

Heart of Missoula Neighborhood Council Leadership Team

Meeting Minutes

Date: January 20, 2015

Time: 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Location: City Brew Coffee

400 W. Broadway St.

Missoula, MT 59802

Leadership Team Members Present: Will McLauchlan, Sherry McLauchlan

Other Attendees: Jane Kelly, Neighborhood Coordinator, Jennifer Bernosky, Republic Services, Laura Milin, Executive Director Missoula Art Museum, Linda McCarthy, Director Missoula Downtown Partnership and Chris Boza, City Forester.

1. Will McLauchlan convened the meeting. No changes have been suggested in the minutes of the last meeting so they stand as distributed.
2. Urban Forest Management Plan – Christopher Boza, City Forester, summarized the year-long process of developing an Urban Forestry Management Plan, conducted by staff as time permitted with assistance of volunteers and industry experts. The process included an inventory of trees, a public interest survey, a stakeholder meeting in June, computer modeling of possible actions, and discussion of funding options. There will be an additional public workshop and stakeholder meeting before presenting the plan to the Park Board and finally to the Council on March 16th. Information about these meetings will be in the Weekly City News Digest.

In response to questions, Chris indicated currently high risk trees are being taken down but are not being replaced as fast as they are removed. Developers must plant trees in new areas but standards for planting are lacking at present. About 40% of the trees are two species – Norway Maple and Ash. The maples are reaching the end of their life span and the ash are at risk from the emerald ash borer which has devastated trees in states where it has spread, but is not currently found in Montana. Funding and long term maintenance of the inventory needs to be addressed.

3. Pocket Park Update – Laura Millin, Executive Director Missoula Art Museum, indicated that after her presentation to the last neighborhood Council meeting they have been gathering input and refining plans to address the issues of safety, maintenance, and parking. Proposals are being considered to increase the police presence downtown in general, which would impact the park as well, to replace the 17 parking spaces being lost with about 22 in close proximity, and to make some adjustments in the design to improve maintenance and security. None of these issues will stop the project but will cause construction start to be delayed from spring to the fall of 2015, reducing any impact of construction on the Peoples Market. Some changes in the location and operation of that market are under discussion in any event.

Funding for about 50% of the current estimated cost is committed and fundraising for the balance will begin after the design and costs are finalized. A small grant from DNR was received for a demonstration of best practices for growing trees in urban areas.

4. Office of Neighborhood's Small Grant – Linda McCarthy, Downtown Missoula Partnership, presented a grant proposal for \$500 prepared by Noreen Hume, Community Development Manager, for additional

pianos to be placed outdoors downtown during the summer for anyone to use, including residents. The pianos are donated but they need to be painted with art inspired designs and delivered to appropriate places with the agreement of affected property owners. The Downtown Missoula Partnership and BID and business volunteers will provide funds in dollars or in kind for the balance of the total budget of \$5535, which includes administrative oversight and maintenance. The initial program with 2 pianos received favorable response last year with few problems or negative comments. There are no other competing proposals for our neighborhood's approval. Approval of this project was by unanimous consent of leadership team members present.

5. Downtown Missoula Partnership Report—Linda McCarthy reported extensively on the items listed on the attached outline. The Partnership is the umbrella organization for the broad membership based Missoula Downtown Association which sponsors downtown events, the Downtown Business Improvement District composed of owners of downtown properties which pays for services such as extra cleaning and security in the area, and the Missoula Downtown Foundation, which facilitates charitable contributions.

A Master Plan completed in 2009 is still the guidance for downtown projects. Public presentations are expected in the next month or so on the proposed conversion of Front and Main Streets from one way, and the Conference Center proposed for the triangle of land along the river at Orange Street. Neighborhood residents should attend those meeting if they are interested in giving input. The Partnership is interested in improving their understanding of resident needs and the downtown housing market. The Master Plan suggested a need for 3000 new housing units but did not complete a housing inventory. The BID has about 20 single family properties.

The relocation of Missoula College is expected to have a positive impact on the properties in the East Broadway area. Despite the elimination of the park n ride the project is not expected to create parking problems in residential areas. The way-finding project will eventually cover all of Missoula and will be done in "layers" of signage with directions to major locations, parking, trails, etc. beginning this summer. The need for expanded broadband for business was discussed; the availability for residents is less clear.

6. Community Forum Report – Will McLauchlan reported on the Community Forum and Jane Kelly on the Office of Neighborhoods. Sherry McLauchlan attended the Park Board meeting at which the Hellgate Park project was approved. No interim members were appointed. No new business was presented.
7. Public comment on non-agenda items - Jennifer Bernosky explained that Republic Services is seeking to work closely with neighborhoods to expand the collection of recyclables to more frequent all-in-one (no separation needed) collections and to facilitate collection of recyclables at multi-family/commercial properties.
8. Announcements - The bylaws call for an additional meeting of the entire neighborhood this year. Topics of interest might include discussion of the downtown projects to be presented this quarter, information about housing programs, or items suggested through more resident outreach. The bylaws need to be updated.

