

Franklin to the Fort Neighborhood Council Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Rosauers
2350 S. Reserve St.
Missoula, MT 59801

Leadership Team Attendees: *Brad May, Mykal Funk*

Others Present:

Jane Kelly - Office of Neighborhoods;

Julie Funk, Nancy Eik, Cathy Scribner, Pat Ortmeyer, and Patricia Hogan-neighborhood residents;

Peggie Morrison, and Anne Rupkalvis-Target Range Homeowners Association;

Kyle Gauthier-professional engineer DJ&A;

Elizabeth Erickson-Open Space Program Manager for City of Missoula Parks & Recreation.

Due to lack of a quorum, all items were discussion-only, or administrative.

- 1) Approval of minutes. No action.
- 2) Update on the Conceptual Planning phase for the Mary Ave Project. Kyle Gauthier described the plan to date. Consideration was given to resident concerns: traffic calming (speed control), shade trees, and on-street parking. Some tree conservation may be achieved by building a meandering sidewalk.

Met with city bicycle pedestrian advisors. Will strongly consider not providing sharrows, because of safety concerns associated with street width, traffic volume and speed. Suggest that bicycles could more safely use alternate routes.

A study will be conducted to consider a traffic signal light at Reserve and Mary Ave.

Neighborhood residents in attendance asked many questions, and contributed comments. These residents live on adjacent streets and were never directly contacted by planners, as Mary Ave. residents had been. Mr. Gauthier encouraged that concerns be addressed to the Missoula Redevelopment Agency (MRA), as this “conceptual” plan is subject to revision.

- 3) Clark Street Sidewalk Project. Mr. Gauthier continued with a description of upgrades of curbs, gutters, and sidewalks along Clark Street, which crosses Mary Ave. north-to-south.

- 4) 1995 Open Space Bond City acquisition of the Johnson Street/Montana Rail Link (MRL) property. Elizabeth Erickson, program manager and attorney for the Open Space program explained the history of three open space bond elections in the city and county. Remaining funds of \$389,000 have been held in reserve in anticipation of eventually acquiring the MRL property generally north and east of Johnson and South Avenues. Additional funding will come from MRA bonds and tax-increment-financing. The total purchase price will be \$2 million. The area of the site is 12 acres; of this 4.5 acres on the south end will be developed as a park and recreation area. She presented an artist's conceptual plan. The missing link of the Bitterroot Trail will be completed along the edge of this site.

The neighborhood will be asked to be involved in the planning. A question was asked about the plan for the remaining acreage on the north end. Answer: As existing structures are eventually sold or removed, the site would be developed for residential.

There will be a public hearing on this acquisition at the City Council meeting Dec. 12, 2016.

Ms. Erickson also said that the city is interested in acquiring the US Forest Service land on 14th Street, but that would be years in the future.

- 5) Discuss/prepare Leadership Team recommendation on a Request for Comment – 1839 S 9th St W Board of Adjustment Variance Request. Very brief discussion; one attendee stated that they had filed a written objection. No quorum, no action.
- 6) Discuss/assign Leadership Team duties. Tabled.
- 7) Planning for the General Meeting. January 24, 2017. Possible presentations might be: Mary Ave. Project; and Missoula Invest Health project. Possible meeting locations might be: Porter Middle School or Grace Methodist (we determined that the previously suggested Friends (Quaker) Meeting hall may not be large enough). Patricia will get pizzas, and Brad will do postcard publicity. Other tasks will be assigned to Team members.
- 8) Community Forum report. Mykal and Jane reported on recent topics: City acquisition of the former Eko Compost operation, grant awarded to Free Cycles for additional work stands, and three grants for traffic signal box art in or near the F2F neighborhood. A total of \$18,000 of grants will go to the City Council for approval.

Mykal will be the F2F delegate, Brad will be alternate.

- 9) Office of Neighborhoods report. Jane told us that Corena Maurer is leaving to take a job with the Parks & Recreation Department. Next Community Forum meeting will be on December 15, 2016, and will feature the annual holiday party following a short business meeting.

10) New business. None.

11) Public comment on non-agenda items. The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) has relinquished property on the west side of Reserve at S 7th St W. The City has initiated rezoning to “community-based business.” There are questions about whether this comports with existing zoning. Peggie Morrison and Anne Rupkalvis of the Target Range Homeowners Association voiced concerns about whether this would allow other development that would affect the neighborhood west of Reserve, and specifically wondered whether a proposed coffee roasting business would create objectionable odors. Jane directed them to express their concerns to the zoning department.

Another person at the meeting expressed concerns about surplus MRL rail cars being stored on tracks both in and out of the city. The short answer is that this is all private property of the railroad, and nothing can be done.

12) Announcements. None.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35. Next meeting will be the General Meeting on January 24, 2017.

Minutes submitted by Brad May.