

**FRANKLIN TO THE FORT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
MEETING NOTES JANUARY 25, 2011
MISSOULA FRIENDS MEETING HALL
1861 S. 12TH ST. W. 7-9 PM.**

Welcome & Call to Order:

Jon Salmonson, Chair, called the meeting to order and attendees introduced themselves. At that point there were 24 in attendance and some came later. List of attendees who signed in are on file. Jane Kelly and Brandi Harrington from the Office of Neighborhoods were present; Jane, who was a former neighborhood liaison is filling in while the vacant position is being studied and Brandi is a part-time assistant for the Office.

Jon reviewed the Agenda and deferred the reading and approval of the minutes of the last meeting until the February meeting as the Secretary was unable to attend due to occupational travel requirements.

Treasurer's report, which included the recent postcard mailing, shows a balance of \$621.73 in the General Budget plus a commitment of \$125 for meeting room rental for February through June: available funds are \$496.73. Total mailing supplement balance including credit at Towne Mailer is \$1609.28 (this figure includes the postcard printing costs).

F2F is the 2nd largest neighborhood by population so the mailing budget was increased this year to reflect that enabling us to do 1-2 more communicative projects. The Leadership Team would appreciate suggestions to improve our communication efforts; assistance with implementation would also be welcome.

Questions were raised (by Bruce Taylor) regarding duplex/triplex approval process and issues with single family dwelling with multiple residents. Ed Childers responded to the latter regarding how difficult it is to deal with under current laws. The approval process was to be dealt with later.

Old Business:

Park: Jon received a letter last week from Jackie Corday about an impending meeting between the Mayor, Administrative Committed and Forest Service Region 1 Regional Forester, Leslie Weldon, regarding the Motor Pool property located at 14th and Catlin. There will be a reevaluation of the FS use of the property in the next 2-4 years. It is a roughly 14-acre plot and the Mayor would prefer using it for low income housing and park land.

PTA: Julie McLennan showed us the final design of the new playground to replace the old playground on the Johnson & 11th side of Franklin School. Jessa Ouellette is assisting her with organizing the installation planned for March 25, 26 and 27. Volunteers are needed. Any time you can assist is good and there are many tasks to be done in addition to the installation. Some examples are childcare, refreshments, first aid. Tools are needed. Julie handed out volunteer forms and some turned them in, but this can be submitted any time. For more information you can contact Julie at 880-0595 or at franklinplayground@yahoo.com. The playground is being funded through a variety of fundraisers and grants. Site prep is also required and a forklift is needed for that.

Boundary: Jon presented the history of discussion of changing boundaries for Franklin to the Fort and Southgate Triangle Neighborhoods. This topic surfaced every now and then over the last several years. The current proposal agreed to by both Neighborhood chairs is to table the boundary realignment. Southgate Triangle's name represents its shape and several leadership team members live in the area proposed to be transferred to F2F. Now that mailing budgets have been adjusted to reflect number of addresses within a neighborhood, F2F is in a better position to communicate with their council members.

Trees: Jon had application for boulevard trees available. The tree selection has changed and applications are due March 25, 2011. The homeowner's cost share (the City Council set aside money for part for trees and Ed Childers reported back it is used to offset cost – the trees cost the City \$400) is \$200 per tree which includes planting in the boulevard. Memorial trees are available at \$500. Trees will be 1.75" and 2.25" Caliper (trunk diameter 6" above grade). Jon has some application copies. A question was raised regarding the \$200 cost and whether there was an opportunity to offset it by labor. Another question was raised regarding replacement of diseased boulevard trees. Diseased trees should be reported to the City Forester at bcarson@ci.missoula.mt.us. The city will come and assess them and discuss replacement details. He would be the contact for all tree issues.

MATP (Missoula Active Transportation Plan): Study is wrapping up at OPG. 60% of city streets have no sidewalks. The payment process is to assess property owners. Jon advocated assessing the cost to vehicles (cause of need for sidewalks for pedestrians). This proposal was not adopted. The plan will be detailed but carries no initiative to solve the problem. Ed Childers reported the City Council did just provide some funds to assist homeowners with this expense. Emphasis will be on the handicapped corners as these are very expensive.

MRA: Two years of sidewalks were accomplished in 1 year in URDIII in the area around South. Final completion should be this summer. Plans for URDII are not known at this time.

F2F Sidewalks: This topic was not discussed

Tiger II: Grant was not won

Board of Adjustment: Contacts neighborhood when they have an application for variance in your neighborhood. There was a recent one that was denied because the neighbors did not like it. Now there is one at 2204 S 8th St. to rebuild damage. The hearing is Wednesday.

F2F Bylaws, elections, nomination: Copy of Bylaws available at the back. Nominations and elections will be held at the February meeting. F2F has a limit of 6 consecutive years on the leadership team which affect Jon. The leadership team is 5-7 members. Three other members of the LT have offices expiring this year but can serve another term if elected. If anyone wishes more information, please contact the leadership team.

