



Rose Park Neighborhood Council - Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

RPNC LT Meeting – March 11, 2015 - 7:30 p.m.

Hal Fraser Conference Room (City Council Chambers / Missoula Redevelopment Agency, 140 W Pine)

In Attendance: Gwen Jones (RPNC LT), John Pilsworth (RPNC LT), Julie Devlin (RPNC LT), Michael Painter (RPNC LT), Kate Gemar (RPNC), Corena Maurer (Neighborhood Assistant).

Others Present: Bob Giordano (FreeCycles / Missoula Institute for Sustainable Transportation).

A meeting of the Rose Park Neighborhood Council Leadership Team was held on Wednesday, March 11th, in the Hal Fraser Conference Room (Missoula City Council Chambers / Missoula Redevelopment Agency @ 140 W Pine), starting at shortly after 7:30 p.m..

Introductions

Co-Chair Gwen Jones called the meeting to order. Those in attendance introduced themselves.

Minutes

The minutes from the last RPNC Leadership Team meeting (Jan.21.2015) were approved.

St. Joseph's School Playground

Gwen Jones gave a brief report on communication she has had with St. Joseph's – the school had closed the playground to public use for a short time period (due in part to increased dog waste, but also in part due to inclement weather making the field unsuitable for use). The school has re-opened the playground & Gwen has offered to have RPNC representatives meet with the school's administration to work together on addressing some of the problems the school has had with dog waste & vandalism. No meeting date is set at present, but Gwen will keep the leadership team informed if / when one is scheduled.

Bike Transportation Road Projects

Bob Giordano discussed briefly the history & work of FreeCycles and the Missoula Institute for Sustainable Transportation (MIST), including support for the roundabout @ Higgins & Beckwith.

Bob has been working with the Riverfront Neighborhood Council to develop a proposal to make changes to S. 5th St. & S. 6th St. (between Higgins & Russell) in order to provide for safer transportation & provide an adequate bike lane. The changes would involve reducing S. 5th St. & S. 6th St. to one lane of traffic for much of the area between Higgins & Russell, widening to include turn lanes at the traffic lights (Higgins, Orange, Russell). Riverfront NC has endorsed the proposal & the city council will be looking at budgeting funds for an impact study in the upcoming fiscal year. Bob handed out schematics of the proposed changes & offered to give a presentation at the next Rose Park Neighborhood Council general meeting (which is tentatively scheduled for this fall).

Ivy Community Garden Project Update

At Painter's request, Genevieve Jessop Marsh of Garden City Harvest had sent the following update to RPNC's LT regarding the Ivy Community Garden Project:

Michael, Here's the update as I know it:

- *We've met with Willard, they are on board for making the mural, in May or June. They also will be making us some benches and matching tables for the garden's community space.*
- *Derek has done some footwork on getting donations. He will be sending out a list of places the neighborhood council might have a connection with and might want to approach for donations for the garden.*
- *We have tentatively set a date for garden construction for April 17th. Fridays work best for Nature's Best, so we might be working on the 24th as well.*
- *Derek will be out of town from 3/5 to 3/23 and has put our work in the capable hands of his coworker, Jonah, who has had a hand in the planning of the garden already. He is their landscape specialist.*
- *Derek will be turning over his list of requests to Garden City Harvest and Jonah while he is gone. We'd like to have it wrapped up by April 1st.*
- *We are hoping to open the garden on a delayed start for this year if we can on June 1st. So folks can apply for the garden now!*
- *We are hoping to put together a sign for the garden spot, to recruit new gardeners who walk or drive by.*

I think that is it - thanks for asking!

Gwen also discussed the meeting with teachers from Willard, who will be working some of the garden amenities into their curriculum.

Rose Park Rose Gardens / Missoula Rose Society Support

Painter attended the February meeting of the Rose Society & offered RPNC's help with their work on the rose gardens at Rose Park. A general work day ("plant & prune") will be held Saturday, May 2nd, at the park, tentatively scheduled to start at approximately 10:00 a.m.. Per e-mail from Jane Kelly, the Rose Society does have neighborhood grant funds remaining. Jim Sadler & Ray Hoffman will be working on developing a specific plan for the general work day.

The Rose Society also discussed the need for some changes to the irrigation system at the park in order to maintain the roses. Painter offered to assist them with coordinating a plan for same with the City of Missoula's Parks & Recreation department.

The Rose Society meets again this month (March 19th @ Southgate Mall) & Painter will attend.

