

Riverfront Neighborhood Council Meeting

March 8th, 2012 at MNHC

Agenda:

- Public Comments
- Orange Street's own Hip Strip? (Alex Taft)
- 4 Way Stops (Alex Taft)
- Proposal for 5th and 6th Streets (Bob Giordano)
- Budget (Gwen)
- Urban Decay (Micheal)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Neighborhood Grant Follow Up

- Walnut Street Landscaping Watering proposal will be funded by the city OUTSIDE of the grant program!
Hooray!
- Sadly, Jenny Montgomery's Playground Project was not a recipient of a Neighborhood Grant.

ORANGE STREETS OWN HIP STRIP?

- Alex is looking for support for this idea
- THE IDEA: to bring Orange down to one lane each way between 1st and 6th allowing for parking in the second lane instead, hoping to support businesses in that area and make it more pedestrian friendly.
- DETAILS:
 - Light will be made at Clegg Lane as part of the Mill St. development project; Alex proposes that we make the right lane south bound at that point right turn only.
 - So to for the intersection at 6th and Stephens; right turn only, dropping then to one lane until Clegg Lane/bridge.
 - Parallel parking
 - Left turn onto First would be maintained (southbound on Orange)
- FEEDBACK:
 - DALE: Thinks it's an excellent idea: slow cars down, support businesses, more pedestrian friendly
 - Rush hour? Perhaps consider a variable control for rush hour?
 - We would need to get "buy in" from the businesses
 - concerns about air pollution from idling
 - questions about whether the current trend on that stretch shows an increase in traffic

- GOING FORWARD:
 - The Leadership Council requests that questions or issues on this issue be sent to them. riverfront@missoula-neighborhoods.org

4 WAY STOPS

- Alex interested in pursuing 4 way stops in the neighborhoods he represents; mayor said he was interested, Public Works was resistant.
- Alex proposes them at:
 - 4th and Cottonwood, Hickory, and Walnut
- Sally proposes them at:
 - 5th and Cottonwood, Hickory and Walnut
 - 6th and Cottonwood, Hickory, and Walnut
- Traffic Circles are perhaps a better option- cost \$2,000 to be shared by 10 houses nearby
- Ragna: Could we spread the cost out amidst the neighborhood?
- Alex will help us if we want to pursue the 4 way stops
- Suggestion: Pilot program including addressing pedestrians and safe routes to schools.

5TH AND 6TH STREET PROPOSAL

- The issue of the 4 way stops became quite heated regarding 5th and 6th. It is clear that most folks in attendance feel something ought to be done to calm traffic on these streets. Bob Giordano had an interesting proposal.
- THE PROBLEM:
 - Crashes on 5th and 6th are frequent (and posted online for about 1 week at the police department, if anyone is interested in following them.)
 - 5th and 6th have frequent hit and runs of parked cars-- within the top 5 "hotspots" for this in the city.
- THE PROPOSAL:
 - Bob proposes that we bring both streets down to one lane, making a more extensive bike lane and wider parking lanes with the remaining space (parking on both sides maintained.) Right lane turns at intersections still allowed.
 - A second proposal, which would take longer to implement, would be to make both streets 2 way again, with no bike lanes.
 - In 2009 he fliered the neighborhood and got a good response to proposal#1.
 - He'll be back at the April meeting to talk more about it, his number is 880-6834.
- RESPONSES:
 - Bus stops? Yes, bus stops would be maintained, and the bus would cross over the bike lane as it does now.
 - Sally wonders if we should have a special focus meeting on this topic, particularly for the residents of 5th and 6th.
 - Michael wonders whether we should factor in that one-way streets mean more driving.

BUDGET

----skipped due to time constraints---

URBAN DECAY

- Worries about various instances of "urban decay" in the neighborhood were voiced.
- It was proposed that someone on the Leadership Council be the liaison to the Health Department to phone in complaints to protect neighbors who may be worried about getting involved.
- Melodie said she would be interested in fulfilling this role.