

2013 Community Forum Bus Tour Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 21, 2013, 6:00 pm

Location: City Council Chambers

Members: Ray Aten, Caroline Lonski, Mike Painter, Jeff Stevens

Attended: Caroline Lonski, Mike Painter, Jane Kelly, Shelby Wheeler, Gabby, Kelly, Jeff Stevens, Jesse Neidigh, Michelle Cares

Minutes taken by: Shelby Wheeler

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1. Review April 2013 Evaluation (below)
 - Could improve: 1 or 2 stops be more spaced out.
 2. What will we do differently? Make sure stop is in middle, not beginning; keep bus moving; meet at Beach to save \$\$\$
 - Possibly do the food differently. Caroline Lonski is in charge of food. Ideas for food include: Food for Thought, UM Catering, Montana Club, and Fat Cat.
 - Increase demographics on the Neighborhood Council invitation extended to everyone and invite their neighbors.
 3. Theme: same as last year? **“What Makes our Neighborhood Unique?”**
 - Every Neighborhood Council should be given the same chance with the same theme.
 4. How do we encourage NC leaders to follow the theme?
 - They have the theme and they're just fine following that theme however they please.
 5. How do we get City Council members to participate?
 - Invite them - Have them introduce something on the tour - give them a timeline and have them organize a short presentation on their neighborhood.
 - Keep in mind that only 58 people can go on the bus tour.
 - Possible "piggy backing" on to another presentation.
 6. Date: April 17, 2014, 5:00–8:00 pm—same slot as last year
 - Same slot - Meet behind Flanagan's to save money.
 7. Food

- Food should be locally owned.
 - Caroline Lonski in charge of food.
8. Expenses and accounts (approx.. food \$550; Bus \$480; Total-\$1030)
 - Community Forum has 441 and the rest would need to be taken from reallocated funds.
 9. NCs: River Road, University District, Farviews/Pattee Canyon, Moose Can Gully, South 39th Street, Southgate Triangle, Lewis and Clark, Miller Creek, Franklin to the Fort - How many stops for each NC; any disembarkation?
 - There will probably be only 1-2 disembarkations during the tour. Each neighborhood should submit three places they would like to talk about on the tour with a possibility of being trimmed. Also ask each neighborhood if they would like to have disembarkation and the committee will decide from there.
 10. Letters; organizing stops from the NC letters; Driving the route; Submitting to Beach Transportation
 - All covered.
 11. What else?
 - Necessary to make sure that the water bottle memo was clear?
 12. Public comment on non-agenda items
 - Michelle Cares - Demographics
 13. Next meeting
 - Either in January or February

Bus Tour Evaluation

April 2013

**Is the Bus Tour a worthwhile endeavor and would you like to have another one next year?
Please explain your answer.**

- Absolutely! I learned so much. Thank you.
- Yes. Win--win for tourers to learn and neighbor reps to focus on their needs, successes, being helpful, etc.
- Excellent Endeavor! Great way to learn about city projects and all the work done by citizen groups.
- Yes—Yes—different theme but continue education
- I thought this tour was fantastic. I think it would be valuable to do another with other people so more folks know about these great improvements.
- Wonderful and so informative. Yes, next year.
- Yes, very interesting. What happened to the south end of town? (*first time attendee and non NC person; I called and explained*)
- Yes, yes
- Yes
- Yes, the tour gives everyone a chance to see what kind of projects is being accomplished in other neighborhoods and to bring ideas back to their own neighborhoods.
- Yes and yes
- Enjoyed bus trip. Very informative. Saw areas I have been to. Good job organizing.
- Yes
- Yes. Yes.
- Yes—good exposure to other neighborhoods' assets.
- Yes—so good to see the growth points in the city. Builds community.
- I always like the tours because it gives people a wider look at that's happening around town.
- I have found this very interesting and informative. I'm not sure I would go again next year, but I'm glad I'm here.
- Very informative. I would love to go again and visit other neighborhoods.
- Thanks for having us Caroline, et al! Yes. Great localized treatment of timely neighborhood changes and features.
- Yes, the tour was very informative. It's great to get out and see what's going on around town.
- Yes, it enables us to get to know neighborhoods other than our own.
- It's good. Government ends up moving slow enough that every other year would be okay.

- Yes, I think it's great! The tour is a great opportunity to share neighborhood organizations and assets we care about and advocate for.
- I think it's great. Even long time Missoulians seem to be enjoying. Inspiring to hear the stories of folks taking action
- I feel the tour is a fantastic way to connect resident with other neighborhoods, to learn from and be inspired by other citizen-led initiatives. EOY might be perfect.
- Absolutely! I found it extremely enlightening
- Great. Have a new theme

- Yes, gave me an overview of the progressive work
- Yes. Great to hear about other neighborhood problems/successes.

What did you like about the Bus Tour?