Community Forum Report

In Clare Wood's absence, Painter reported on the January & February meetings of Community Forum:

- January's presenters included:
 - Chris Boza, Urban Forester with the City of Missoula's Parks & Recreation Department, discussed the Urban Forestry Master Plan. Public meetings on the plan are scheduled & as the plan is finalized it will be presented to city council as well.
 - Scott Paasch, with the City of Missoula's Finance Office, went over the City's Capital Improvement program and the process by which projects are approved as part of the city's annual budget process.
- February's Community Forum presentations included:

- Aaron Brock, Executive Director of the Missoula Food Bank, talked about the Food Bank's programs, need for additional space & plans to solicit funds to cover the costs of moving to a larger facility in the area of Catlin & Wyoming.
- Don Verrue, Building Official with the City of Missoula's Development Services Department, discussed development in the city & how information on projects can be obtained by Missoula residents via the city's website & Development Services reports. New software is being considered which would further facilitate access of such information.
- Approval of three Small Neighborhood Grant Requests:
 - Downtown Missoula Piano Project
 - Lowell Elementary School Garden Mosaic
 - "Winter Art Studio Night"

Office of Neighborhoods Report

Corena Maurer talked about the Office of Neighborhoods interest in adding some "tabling" events at which Missoula residents could obtain information about the city's neighborhood councils and be encouraged to become involved in their council. Current tabling events include Sunday Streets – possible additional opportunities might be the Western Montana Fair or ASUM Rental Center events (in conjunction with the UM Neighborhood Ambassadors). Corena also mentioned that the Office was looking into having a "Neighborhood Night" at an Osprey game this year.

Corena noted that the Office is working primarily now on the upcoming Community Forum Neighborhood Bus Tour (April 16th). Gwen Jones, Clare Wood & John Pilsworth will be representing Rose Park's LT. Painter is assisting with mapping out the route.

After the bus tour is complete, Jane Kelly & Corena will be developing a schedule for visiting neighborhoods with traffic circles which have not yet been "adopted" (have neighbors agreeing to maintain those traffic circles).

Kate Gemar informed the leadership team that she was in the process of completing an application to have a traffic circle installed in her neighborhood.

New Business

Painter requested that Julie Devlin give a brief report on the park @ Willard School. Julie has been regularly making efforts to clean up dog waste from the park – which is especially helpful now that youth lacrosse teams have started practice. Julie was informed by a representative from Willard that there may have been damage to the school's irrigation system done when trees purchased in part by a small neighborhood grant were planted in October. There was (again) some discussion regarding ownership of the park – the city's property information system indicates that the park belongs to MCPS.

Next Meeting

It was generally agreed to hold off scheduling another LT meeting until we hear from Genevieve & Derek regarding materials needed for development / construction of the Ivy Community Gardens site.

Summary / Minutes submitted by Painter.

South 5th Street (Existing)



Hickory & 5th Street Facing West

mist

South 5th Street BikeWay (Draft Proposal)



Hickory & 5th Street Facing West

mist



Possible intersection treatment at the signals: the buffered bike lane would narrow slightly and a right turn lane would be added for motor vehicles

Proposal for S. 5th and 6th Streets

- How this proposal improves the neighborhood:
 - **Community** is more livable with safer walker and cyclist facilities
 - **Residents** benefit from lower speeds, less noise and pollution, fewer crashes
 - **Cyclists** gain a connected east/west bike lane
 - **Pedestrians** cross only one lane of cars
 - **Motorists** have smoother flow and increased parking width
- The strong support of the people living on 5th and 6th has inspired forward momentum on the project, including unanimous support at a 2013 Riverfront Neighborhood Council meeting.
- There have been countless stories about speeding vehicles and crashes involving cars, bikes and pedestrians. Police reports indicate S. 5th and S. 6th as one of the highest crash areas in Missoula. From the 2012 Missoula Long Range Transportation Plan (p.3-17), “Of the top 30 road segments with the highest crash rates, seven locations are along Reserve Street, five along Brooks St, **4 along 5th and 6th Streets**, 3 along I-90, and three along Mullan Road.”
- Two-way traffic is a possibility yet there would not be enough room to include bike lanes.
- Current and projected traffic volumes will likely flow better with this proposal than the current roadway configuration: this proposal keeps two turn lanes at the intersections with Russell, Orange and Higgins (a left/straight lane and a right turn lane). Note: a City traffic model that predicted slight traffic shifting erroneously did not include two lanes at the traffic signals.
- This proposal is inexpensive and would only involve shifting painted lines, possible signal head adjustment and parking adjustments at the signals. Both roads are likely to be chip sealed in summer 2015, creating a ‘blank canvas’ and an ideal time to implement this proposal.
- This proposal is for the sections of S 5th and S 6th between Higgins and Russell, which have the lowest volumes of traffic. The combined traffic volume is roughly 8,000 cars a day. This type of proposal is generally suitable for combined traffic up to about 20,000 cars a day. Observations and counts of ‘game day’ traffic from UM show this proposal to work (more than half of cars at 5th and Higgins turned south onto Higgins).

