

May 2, 2011
Rose Park Neighborhood Council Meeting
Minutes

Location: Unity Church
Attendance: Under 20

LT members present:
Diana Garrett
Nancy McCourt
Annette Puttkammer
Judy Smith
Jenny Daniel

Bob Jaffe gave his updates first since his time was limited.

- For future Rose Park neighborhood announcements, we should get on Bob's list-serve.
- Re-route of Arthur and 5th/6th will result in safety improvements – traffic flow improvements, pedestrian and bike traffic improvements, and will allow the UM to develop some property. Some construction has already begun, but will really get going right after graduation.
- The Russell Street plan is still being worked out prior to being released for public comment. It should be ready for review soon. We are still 2-3 years out before any actual work begins.
- May see a 3% pay increase for police salaries / pensions – something like 14% financed by the employee, 30% by the city, and the balance by the state. We were told the police and fire pension plans are adequately funded to cover future liabilities. The overall tax consequence of the 3% raise in police salaries (not including the pension liability) is about 0.5% of our tax bill. I think they said it works out to about \$4 per year on a \$225,000 home.
- There are several empty city lots that the city is considering using for affordable housing. The planning process to make a decision on moving forward will be a few more months, but some work may begin this year. Bob is the contact for any questions.
- Pothole repair work will continue with the equipment from Bozeman. The equipment uses recycled asphalt which cuts out a lot of reliance on the supplier who only makes asphalt for big orders.
- Downtown parking in Missoula – a new ticket structure is being discussed. Parking fines in Missoula haven't been raised for over 40 years. A tiered fine structure is being discussed. Want to encourage people who work downtown to park in parking structures or lease spots rather than park on the street. This would keep spaces open for shoppers.

Public comment

- Bike and pedestrian issues on South Ave. There will be some improvements made.
- It was determined that Bancroft is too narrow to add bike lanes and keep car parking.
- Brooks to the Higgins Bridge will also have biking improvements made.
- Orange Street and the Orange Street bridge needs bike improvements – public participation would help. Contact your city representatives, write letters, etc.
- BWAM feels they have been successful in advocating not only for bicycles, but for pedestrians as well. They are also about education.
- John Hart offered to provide food and refreshments to encourage neighbors to help clean up the Triangle Park area. There was discussion about the need for an organized effort at keeping this park up.
- Discussion about best approach to addressing vehicles that have been parked (and not moved) on streets.

Neighborhood Day – Nancy

- June 3rd and 5th – to celebrate 15 years of the neighborhood council system. No photos from Rose Park were submitted for the art show, unfortunately.

Tree Committee – Judy

- Would like to see an action-oriented committee to address keeping trees healthy.
- Could address issues such as renters who don't water the trees, and work with property-owners.
- Judy would like to obtain all of the emails we have gathered from previous Rose Park meetings and send an email announcement. She will contact Jane about this. Fire chief Mike Painter agreed to locate email addresses.

Budget – Nancy

- Small and large grant programs are available for councils to use for a variety of needs.
- She encouraged people to apply for the small grant program, which is for things up to \$500.
- One is currently submitted requesting \$\$ for roses at the memorial Rose Park.
- Grant money could also be used to pay someone to organize the Triangle Park upkeep.

Rose Park Leadership Team members needed

- More volunteers are needed. Diana and Annette have served more than one term already.

Opinions about Unity Church as a meeting place were positive. Since St. Paul's is undergoing construction, Unity may provide a good new meeting alternative.