What is Important to the Heart of Missoula Neighbors?

1. Missoula Art Museum Pocket Park - 10 Votes
2. Downtown Housing - 8 Votes
3. Hellgate Park - 4 Votes

4. Bridges - 4 Votes
5. Safety of MRL - 3 Votes
6. Evacuation Plan - 3 Votes
7. City Growth Policy: Our Missoula - 3 Votes
8. Missoula College COT - 3 Votes
9. Historic Preservation - 2 Votes
10. Urban Forest - 2 Votes
11. Railroad Underpass - 2 Votes
12. Parking - 1 Vote
13. Mountain Line - 1 Vote
14. Caras General Safety - 1 Vote
15. Sidewalks - 1 Vote

Submitted by: Sherry McLauchlan



Neighborhood Small Project Grant Funds Application

Small projects must:

- Be located or expend funds within City limits and benefit City residents
- Be sponsored by a Neighborhood Council Leadership Team and documented by the minutes of the meeting, or the Community Forum Leadership Team.
- Market or give recognition to the Community Forum and/or Neighborhood Council(s) in some way.

Please note:

- Requests for grants are not to exceed \$500.00 and can be used for individual projects or combined with other matching funds.

Project Title: Downtown Missoula Piano Project

Name of Applicant: Missoula Downtown Foundation

Address of Applicant: 218 E. Main St., Missoula, MT 59802

Project coordinator (responsible for overseeing project and reports):

Noreen Humes, Community Development Manager, Phone: 543-4238

Email: noreen@missouladowntown.com

Detailed description of project:

The Downtown Piano Project started the spring of 2014 when two donated pianos were placed on the streets of Downtown Missoula. The goals of this project are three-fold:

- To encourage all community members and tourists to play the pianos and to listen to spontaneous music on the streets.
- To offer random live music performances and art in the public realm.
- To prevent serial inebriates from sitting and sleeping in the public right of way in Downtown Missoula.

The two pianos in 2014 accomplished much more than anticipated. Community members have donated a total of 4 additional pianos for the public to enjoy. Painting of the pianos will occur in March and April and subsequent rollout of the pianos in May, 2015. The overall goal of this project is to create place-making qualities for residents and visitors at the same time to deter negative behaviors in Downtown Missoula.

Amount of money requested: \$500 for paint, supplies and delivery costs.

Will this project require maintenance? If so, please give details on maintenance and how it will be funded:

Daily monitoring of the pianos is accomplished through the Downtown Business Improvement District's (BID) Ambassador Program. Monthly maintenance and tuning is needed and occasional repairs are needed from vandalism and graffiti. Generous Missoula business owners provide discounted services for monthly tuning and repairs and the BID funds these associated costs.

How will the project benefit Missoula citizens?

The Downtown Piano Project has created enjoyable experiences in Downtown for people of all ages. Downtown patrons, residents, employees, and visitors have been relieved of pan-handling and pedestrian interference. Real examples of the benefits include: high school students gathering to play instruments along with the piano creating a spontaneous band, a City of Missoula Police Officer sitting down to play, local community members taking ownership of the pianos by covering them in rainstorms, and local residents and tourists stopping to listen to piano music creating a unique and fun Downtown experience.

Provide timeline as shown below:

Date	Task	Responsible Party
3/6/2015	Two Month Piano "Paint-Out" Begins (location TBD)	Coordination of this process: MDF
4/3/2015	Paint-Out Project Continues: one piano featured for viewing at e3Convergence Gallery (Approval still needed but MDF is scheduled to be the gallery's non-profit of the month) Possible other pianos completed displayed in the windows of Mercantile	Coordination of this: MDF
4/26/2015	One piano (painted with animal mural) to be "walked" (rolled) in the Wild Walk Parade (pending)	Coordination of this: MDF
5/1/2015	4-5 pianos to be delivered to their designated Downtown locations from May through October, 2015	Coordination of this: MDF

Do you have support of Neighborhood Council(s) or the Community Forum Leadership Team? TBD... yes no - If so, which one(s): Heart of Missoula Neighborhood Leadership Team

Exempt status-is your organization tax exempt under section 501 (c) (3)? yes no

If yes, please provide your tax exempt number from your IRS determination letter: 27-1872344.

