

## **River Road Neighborhood Council General Meeting / Annual BBQ Meeting Minutes**

Date: June 17, 2015

Time: BBQ begins at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting agenda will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Location:    Lafray Park  
                  606 Lafray  
                  Missoula, MT 59801

Leadership Team Members in attendance: Melissa Neidigh, Jesse Neidigh, Kim Walterskirchen, Prairie Wolfe, Patrick Guinard

Others Present: Jane Kelly, Neighborhood Coordinator, Chris Boza, Urban Forester, Loran Frazier, WGM Group, Darcy McKinley-Lester, National Wildlife Federation, Joshua Hamilton, Salvation Army Director

There were approximately 80 people in attendance.

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1. Meet the River Road Leadership Team
2. Neighborhood Tree Committees – Chris Boza, Urban Forester - The Urban Forest Management Plan was adopted in April by the City Council. Tree advisory committees for neighborhoods are part of the plan; he is soliciting volunteers to work with City staff to develop a tree planting plan for our neighborhood. If you are interested in volunteering, get in touch with Jane and she will pass along contact information.
3. Russell Street Update – Loran Frazier, WGM Group Transportation Manager - Loran provided an update on Russell Street, including a timeline. The bridge is going to take two full road construction seasons; the road will not take as long. For updated information go to <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolv/russell> Concerns were voiced about accessibility on the sidewalks on Russell and Loran explained that there should be adequate sidewalk space for accessibility.
4. Salvation Army – Joshua Hamilton, Salvation Army Director – The new building will be ready to be moved into in August. The new building will provide spiritual and social services in the community, including: children's programming, church services, helping homeless individuals and families. There is also the annual Christmas Giving Program which is very successful in the community. The new building will have chapel space, dining hall with commercial kitchen, 3 classrooms, and social services including showers and laundry (all usable by the

neighborhood and community). There is a difference between the Poverello Center and the Salvation Army, the biggest difference is that Salvation Army serves families and not individuals. People can get involved in volunteering by contacting Joshua. According to the mission, they serve all people no matter what. Please let Joshua know if you hear differently. There will be an opening event in September. The second phase of this project is a gymnasium to make a complete community center, which will be coming some time in the future, once funding has been gathered.

5. Neighborhood Night at the Ballpark – Neighborhood Night is on August 18th and a group of 10 or more get tickets at half price, there will be fun and games between innings. Get a business card from Jane and she will help you out. Need to make arrangements in advance.
6. Missoula Community Wildlife Habitat Project – Darcy McKinley-Lester, National Wildlife Federation, Wildlife and Sustainability Educator - She is working on getting Missoula recognized as the first urban wildlife habitat in the state. Individual homes and parks can be certified as an urban wildlife habitat if you have the following elements: food, water, cover, and places to raise young. Community involvement is also important like a planting in a public space. There are some events planned in the future and you can sign up to volunteer with the Community Wildlife Habitat Project.
7. Boundary Line Adjustments – Jane Kelly, Neighborhood Coordinator - Everyone west of Reserve would become a new neighborhood. If we vote yes, then Community Forum approves it and moves it on to the City Council for final approval. Jane will work with the new neighborhood to get it off the ground. There is concern over the Orchard Homes Country Club not being involved in this discussion, but it was pointed out that they were invited to the meeting and received the agenda in advance. Official vote: Motion made to move the boundary to Reserve Street: Yes = 25 No= 3. The motion for the boundary line adjustment was passed.
8. Community Forum Report – Jesse Neidigh - Community Forum makes decisions about small and large grant requests, takes recommendations from neighborhoods and then passes them up to City Council.
9. Office of Neighborhoods Report – Jane Kelly - There is \$3000 large grants available and are due in October for neighborhood improvements. There are also \$500 small grants available on an ongoing basis. There will be a workshop in September. Ideas from the neighborhood include: recycling, lights in the park, Council Groves bike fixit station, and sidewalks on River Road and Curtis Street.

10. New Business - Food Bank, lighting along the trail and in the park, but also concerned about seeing the stars

11. Public comment on non-agenda items - None

12. Announcements – None

Submitted by: Melissa Neidigh

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## What is important to the River Road Neighbors?

1. Trail Lighting – 12 Votes
2. Russell Street Progress – 8 Votes
3. Votes Recycling – 7 Votes
4. Local Services – 6 Votes
5. Street Lighting – 6 Votes
6. 3rd Street Progress – 6 Votes
7. Neighborhood Watch – 5 Votes
8. Status of Quarry/Park – 5 Votes
9. Neighborhood Story – 4 Votes
10. Sidewalks – 4 Votes
11. Through Street Connectivity – 4 Votes
12. Infill Development – 4 Votes
13. Connecting with City Council Members – 4 Votes