

Riverfront Neighborhood Council Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

Date: April 29, 2015

Time: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Location: Bernice's Bakery
190 S. 3rd St. W
Missoula, MT 59801

Leadership Team Members Present: Jonathan Qualben, Emily Sullivan, Mary LaPorte

Others Present: Gwen Hoppe, Gwen Jones, Michael Dean, Dale McCormick, Extraordinary Events Committee, Corena Maurer, Neighborhood Assistant, Emily Bentley, City Council, Alex Taft, City Council

1. Missoula Osprey Fireworks Schedule – Emily Bentley and Alex Taft, City Council Members

This special meeting was scheduled specifically to discuss the 2015 fireworks schedule with our council representatives. The issue was previously discussed at the April 13 LT meeting. The Leadership Team is requesting that the number of fireworks be reduced to 3 from a proposed 5, as noticed in the Missoula City digest. It was also noted that a resolution expressing concern that the process of development of a February 2012 Use Agreement for the stadium was completed with little public input.

Dale McCormick, Riverfront Neighborhood Representative on the Extraordinary Events Committee for the Civic Stadium, overviewed a comparison of the May 2000 Use agreement with the February 2012 Agreement. Document was circulated.

A general discussion of the history of the stadium use, involvement of Councilman Taft, RFNC (Riverfront Neighborhood Council) representatives, city staff and others, followed. There are concerns about the new agreement, which is in general more permissive for events. Emily and others noted that the minutes, creation of the agreement, are not readily available. Emily will ask the city attorney for background on this process (MRA (Missoula Redevelopment Agency), Administration and Finance Committee, etc.). The primary task for now is an attempt to reduce the fireworks events to 3; various approaches were discussed, but the next steps were:

- 1.) Alex will call to ask the operator, Matt, to limit the fireworks
- 2.) Emily will speak to Mayor Engen about this. If the request to voluntarily limit the fireworks is denied, Mayor Engen will be asked to make an

administrative decision. The Fire Department approved the permits for the fireworks.

3.) A review of the Use Agreement should be completed by City Staff, and the City Council Administration & Finance Committee should consider satisfaction of the agreement for the residents and the city. Proper public input is a goal.

4.) Dale agreed to serve as the point person.

2. New Business

A. 5th/6th Street traffic Calming: Alex Taft

Alex noted that the \$20,000 request for an engineering study has been placed into the mayor's budget for the coming year. The burden will be on the council to remove this.

Appreciation was roundly expressed to Alex for his support.

B. California Street Improvements: Emily Bentley

Emily requested that the Riverfront Neighborhood Council give attention to the lack of progress on development of street and sidewalk improvements along California. This will involve contact with MRA, as the funds were supposed to be come from the Saw Mill District project administered by MRA; most of the money has gone to the ballpark. The TIF (Tax Increment Financing) is also due to sunset soon, and these neighborhood funds could revert back to the general fund.

Doug Hawes Davis should be part of any discussion on this. Loyola School is also a player on this.

This will be discussed at the next LT meeting.

3. Public comment on non-agenda items - None

4. Announcements – None

Respectfully submitted,
Mary LaPorte
May 11, 2015

Emily Bentley, City Council Ward 3
Alex Taft, City Council Ward 3

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