

Riverfront Neighborhood Council Leadership Team

Meeting Minutes

December 8, **2014**

Bernice's Bakery

Attending: Emily Sullivan, Caleb Kasper, Jonathan Qualben, Mary LaPorte, Jane Kelly, Gwen Hoppe, Bob Giordano, Willy Welzenbach, Chris Behan

I. EPA Brownfields Program: Wilhelm Welzenbach

Wilhelm described the upcoming grant proposal regarding Brownfields assessment and remediation to be submitted to the EPA from the City of Missoula. He reviewed local history of Brownfields remediation, including Silver Park. Future work could include the White Pines Sash site on the north side, the Creamery site near the railroad, Riverfront Triangle, St. Pat's, and possibly some review in our neighborhood along the Bitterroot Trail Branch Line.

The program has been well used to catalyze development and has played a significant part of the Riverfront neighborhood. The request will be approximately \$400,000; goals to include about 12 projects in phase I, and up to 8 projects total.

Caleb presented the following motion: ***The Leadership Team of the Riverfront Neighborhood Council supports the City of Missoula Brownfields Assessment Application to the US Environmental Protection Agency.*** Jonathan seconded the motion. This motion passed unanimously.

Emily agreed to draft a letter of support on behalf of the Leadership Team.

II. Report on 1st Street Sidewalk Improvements: Committee

Bob Giordano reported for the committee. Six neighbors have met to discuss the proposed sidewalk installations on S. 1st St. W. There was also neighborhood participation at an MRA Open House held in November at Loyola High School facilities. Neighborhood resident Melissa Borg has been very active in this issue. Loyola is planning on building a parking lot; this should address the parking issues identified. Sidewalks will be developed with considerations for utilities, fire hydrants, etc. Traffic calming is also included in future plans.

City staff members including Ben Brewer and Todd _____ are working on this. The Missoula Bike/Pedestrian Advisory Committee is not advocating for bike lanes nor angle parking.

Bob agreed to gather the committee again prior to our January 12 Leadership Team meeting. Committee members will be invited to this meeting in order that we can develop a RFNC position. Gwen added that Right of Way issues along Walnut Street should also be incorporated into our recommendations.

III. Community Forum Update: Mary

Mary provided a brief update on the November 20 Community Forum. Wade Humphries, Missoula Development Services, provided a presentation on code compliance. Mary suggested this as a topic for the January RFNC General meeting.

IV. Planning for January 26 General Meeting

Location: Free Cycles

Time: 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Agenda to include:

First Street Sidewalks

Code Compliance: Wade Humphries

Traffic Calming

Mural Update/ Phase II

Key Tasks: Jane will check on speakers, Mary will facilitate postcard mailing notification.

V. Office of Neighborhoods Report: Jane Kelly

The Neighborhood grants recommendations will be submitted to City Council on December 15. Included will be a recommendation for approval of \$2,000 for Phase II of the neighborhood mural at Nutritional Labs.

VI. Public Comment on Non-Agenda items

5th/6th Streets Traffic Calming: raised as topic by Bob. Bob requested that this be a standing agenda item, and noted that the streets are going to be repaved in any case. Since so much work has already been done on this issue, the LT agreed to call a meeting of the subcommittee working on this. The meeting will be scheduled before the next LT meeting on January 12. Kevin Slovark, City Engineer, and Ben Weiss, Bike/Ped Coordinator, will be invited. The desired outcome will be recommendations to the City from the Riverfront Neighborhood.

Bob will compile data regarding traffic, safety, etc. Caleb will notify all the people who have been involved in the issue. Jane will check with Currents about availability of the conference room for the meeting(s) on January 12: 5:30 5TH/6TH Streets; 6:30 Leadership Team.

VII. New Business

Growth Policy Update: Bob Giordano

Missoula is currently updating its growth policy, encompassing land use, transportation, community design, environment, and other elements. There are 7 focus groups presently meeting. Recommendations will move to the Planning Board and then to City Council. Information can be found at Ourmissoula.org.

Discussion about zoning, including the option of developing a zoning overlay, followed. The LT agreed to begin to develop a letter from the RFNC about neighborhood values and principles which can be sent to the appropriate focus groups.

Mural, Phase II: Gwen provided a sketch of the plan. Seasons will be incorporated into the design.

Small Neighborhood Grant Request: Gwen is developing a concept around a "Makers Space" for the neighborhood, to be located at Free Cycles. The program will be neighborhood arts and crafts. The following motion was approved: ***The Leadership Team supports the submission of a small grant request to the Office of Neighborhoods for development of a Maker Space project in the Riverfront Neighborhood.*** Updates will be provided in January.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary LaPorte
December 15, 2014