

Riverfront Neighborhood Council Leadership Team

Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday September 14, 2015

Time: 5:30- 6:300 pm

Location: Bernice's Bakery

Leadership Team Members in Attendance: Jonathan Qualben, Caleb Kasper, Mary LaPorte

Others Present: Councilwoman Emily Bentley, Doug Hawes-Davis, Amy Shattuck, Jane Bennett, Gwen Hoppe, Jane Kelly, Neighborhood Coordinator

I. **Introductions** were made by all attendees. Approval given for moving order of agenda items according to participants present.

II. California Street Improvements

Councilwoman Emily Bentley provided history on MRA's development plans for California Street. Although sidewalks and street improvements were slated in the original Saw Mill District plans, improvements have been delayed due to financial constraints. Such constraints include the requirement for the City to bail out the Ball Park (\$450 million), as well as the time lag in other private developments at the site.

The need to attend to California Street is growing. School kids are waiting for the bus in the street, and the bike and pedestrian traffic is increasing.

Doug is a nearby resident who has followed the development plan closely. He noted that these sidewalks are tied to north side development, although Wyoming Street development was not. The MRA is not as committed to California Street. In fact, Doug was required to pay for his own sidewalks upfront (he was reimbursed.) Meanwhile, the Missoula Housing Authority has been "off the hook" for sidewalks.

Doug raised another issue. Homeward's proposed low income development, Sweet Grass Common, has been cited on land previously slated for green space/pocket park. It seems that the developer moved the low income development on this space. An MRA meeting set for September 16 will asked for the City's commitment for \$200,000- plus subsidy for the land. Doug will try to attend this meeting a voice this concern.

Next Steps:

- Emily will organize a meeting to include herself, MRA, the Housing Authority, Loyola High School, and Riverfront

representatives. Caleb agreed to participate on behalf of the LT.

- The next RFNC General Meeting will focus on California Street. Parties to be invited include: MRA, Private Developers Ed & Leslie Weatherby, and PlayBall Missoula.
- Tasks before the meeting include formation of an LT-endorsed resolution requesting prioritization of California Street. We also need to canvass residents of the area to encourage attendance

III. Public Comment

Amy Shattuck, Principal of Franklin Elementary
Jane Bennett, principal of Willard Alternative High School

Amy and Jane attended to provide educational information about the MCPS Smart Schools 2020 School Bond which will be on the Ballot Nov. 3. Materials were provided; more information is on line on the MCPS website.

IV. City Council Candidate Forum: October 1, 6:30 -7:30 Paxson School

Candidates:

Ward 3: Gwen Jones & Ben Hart

Ward 4: John DiBari & Patrick Weasel Head

Jane has been organizing this for all the neighborhood councils. Facilitators will be Steve Edwards, Community Dispute Resolution Center, and representatives of the League of Women Voters.

Advertising Options: PSAs in the newspapers. Mary and Caleb will place sandwich boards.

Cost Sharing for refreshments: RFNC will share a portion of the costs.

V. Update 5th/6th Street Study: Caleb

Caleb has been in contact with Ben Weiss and will keep us posted.

VI. Work Group: Osprey Fireworks Issue

There were many troublesome issues at the most recent fireworks event: very loud, very late - after 11:00 pm - seemingly no permit, and no warning nor notice to the neighborhood. Gwen called 911 and was informed by the operator that there was a permit, but this doesn't seem to be the case.

Gwen stated that this should be a city-wide issue, not just our neighborhood.

Emily plans to look into sponsoring an ordinance regarding Osprey fireworks. This will be most appropriate after the upcoming council elections.

VII. Next Riverfront Neighborhood General Meeting

- **Date: Monday October 26, 5:30 pm**
- **Agenda Items**
 - o **California Street**
 - o **5th/6th Street**
 - o **Plans re: Fireworks & Noise at Ogren Field**
 - o **MIST re: Orange, Higgins and Long Range Plans**
- **Location: will seek Free Cycles**

VIII. Office of Neighborhoods Report: Jane

-Training for Neighborhood grant proposals Sept. 13. Large grant requests will be due October 6. The maximum request will be \$3000.

IX. Announcements

Mary provide information from Free Cycles and MIST about Bike/Walk week:

- 9.22: Right Sizing Orange Street: 5 pm 1st Street & Orange.
- 9.23: Family Fun Game and Craft Night, 6:30 – 8:00, Free Cycles
- 9.23 Reimagining the Hip Strip, noon at XXXs on Higgins

The Leadership Team will meet on Tuesday October 13, 2015 at 5:30pm at Bernice's. Agenda items to include: Possible endorsement re: California Street from the Leadership Team to present at the General Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary LaPorte
September 21, 2015