

Riverfront Neighborhood Council Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, May 11, 2015

Time: 6:30- 7:30 pm

**Location: The Hal Frasier Conference Room
140 W. Pine Street
Missoula, MT 59802**

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

Others Present: Jane Kelly, Neighborhood Coordinator, Andrea Davis, Executive Director of Homeword, Bob Giordano, Mike Painter

AGENDA

1. Homeword – Affordable Housing Property in the Old Sawmill District – Andrea Davis, Executive Director

The non profit development organization Homeword has received approval for low income tax credits which will enable the development of a 26 unit affordable housing project in Silver Park. Ground breaking is planned for fall 2015, with leases beginning in the winter of 2016. Features of the project include:

- 6 studios; (11) 1 bdrms, (3) 2 bdrms; (6) 3 bdrms
- affordable rents: \$354- 740
- underground parking
- sustainable building and energy efficiency

There will be a public meeting on design on May 26. A representative from Homeword will attend the June 10 RF General Meeting.

2. Report: April 29 Meeting with Council persons Fireworks Scheduled at Osprey Stadium Next Steps

Councilwoman Emily Bentley spoke with the Mayor and Matt Ellis of Playball Missoula. Next step is for RFNC (Riverfront Neighborhood Council) Leadership team to meet with Matt. Jonathan, Emily & Mary will attend, as well as Mike Painter. We will seek attendance from Dale McCormick and Gwen Hoppe.

3. Traffic Calming: Bob Giordano 5th/6th Street Traffic Calming Update if needed Higgins Ave. Issues & Discussion

Alex Taft successfully inserted funds for an engineering study for 5th/6th Street! The budget year is July 1. It is likely that Ben Weiss will be a key point person. The LT (leadership team) emphasized the importance of reviewing the RFP (Riverfront

Proposal) before it is released to ensure the scope of RFNC concerns and history on this issue. Caleb will take the lead and represent the LT on this.

Bob presented an overview of a proposal to calm traffic, improve safety and friendliness for bikes and pedestrians. The overall concept is to convert 4-lanes of auto traffic to 3. His power point slides illustrate the concept, its benefits, and the track record of this in Seattle, where 40 of such conversions have been a success. Higgins Ave, from Broadway to Brooks, intersects our neighborhood.

The following motion was presented by Jonathan:

The Riverfront Neighborhood Council Leadership Team endorses and supports continued formal study of the MIST proposal. Mary seconded the motion, and it was unanimously passed. This will be presented at the upcoming general meeting with a request for full neighborhood support.

4. Next RFNC General Meeting - June 10

Agenda

Activities

Budget

- A. Location: Picnic Shelter, Silver Park, 5:30 -7:30
- B. Menu: Pizza and "Hit the Tap"
- C. Agenda:
 - a. Sweetgrass Commons: Homewood
 - b. 5th/6th Street: Caleb
 - c. Higgins Ave: Bob Giordano
 - d. California Street improvement: (Emily Bentley)
 - e. Elections for LT Members
- D. Free Bike Tune ups, Free Cycles

Emily will facilitate request for budget re-allocation, as we are down to \$376 in our budget and need about \$150 more for mailing and pizza. Mary will work on the postcard. The shelter is reserved, thanks to Corena.

5. Russell Street Project Graphics Comments

We were provided graphics of the plan. A quick review resulted in concern that there are few trees in the boulevard for most of the stretch between Broadway and Dakota. Also, there was a concern regarding materials for the underpass and bridge – is it stone, or pre-cast concrete?

Riverfront representatives are encouraged to attend the design meeting for Russell planned for **May 27, 6:30 – 9:00pm @ The Burns Event Center**

6. Community Forum Report: Mary LaPorte

The April 29, 2015 Community forum meeting was highlighted by a presentation on creating backyard wildlife habitats and was sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation. We will bring materials about this to the General Meeting.

7. Office of Neighborhoods Report: Jane Kelly

Jane displayed materials about the above program. She also announced the meeting on May 12 regarding Traffic Circles. Bob volunteered Free Cycles as an adopter of the circle at 1st/ Hickory.

8. New Business - None

9. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items - None

10. Announcements - None

Meeting adjourned, 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary LaPorte

May 12, 2015