets.
  - b. Concerns about the deer that attacked a human after its dog lunged at it.
  - c. Melissa Glueckert provided some context to the Missoula Deer situation.
    - i. Missoula does have a deer problem

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- ii. From our understanding there is not a clear path forward.
- iii. City/State/FWP are all working on this from their different vantage points.
- iv. Perhaps reaching out to Mike Nugent (and the other University District reps) to discuss this in more detail could be an option.
- v. Birth control for deer has been proven helpful but it is hard to know which deer has been given the medicine and it is costly.

3. High School challenges

- a. Invite more comment on the challenges being faced by neighbors via the High School and high schoolers.
  - i. We understand that these have included:
    - 1. Parking
    - 2. Speeding or reeing up down the neighborhood streets
    - 3. Litter or habituating yards
    - 4. Smoking in cars or near cars
  - ii. Are there new concerns
- b. Then we could invite a conversation based on those concerns to happen with the University District Neighborhood Leadership Team, neighbors, Hellgate representatives, MPD High School Liaison/School Liaison Officer.
- 4. More Photos of the Neighborhood, neighborhood projects, University District in different seasons, etc.
  - a. If you have these, please share them with Amy O'Hoyt.
- 5. [Missoula Aging Services](#) has asked to come and share on their new Village to Village program. This would be a fifteen minute or so presentation.

**b. Possible Grant Ideas**

- i. Mehrdad Mostafavi: Adult Gym at Bonner Park
  - 1. Exercise equipment for adults to use in Bonner Park
  - 2. The 6K would be used to provide a surface for the equipment and a couple pieces of equipment.
    - a. Melissa Glueckert, suggested this might be a good time to propose something like this with City of Missoula Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails 2040 [PROST Master Plan](#) in the works.
  - 3. Acknowledged that this might take a couple years of grants to get to a full workout set.

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- a. Emily Ferguson-Steger acknowledged that this group has championed something like this before. Missoula Parks and Recreation didn't say no – they stated not
- ii. Mehrdad Mostafavi: installing garbage cans along Arthur Ave. from the new residence hall all the way to 5<sup>th</sup>.
- iii. Mehrdad Mostafavi: purchase large solar lights that would provide additional lighting along Arthur Ave and other darker areas of the neighborhood.
- iv. Jennipha-Lauren: high quality little free library and bulletin board for one of the neighborhood roundabouts.
  - 1. The little library's cost from \$399-\$699
  - 2. There would be cost to install them as well
  - 3. Total estimate would be around \$2k
    - a. The goal would be to add a landmark feature in barren places.
    - b. Mehrdad suggested that adding a garbage can and colorful rocks could also brighten up the space.
    - c. Jennipha-Lauren explained that she would like to see the bulletin board within the glass door so that important information could remain posted without being destroyed by the weather.
- v. Jennipha-Lauren Nielson: Write a grant to hire the city or an approve contractor to cut back the trees in the neighborhood to allow for the streetlights to shine through and illuminate the streets/sidewalks more.
- vi.

**c. Bylaw Revision**

**5. Community Forum Report**

- a. Jennipha-Lauren Nielson, Lisa Carpenter, and Amy O'Hoyt all attending
  - i. Jennipha-Lauren Nielson shared that Lisa Carpenter contributed a ton.
    - 1. Lisa Carpenter shared she is our zoning gal.
  - ii. Next Forum is on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>
    - 1. It is going to fun as the first part of the meeting (5-6pm) will be a social hour with the second portion (6-7pm) being share outs about what each neighborhood has done and proud accomplishments.
    - 2. Amy O'Hoyt and Lisa Carpenter plan to attend the December Community Forum on behalf of the University District Leadership Team

**6. Missoula Neighborhoods Report – Melissa/Kalina**

- a. Budget - \$1,555.70
  - i. Vote on ordering name tags
    - 1. Moved to approve purchasing nametags for Lisa Carpenter and Adam Rasmussen was presented by Lisa Carpenter and seconded by Jennipha-Lauren Nielson.

**7. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

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Vicki Watson – [Adopt-a-Drain](#) is a great way to help your community and protect local water quality for everyone. Missoula residents can adopt a storm drain in their neighborhood and keep it clear of leaves, trash and other debris to reduce water pollution. By volunteering fifteen minutes, twice a month, Missoulians get to play an active role in creating cleaner waterways and healthier communities. To learn more or sign up click the link above.

Vicki Watson – [Street Sweeping](#) is forthcoming in the University Neighborhood.

Emily Ferguson-Steger – shared that due to the Montana Soccer Team hosting the Big Sky Tournament at the South Campus soccer fields – might have an impact on parking on the southern end of the University Neighborhood District through the weekend.

[Missoula Resist](#) volunteers joined for public comment to share with the leadership team about an incident they experienced a few weeks ago on the University of Montana campus that involved UMPD and volunteers who were chalking on campus for the No Kings rally without a permit. The group had already met with UM Administration and UMPD for a follow up. The University Neighborhood Leadership Team appreciated them taking the time to come and share their experience and apologized for

#### **8. Adjournment**

- a. A motion for adjournment was made by Lisa Carpenter at 8:17PM and seconded by Rue Orford. The Leadership Team unanimously agreed to adjourn.