Program:

Alderman's Report: Ed Childer's reported Cynthia Wolken was selected to replace Roy Houseman on the 2nd vote on Monday. They also set aside \$60,000 of road district monies to help owner-occupied houses with sidewalk costs, especially ADA ramps on corners which are very expensive. In response to a question, Ed said homeowners can also borrow funds for up to 20 years; the rates vary by year. Ed was going to check into why residents have to pay \$200 for boulevard trees if there's \$40,000 already budgeted. *His response on Wednesday was that the trees cost \$400 total and \$200 is the resident's share of that \$400.*

Another question from the audience was whether we are required to clear entire sidewalk of snow or just a walking path. Ed replied it is the entire sidewalk and noted that a path may not be wide enough for a wheelchair. The City Ordinance also requires the sidewalk be cleared by 9 AM following a snowfall. The City does have an enforcement officer who also deals with weed issues in the summer.

Jon asked about status of Neighborhood Liaison replacement. The Mayor has a meeting with a committee to present to Community Forum on Thursday. Marilyn (Marler) is on that Committee, but that is all Ed knows at this time. Jane Kelly, who has temporarily returned to the Office of Neighborhoods while the issue of the Liaison position is pending, announced they are soliciting names for the Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award. Nominations need to be received by 2/25/2011. [Forms are on the neighborhoods site](#) (at the City of Missoula). The winner will receive a plaque on City Hall wall and a memorial tree. Office of Neighborhoods has some grants available, too.

Russell/3rd: 3 Plus for Russell Presentation

This information was presented by Jim Sayer and John Wolverton. Handouts were provided which are available at www.russellstreet.org. The revamping of Russell and Third have been under discussion since 1997. There were approximately 150 people at the last public meeting at Franklin School and folks seem to want the corridors modernized but not enlarged. For 4 years not much was heard and then there was a proposal for a superwide 5-lane road from Broadway to Mount. This because the Preferred Alternative; two lanes each way and a center turn lane. The 3 Plus for Russell group feels there are 5 flaws with the Preferred Alternative:

1. Cost - \$45-\$65 million - \$30 million/mile of 5 lane.
2. Loss of 32 homes and businesses
3. Safety – 106 foot crossing creates a massive intersection at Russell and 3rd. It creates both safety and convenience issues and is reminiscent of Reserve street. MDOT has cited Reserve as the #1 crash corridor in the State. 3+4Russell conducted tests for kids crossing and seniors crossing an intersection of that size. 100 feet is a long ways to go in a very short time and even more formidable for someone not in top condition. Wider arterials mean less safety for all and pedestrian and bike traffic decrease. There's a inverse relationship between motorized traffic volumes and bike and walking traffic. More than 6 times a many walk along 2- or 3-lane roads as 4- or 5-lanes.
4. Divides Neighborhood – Huge foot print with the ROW as well as loss of neighbors and businesses. The safety issue plays into dividing the neighborhood as well.
5. Pollution will increase with increased traffic volumes.

The 3 Plus for Russell proposal is based on complete streets and neighborhood orientation. These features and resulting walkability raise real estate values. There are Walk Scores established an the scale is on the web site. It's called 3 Plus because the bridge would be 4 lane which would continue to Wyoming. This assists emergency vehicle traffic. The plan sees to work primarily within the existing ROW (Right of way). There would be no left turns from 7th to 11th due to the narrow configuration of that stretch.

Actions you can take are:

- Respond to the EIS
- Sign a petition (over 1300 have signed)

Ask for 3 Plus for Russell from MT representatives, Mayor and Council

Ask for a focused Public Meeting

With action you can influence the outcome, no action will have no influence and the preferred alternative will go forward as it is.

Russell/3rd: Missoula Public Works

Gregg Wood from the City Engineer department spoke on the status of what has come to be known as the Preferred Alternative. He notes meetings are still ongoing and some tweaking is continuing so the communication is important. This has been in the Long Range Plan since 1996 and Russell Street is a top priority. It is a fiscally constrained project and the Bridge to 2nd is fully funded right now, with the focus on the North end from Broadway.

It is 5 lanes but he thinks the neighborhood has opportunities to plug into the design. He hopes for the final EIS to be out in early March. They have been working on and replying to responses since 2008 and there has been a peer review. He hopes to reach a ROD (Record of Decision) to build or not build by early June 2011. Ready to implement and can use stockpiled funds. He has asked Pink Grizzly to bring their concerns and needs to the table. In response to a question, he noted lights on 3rd would be at Catlin, Shilling/Curtis, and Johnson.

They are constrained by the LRTP (Long Range Transportation Plan).

Project is fully funded;

Going through NEPA;

EIS is written for MAXIMUM impacts but through design can be minimized.

The current emphasis is on the North end of the project.

Discussion followed with questions to both sides and continued right up to adjournment at 9 p.m.