

**Riverfront Neighborhood Council
General Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2014 5:00 - 6:30 pm**

Location:

Montana Natural History Center
120 Hickory Street
Misoula, MT 59801
(406) 327.0405

Moderator: Jonathan Qualben

I. Introductions

II. Russell Street Development

Overview: Loren Frazier, WGM Group

Leadership Team Recommendations: Caleb Kasper

Discussion followed. Unanimous agreement was reached on the following elements, except for vehicle lane width. Also note comments re: bike lanes.

- + Design Speed: 35 mph
- + Rollable Truck Apron to conform to tight turning radius
- + 6 ft. Bike Lanes, 11 ft. sidewalks

Comments: develop "pocket boulevards," more greenery, including native grasses. Possibly narrower sidewalks. Design to create boulevards that are welcoming to pedestrians, and will encourage drivers to realize and experience a neighborhood feel.

- + Mountable Curbs
- + Narrow vehicle lanes - 10 ft.....appx. 2/3 agreement on this issue about 1/3 of residents believe that he lanes should be 10.5 - 11 ft
- + Narrow Pedestrian Distance bulbouts on crossstreets
- + Busses stop in lanes if possible
- + Bike lanes constructed of different material than sidewalks
- + Milwaukee trail : Hawk Signal

The group voted to support **Option 1A** design as presented by Loran. These recommendations will be forwarded to WGM and the Technical Design Committee.

II. Neighborhood Grant/Mural Project: Gwen Hoppe

The RNC was awarded a 2014 large neighborhood grant of \$3,000. The project will be a mural on the building owned by Nutritional Laboratories, along the Milwaukee Spur Trail, just

off 3rd Street. Nutritional Labs will contribute \$1,000 toward the project. Gwen, Coordinator of the project, described plans to date, including the involvement of Willard Alternative High School students. The mural will be either painted or a mosaic. Community members are sought for participation on the design committee, or to help with the art when the project gets underway in the spring. A sign-up sheet was circulated.

III. 5th/6th Street Traffic Calming Project: Caleb

After a galvanized effort from the neighborhood over the past year, including a proposal for a pilot project, the project is stall at this time. Alex Taft, 4th Ward Councilman was present at the meeting and provided background. Alex sponsored the project in the Public Works Committee, but did not bring it to full council for a vote, as it was apparent that there were only 3 votes of support. Alex stated that he sensed that Council members and the public do not understand the safety issues. There must be more supporters of the project, or the proposal must be modified. There was discussion from the group, including a resident who voiced support for keeping the 2 lanes.

Caleb said that more education is needed, and the group should be broadened. He maintained that the crash and injury data is strong. Caleb also relayed a personal story of the danger. It is possible that the Rose Park neighborhood may want to be involved. In general, more involvement is needed, and the effort needs to be re-energized.

IV. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Jennifer discussed the continuing graffiti issue in the new Silver Park. For the first time, the park timber structures have been tagged in the winter. The damage occurred on the 2 older structures, and nearly every surface was hit. This is a neighborhood issue.

Gwen raised the "Light Our Bridges" project. Just before Christmas, the lighting of the Madison Bridge was approved. The design was toned down, but this was an initiative opposed by the Riverfront Neighborhood Council. Gwen expressed disappointment that the neighborhood was not mobilized and this slipped through. We hope that the results will not be seen as favorable and other downtown bridges will not be lighted.

Adjourn

The meeting concluded at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary LaPorte

Note: The leadership Team met briefly afterward and decided to set a regular monthly meeting time: 2nd Monday of the month, 5:30 pm. Location: Bernices's Bakery. LT will meet on February 10.