

Riverfront Neighborhood Leadership Team Meeting Agenda

July 20, 2023

3:30 pm

Headwaters Conference Room – Currents Aquatic Center, 600 Cregg Ln.

On Thursday, 20 July 2023, the Riverfront Leadership Team (RLT) held its monthly meeting in the Headwaters Conference Room at the Current Aquatics Center. The following team members were present: Christine Littig, Kalina Wickham, Eva Dunn-Froebig, Tristan Hustler, Jonathan Qualben, Danny Gundlach, and Deb Bonk. We were joined by Matt Ellis, President of the Missoula Paddleheads, Katherine Auge, and Caleb Burns-Kasper. The meeting began at 3:42 and ended at 5:14.

Business Conducted:

- 1. Minutes From Last Meeting.** Christine asked for comments or changes to the notes from last meeting. A motion was made to accept the minutes, and this was seconded.
- 2. Missoula in Motion.** Katherine Auge provided an update on the survey that Missoula in Motion (MIM) is sending out to Riverfront residents. The mailer announcing the survey and highlighting transportation options and resources is currently being sent out. Katherine asked RLT members to encourage responses within the neighborhood.
- 3. Sunday Streets.** Katherine also provided an update on Sunday Streets, which is scheduled for 20 August from 12:00 - 4:00PM. MIM is still looking for additional volunteers to support this event: interested individuals can sign up at www.sundaystreetsmissoula.org. She passed out posters that RLT members will put up around the neighborhood. Katherine will send RLT members a PDF of the poster so it can be shared with others. The RLT will discuss what participation we want to have at this event.
- 4. Missoula Paddleheads.** Matt Ellis, President of the Paddleheads, came to discuss some of the organization's activities in response to a request from the RLT. At an earlier meeting a resident had raised a concern about the number of fireworks shows the Paddleheads were holding. Matt began by giving a presentation on the Paddleheads since most of the RLT members were not on the leadership team the last time he spoke to the group. A key point from Matt's presentation was that the Paddleheads are a key part of the Missoula and Riverfront communities, and — in addition to baseball — they actively support a number of non-profit organizations and, per the stadium use agreement, offer up

their facility for a range of special events, many of which help give back to or support the community. A few highlights of his presentation included:

- The length of the Pioneer League season has increased in recent years, meaning the team has 10 more home games than in the past.
- In 52 home games 83,619 fans visited Ogren Park. In over 45+ community events, over 35,611 patrons filled the ballpark. This means the park has hosted over 115,000 guests in less than six months.
- The Paddleheads “FundRaising Tuesdays” in 2021 and 2022 raised over \$46K for a range of Missoula non-profit organizations.

Matt also talked about fireworks, traffic, and parking. He noted that the Paddleheads work with the city and the OSD developers on parking issues. There are still plans for the developer to build a parking garage near the stadium and Matt said he would highlight to the city the neighborhood's interest in having a traffic light installed at the intersection of Orange Street and Gregg Lane.

The Paddleheads contract with the city allows for three fireworks shows each year. Matt was asked about the number scheduled for this year (four). Matt noted that the addition of a fourth fireworks event (which was timed for the 4th of July) was scheduled after, and in consultation with, the City of Missoula. The city had an interest in providing fireworks show on or near the 4th of July to try and discourage city residents from purchasing and detonating their own fireworks and also in response to the fact that the Southgate Mall would not be having a fireworks event. This additional fireworks event was publicized widely on social media to the city as an alternative to individual fireworks shows.

Matt closed by noting that the Paddleheads are part of the neighborhood and the RLT should think about how they might be included in neighborhood events.

5. Pocket Parks. Caleb Burns-Kasper attended the meeting to provide some thoughts on areas in the Riverfront Neighborhood that could benefit from the addition of pocket parks. While the Riverfront area has two large parks — Silver and McCormick — in comparison to other areas of Missoula we have relatively few smaller parks. The two areas raised as potential opportunities for park improvement or creation of a pocket park were: Sacajawea Park and a triangular lot on the corner of 6th and Ivy that is owned by Missoula Water. There also was a brief discussion about making the playground at the Missoula International School more accessible to residents of the neighborhood. The RLT will reach out to and invite Missoula transportation and city parks to a future meeting to discuss how we might be able to piggyback on some work that is being done near Sacajawea to make it safer and more accessible. It also was recommended that Missoula Water be contacted to discuss their plans for their lot and possible receptivity to it being used as a pocket park.

As part of this discussion, the RLT noted the need for a more comprehensive, holistic approach to thinking about green space and accessibility issues across the neighborhood. As a result, the RLT decided to create a Parks Subcommittee that will do some of this leg work, engage with appropriate stakeholders, and report back to the RLT. Eva Dunn-Froebig has agreed to be the chairperson for this subcommittee.

6. Riverfront Neighborhood Budget. We are entering a new fiscal year and the city has not yet finalized the budgets for the neighborhood councils. We anticipate having funding on a similar level as last year.

7. Community Forum Update. Eva provided a readout of the most recent meeting, which included a presentation on code reform. Kalina noted that the city is in the second phase of a five phase project that is exploring neighborhood concerns about code issues and how best to address them. This project will likely run at least thru early next year.

8. Missoula Neighborhoods Report. Kalina noted that the city was in the process of hiring a new neighborhood specialist.

9. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items. None

Non Agenda Items:

1. Christine highlighted an upcoming event in the neighborhood. The Montana Natural History Center will be hosting a block party on 29 July.
2. Jonathan noted an interest in getting a read-out of the main takeaways from the recent Table Talks that were held in July. Kalina will work to get the report.
3. The next RLT meeting will be held on 17 August at 3:30 at the Headquarters Conference Room at the Currents Aquatics Center.