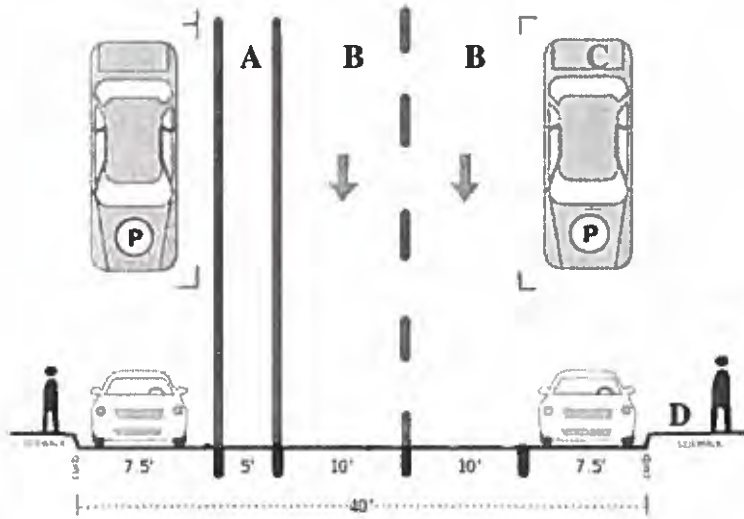
Proposal Contact Information:

River Front Neighborhood Council (<http://ci.missoula.mt.us/283/Riverfront>)

Missoula Institute for Sustainable Transportation 880-6834, mist@strans.org

S. 5th & S. 6th Street Current Configuration and Proposal (Russell to Higgins)

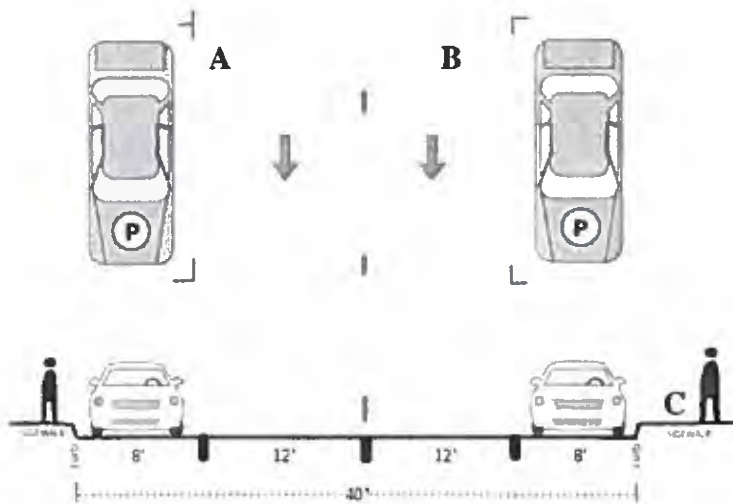
Current S. 5th Street Configuration



- A. Minimum widths for bike lane, parking lane and travel lane creates danger for cyclists from passing cars and opening doors
- B. Dual travel lanes promote speeding and dangerous lane changing
- C. Parked cars more likely to be hit due to minimum width lanes, and passengers put in danger when exiting vehicle.
- D. Pedestrians in danger when one lane stops and other does not

Note: All lanes at minimums on S. 5th currently

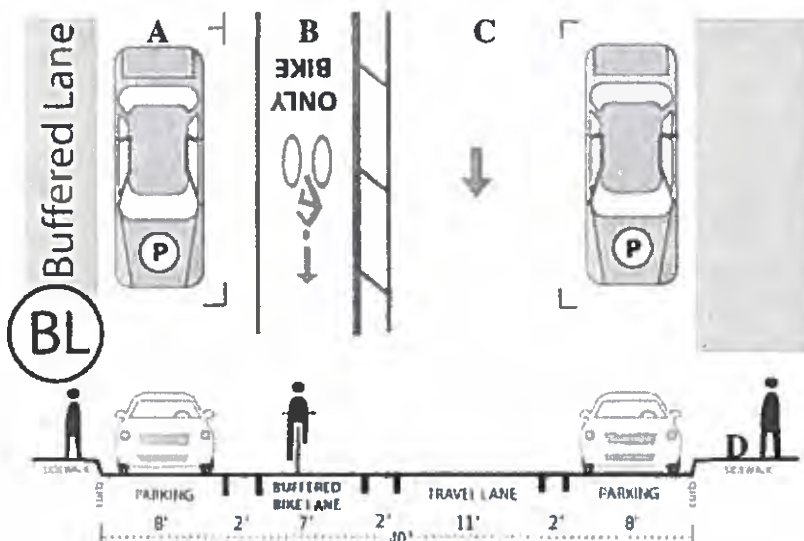
Current S. 6th Street Configuration



- A. Cyclists must 'take the lane' or ride in door zone
- B. Dual travel lanes promote speeding and dangerous lane changing
- C. Pedestrians in danger when one lane stops and other does not

Note: Parts of S. 6th only have one parking lane (this would stay the same with below proposal)

Proposed S. 5th and S. 6th Street Configuration



- A. Parking gains a buffer from cyclists and moving cars to ensure safety when opening doors.
- B. Cyclists gain bike lane with a buffer, providing safer separation from moving and parked cars.
- C. Motorists get smoother speeds, allowing for efficient and safe travel (right turn lane added at signals).
- D. Pedestrians only have to cross one lane of motorized traffic.

Overall- can expect calmer traffic (less speed, noise, dust and crashes) and more enjoyable walking and cycling experience