Is your group a government entity? yes no

Is the project on private property? yes, and no If yes, will the public be granted permanent access? yes no n/a

If yes, how will this be accomplished?

All pianos will be located on Downtown sidewalks or other areas (Bank Street Pocket Park for example), often times in the public right of way. Approval is secured with appropriate property owners, business managers and City entities, such as the Missoula Parking Commission (responsible for Bank Street Pocket Park) before placing a piano. The project coordinator maintains regular oversight and communication with the appropriate representatives to ensure a quality experience for everyone. All pianos are accessible to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, May through October.

If the grant is awarded, how will you give recognition to the Community Forum and Neighborhood Councils?

Recognition will be given on a continual basis from the Downtown Missoula Foundation (DMF) office, including all press releases, member and donor communications, (Monthly & Quarterly newsletters/email communications) and social media campaigns.

Provide an itemized list of expenses and specify source(s) of funds. Please provide vendor quotes if applicable.

		Source of Funds: Neighborhood Project Funds	Source of funds: Volunteer	Source of funds: Downtown Missoula Partnership	Total
Administrative Expenditures					
Administrative Expenses	Salary & Wages	\$ 250	\$ 1060	\$ 1310	
	Employee Benefits	\$	\$	\$	\$
	Professional Contracted Services	\$	\$	\$	\$
	Office Supplies	\$	\$	\$	\$
	Postage/Printing	\$	\$	\$	\$
	Utilities	\$	\$	\$	\$
	Travel/Training	\$	\$	\$	\$
	Rent	\$	\$	\$	\$
	Insurance costs, permits	\$	\$	\$	\$
Total		\$0.00	\$250	\$1060	\$1310
Section 2		Source of Funds: Neighborhood Project Funds	Source of funds: Volunteer (Businesses)	Source of funds: Downtown BID	Total
Project Expenditures					
Detail specific project costs including: supplies, site work, design, and other costs	Piano Delivery (5 pianos – 20 total moves. Painting/Galleries/roll-out moves)	\$300	\$750	\$1100	\$2150
	Piano Tuning & Repairs (Based on 5 pianos monthly)	\$	\$750	\$750	\$1500
	Piano Paint & Supplies (bike locks, tarps, hardware for 5 pianos)	\$200	\$	\$375	\$575
		\$	\$	\$	\$
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		\$	\$	\$	\$
Total		\$500	\$1500	\$2225	\$4225
				Grand Total \$3285	\$5535

Signature: *Noreen Humes* (Electronic Signature)

Date: January 14, 2015

Office use only:

_____ approved	_____ rejected	Amount \$ _____	CF approval date: _____
notes: _____			



Missoula Downtown Foundation

Piano Project – 2014

Photos & Examples of the benefits of this community project:

“The best thing is, multiple people approached us and started talking about the piano. It should make for a pretty incredible article. One guy came up, recognized me as being associated with the pianos, and said he has started to learn how to play by watching YouTube videos and demonstrated a little! Several of Missoula’s downtown “residents” talked to us about it being the best thing ever for downtown. And, quite a few people came up to make sure we weren’t taking it away.”

– Chris Hahn, UM Music Department Professor of Piano & Co-Piano Project Coordinator, 2014



Missoula Police Officer playing a tune.

Bank Street Pocket Park Piano – 1st Painting



Then, it got tagged with graffiti, “DON’T”we responded with the following addition to the graffiti...



Heart of Missoula Leadership Team
Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2015

Planning Studies Coming to Completion

- Front & Main Conversion: Completion First Quarter
- Conference Center Study: Completion First Quarter
- Broadband Study: <http://www.bredd.org/wp-content/uploads/Missoula-Next-Generation-Broadband-Feasibility-Study-FINAL.pdf>
- Higgins & Madison Bridges: <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolvemissoulabridges/>

Upcoming Major Projects

- Parking Meters: 2015
- Missoula College: 2015, 2016
- Wayfinding: 2015, 2016, 2017
- Russell Street Construction: 2016, 2017, 2018
- Orange & Van Buren Roundabouts: 2016, 2017
- Missoula Mercantile: TBA

Other Goals for 2015

- Celebrate Major Anniversaries
- Improve Dedicated Downtown Police Patrol
- Expand Downtown Piano Project
- Grow business, commerce, membership, events
- Improve understanding of residential needs and the market for Downtown Housing

Downtown Missoula Partnership
Missoula Downtown Association
Downtown Business Improvement District
Missoula Downtown Foundation

Linda McCarthy, Executive Director
218 East Main Street, Suite C
Missoula, MT 59802
Website: www.missouladowntown.com
Email: linda@missouladowntown.com
Phone: 406-543-4238

MISSOULA
Downtown
CONNECTING OUR
COMMUNITY