- Speakers
- How well everything was organized. We did not go too fast or too slow
- good presentations and good eats
- It's a chance to find out more about Missoula neighborhoods
- The chance to learn about other neighborhoods
- Community involvement; very informative
- The projects that neighborhoods have accomplished. Liked going to the co-op! Seeing places I've not been to before. The diversity of the neighborhoods, involvement of council members. Passion of these residents for neighborhood improvements
- Everything. Toured parts of Missoula where I've never been—most interesting
- all the information on some new some expanded
- Enjoyed bus trip. Very informative. Saw areas I have been to. Good job organizing.
- Learning more about challenges other neighborhoods face and solutions
- I like that as a City staff person, I get a chance to tell people about the projects and plans we've been working on
- Seeing and hearing details re neighborhoods/projects I'm not familiar with
- The variety of speakers who spoke so positively, knowledgably and passionately about their neighborhoods.
- Convenient arrival of deer in the Rattlesnake! People can't help themselves from making digs about the Babs! In all seriousness, the tour was informative, inspiring and comfortable. This should happen more often with more diverse ridership
- Lots of information and enthusiastic presenters! It's great to see the excitement surrounding neighborhood projects
- The opportunity to see up close unique features of each neighborhood
- Hearing people explain the ultralocal view at the scene
- Easy, casual, one stop is great
- Interaction—new neighborhoods. Very important to learn about the neighborhood grants
- I loved getting to hear about the neighborhood projects while getting to see them. I also like it because I learned where a lot of cool things are like ZACC, the co-op, the cemetery and the trailheads.
- Getting what the neighborhood projects are. Wow!
- Good food
- Comfort, sandwich
- The food from Rattlesnake gardens was amazing.
- Excellent meals, great focus (love the positive focus) community based, loved opportunity to ask questions and learn. Love MCAT's presence.
- Tour of store (co-op)
- Burns St. Commons/co-op, paths and trails
- I especially enjoyed and thought worthwhile, the stop at the Community Food co-op and Burns Street Bistro. I had always meant to stop by and now I'm ready to stop by and ??? both the co-op and the bistro.
- Out of the way places; food co-op—White Pine Park

Was the length of the tour/ Please explain and offer suggestion

_1___ too short

_22__ just about right

_8___ too long

(1 just a little) too long

- 2 hours would be good

- 2 hour limit would be good
- Could use intermission stop
- Keep the bus moving; we should keep moving e.g. Don't stop so long at Babs/Rose Park/soccer fields, etc. Natural History too long sitting. To do better—last stop on bus KEEP MOVING!!! Too long
- Another person basically reiterated the above comments
- Have walk-off bus in middle of tour
- Could use an intermission stop
- Seemed about right. Two hours is about right; maybe a few more stops to get out and stretch and look around
- Perhaps shorten it to only 15 stops? Just about 45 mins. to 1 hour too long
- The tour was perfect in length
- Divide it into 2 shorter tours
- Maybe 2 wards at a time to shorten it.
- I think getting off a 2nd time might be nice if time allows; I think w/1 stop 2 hours on the bus would be better because it's hard to sit for so long! Or else have the stop more in the middle of the tour instead of the beginning.

How can we improve the Bus Tour?

- Please make sure that council people from neighborhoods are on board. They add a lot!
- More city council reps—they missed out on so much! Better participation from city council—otherwise it was very well organized and worth every minute.
- Cup holders
- Too many speakers. Who is supposed to benefit from the tour? Can we broaden the audience?
- Food was perfect and seats too small
- I would have liked a day time vs evening
- Give out a packet of synopses of each step
- When “audience” members asked questions of the speakers—not all of us could hear
- Could have had more specific information on less sites. The presenters were knowledgeable a, open to questions, and handsome to boot!
- A lot of presenters mentioned work=s in progress, or long-term neighborhood goals. A list of blogs, list-serves, websites or other means to get up-to-date info might be helpful

Other comments

- Great planning :-)
- Thanks for dinner
- Thanks
- Great job Jane and good food too!
- It's not often people have the time or get the chance to visit a lot of other neighborhoods; it's very exciting.
- Tell people to bring water or a drink. Ask for \$1 or \$2 donation. Follow up what do we do with all this information and ideas—energy to help improve the Missoula area?
- Best tour yet. Very positive. Nobody got off early! Spoke too soon.
- No spoons in some of the lunches
- Jane-YOU are delightful!
- It's good. Thanks Jane!
- I would've liked to see the inside of the parking structure
- I thought it was great
- Delicious cookie. Get these presenters on the Mountain Line, or publish a self-guided audio tour!
- Great tour—thanks!

- Thanks for the work you put in
- I appreciate the specificity you accommodated on food
- Great job! Great map! Well organized!
- Jane Kelly and Marisol Maddox are huge assets to Missoula!
- Thank you Jason Wiener and Dave Shaw and Ed Childers for prioritizing this trip!!! We appreciate you!