

New Pocket Park Project Meeting on March 25, 2014 @ Missoula Art Museum

Lynn Redding lredding@hotmail.com represented Heart of Missoula Neighborhood Council at the meeting and prepared these notes for Leadership Team records and use as project moves forward.

Core Project Leaders are:

Missoula Art Museum, Adventure Cycling, City of Missoula, and Missoula Parks and Recreation

SPVV Landscape Architects have been contracted to design the project. Contact is: Anne Hanenburg anne@spvv.com in Spokane.

This meeting was part of 2-day series to gather and share information about the project.

Current Proposal:

- Create 'pocket park' incorporating sidewalks that wrap the corners of MAM and Adventure Cycling. Sidewalks would bulb out and eliminate some parking spaces.
- Permanent &/or temporary artwork would be located in both areas.
- The new park space is primarily for MAM and Adventure Cycling to hold events, classes, and offer a more intimate scale public space to the community, possible use could include classes by Parks and Rec.
- Special events involving road closure are likely, probably a few times per year.
- Bus stop will remain and current routes maintained, though they may be affected by road closure during special events.
- Pine Street would become narrower with sidewalk increase, but one car lane in each direction would be maintained.
- Saturday seasonal People's Market may relocate, if park plans proceed.
- Intent is to form gateway gathering place framing Pine Street boulevard, with possibility of future temporary art exhibits located there as well as in the pocket park. Team sees this as an opportunity to slow traffic and indicate change from commercial center to residential neighborhood.
- New portable toilet, Portland Loo, is planned for location near current bus stop. It may be seasonal use only.

Possible Neighborhood Concerns Discussed:

- Street closures, particularly if they are random &/or frequent, not well publicized, etc. affecting cars, buses, and parking in the neighborhood
- Noise issues from music, parties, etc. Though they would not be after hours, it could be disruptive and is a potentially significant change to current activity in the area.
- Reducing roadway/parking may be issue for some people.

Project Timeline and Action Items:

- Plan to begin construction in August/September 2014.
- Tentative date for public charette to be held Saturday 1pm to 3pm on May 3, 2014.
- MAM and Adventure Cycling will be coordinating a postcard mailing to invite neighbors to the charette. They will probably use postal carrier code to identify addresses.
- Heart of Missoula Neighborhood Council will try to send representative to the charette and encourage neighbors to participate. After checking with Rene Pappas 543-7307, Historic East Pine Neighborhood Association, HENA, is no longer active. Those neighbors are part of Heart of Missoula NC.

- Design team contact list will be shared with NC Leadership Team, once it is available, and someone from NC will follow up with the project as needed.