

River Road Leadership Team Meeting

Wednesday, December 7, 2011 at 7:00 AM

The Shack – Downtown Missoula

*This was a unique meeting – in that our 2 City Council Representatives were specifically encouraged to attend – and the meeting was held at a restaurant in downtown Missoula.

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

- Jeremy Flesch, Chairperson
- Dax Kuehn, Vice Chairperson
- Chance Eaton, Secretary
- Jesse Neidigh, Community Forum Representative
- Melissa Steinike, Treasurer
- Robin Spaziani, Communications
- Not Present: Andrea Kuehn, Special Projects

3. Guests

- Jane Kelly, City of Missoula
- Marilyn Marler, Missoula City Council
- Ed Childers, Missoula City Council

4. Review of River Road Neighborhood October 2011 Meeting

- Candidate Forums: request from an individual at the meeting to hold candidate forums. Discussion by Leadership team included (general discussion and comments):

• ...difficulty to already get volunteers to sit on the team and requiring forums may be a deterrent to current and future volunteers...

• ...would people even come to view the forums...

• ...would this raise the bar for the volunteer position to require more time...

• ...technically, leadership team is not part of city government, and would lose community relationship, would turn into becoming candidates...

• ...there must be a middle road to knowledge...leadership team does represent the people...

• ...we did introductions; they can come to our meetings...

• Frequency of River Road Neighborhood Meetings. Discussion around having more than two per year:

• ...maybe more meetings for major topics, or special issues, such as zoning, sidewalks, etc...

• ...lots of expense to having a Neighborhood Meeting, and we our budget is already stretched thin...

• Sidewalks

• Several people at the October 2011 Neighborhood Meeting voiced opposition to additional sidewalks in River Road Neighborhood. Three reasons were stated:

• Sidewalks would challenge the rural character of the community,

• Sidewalks aren't in the neighborhood plan,

• Sidewalks would come at a cost to the property owners.

• Several on leadership team noted from their personal sampling of the neighborhood that people do in fact want sidewalks, but the cost of the sidewalks to the homeowner is the main deterrent. City council person Marilyn Marler visited about the City of Missoula's position on the importance of sidewalks to Missoula, and current funding models that are being discussed to make future sidewalks feasible for Missoula citizens.

5. Parks and Recreation Officer

- On Tuesday, November 1st, two of the Leadership team members, Chance and Jeremy, met with Dustin Delridge, the Quality of Life Officer and Sergeant with Missoula Police Department. The

conversation consisted of current trail issues to the neighborhood, distinguishing between education and enforcement, neighborhood and law enforcement responsibilities, and conversation around taking action for future issues. Dustin informed Chance and Jeremy that the Police Department and the residents of Missoula would benefit from additional officer(s) that would be dedicated to parks and trail patrol. Due to the increase in park and trail use in Missoula, the Police Department could be more effective at law enforcement in and around parks and trails with an additional officer(s).

- Marilyn, from Missoula City Council, responded to the need for a Parks and Recreation designated Officer. She said this has been in discussion for several years, but currently City of Missoula departments aren't making budget requests due to the fiscal constraints.
- Marilyn & Ed seemed doubtful that additional funds would be allocated to any 'new' requests – such as additional officers.

6. Community Involvement & Communication

• Involvement: Discussion around how to increase the involvement of the River Road Neighborhood citizens. A broad concept was to facilitate micro-communities within River Road Neighborhood.

Different ideas presented included identifying other leaders and volunteers within the community, organizing block parties or park gatherings, requesting volunteers for specific tasks.

• Communication: Discussion around sending more emails out to the email list. Some felt that it was important just to keep in touch more frequently and email would be a vehicle for that, while others thought only issues of high importance. Another ideas was to use Facebook as the vehicle, because it give the user control to opt into the news if they so desire.

7. Communication with City Council Representatives

• Both Ed and Marilyn said that emails were the best way to communicate with them. We discussed having an additional meeting like this (where our City Council representatives attend) – possibly twice a year – or every 6 months.