

Riverfront Neighborhood Council General

Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, May 8, 2017

Time: 5:30- 7:30 pm

Location: Free Cycles
732 S. 1st St. W
Missoula, MT 59801

Leadership Team Attendance: Mary LaPorte, Jeff Rice, Janet McMillan, Britt Arnesen, Caleb Kasper, Jonathan Qualben, Ed Nolder

Others in Attendance: Jane Kelly (Neighborhood Coordinator), Chris Boza (City of Missoula Urban Forester), Gwen Jones (City Council), Ben Weiss (Missoula Bike & Pedestrian Program Manager)

Total attendance: Approx. 40

1. **Neighborhood Tree Plan: Chris Boza (City of Missoula Urban Forester)**

Chris shared that the goal is for each neighborhood to have an assigned tree so that visitors know what neighborhood they are in based upon the tree. There are 5 species of tree assigned for Riverfront Neighborhood and the main one is the Western Larch. The area for these trees to be planted is between the sidewalk and the curb.

2. **Update on 5th/6th Traffic Safety Analysis: Ben Weiss & Gwen Jones**

Ben shared that Alta Planning found that if 5th/6th streets were converted from dual lanes down to single and the major intersections were adjusted to a turn lane and a single thru lane then the traffic flow can be just as quick as it currently is so long as the signal cycles are adjusted to be quicker (i.e., if it is currently set at 2 minutes for the green light then that needs to be adjusted down).

This is just what the study has found. There has not been any approval of what/if any changes will be made to these roads.

3. **Future of Higgins Street lanes between Broadway & Brooks: Ben Weiss**

The State has determined that Higgins Street Bridge is structurally deficient and needs a major rehab. The rehab for Higgins Street repairs will go out to bid in November of 2019. The plan is that the new bridge will utilize the current area for widened vehicle lanes and will add wings for pedestrian and bike lanes. These cantilevered wings will be manufactured from compressed plastic (like the new pedestrian bridge over Reserve Street was made from).

Britt motioned to support expending \$40k from the City budget that council will vote on to provide for a Higgins Street study. We would like the study to explore options for Higgins Street between Broadway and Brooks for safe traffic flow of vehicles, bikes and pedestrians. Jonathan seconded the motion. Britt made an amendment to look into the Highway 12 designation along Brooks Street as part of the study; Jonathan seconded. The vote was approved unanimously.

4. **Riverfront Neighborhood Clean-Up Day**

Other neighborhoods have gotten together to clean up their areas. Riverfront Neighborhood Leadership Team and Free Cycles will be sponsoring a clean-up day on Saturday, June 10th from 10am to 1pm. Refreshments and food will be provided. Roughly 12 individuals at the meeting were interested in helping out.

5. **Q&A with City Council**

Gwen Jones had to leave early for a Council meeting.

6. **Public comment on non-agenda items**

Gwen Hoppe of Willard School presented the sketch for the 3rd installment of the mural painting on the side of Elite One Source Nutritional Services.

Helen Jenkins shared that the Willard School is building a new facility. The Riverfront neighborhood is invited to attend a meeting regarding the design for the new facility on Wednesday, May 24th at 2:45pm.

There is currently nothing new to report on the Missoula International School development.

Resident of the neighborhood, Cameron, shared that 4th and California has a roundabout that is overgrown with weeds and he will be cleaning it out. All are welcome to help.

There was a question regarding noise levels from an event at Loyola School. It was recommended for a phone call to Loyola School asking their input on the levels and how we should handle it as a neighborhood if an event is loud again.

A new resident on California Street asked for something to be done regarding traffic and infrastructure on California Street near Bargain Corner.

7. Announcements

The next General Meeting will be Wednesday, September 20th at Silver Park at 5:30pm.

Minutes submitted by Jeff Rice

Jane Kelly, Neighborhood Coordinator
Karen Gasvoda, Neighborhood Assistant
Riverfront Council Leadership Team
Ben Weiss, Bicycle/Pedestrian Program Manager
Chris Boza, Missoula Urban Forester
Gwen Jones, Ward 3 City Council Member

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