

Riverfront Neighborhood Council Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2022

4:00 PM

Bernice's Bakery, 190 S. 3rd St. W.

The Riverfront Leadership Team (RLT) met at Bernice's Bakery from 4:00PM - 5:40PM on November 17, 2022. RLT members present were: Christine Littig, John Qualben, Tristan Hester, Eva Dunn-Froebig, and Deb Bonk.

Minutes for September 15, 2022 and October 20, 2022 were approved.

Neighborhood Watch Briefing. Tony Rollin joined us to provide a presentation on Missoula's Neighborhood Watch Program. This included an overview of how the Neighborhood Watch program works with interested groups with a focus of helping to reduce crime by educating citizens, motivating them to be proactive, training members, and providing tools to help make our communities safer. Missoula residents can join individually, or by bringing together blocks of interested parties in their neighborhood. Those who are interested in learning more about this program can do so by going to the Missoula Neighborhood Watch webpage. RLT members will be exploring levels of interest in their part of the Riverfront community and provide updates at future meetings.

Riverside Neighborhood Updates. RLT members next engaged in a discussion of issues and concerns across our neighborhoods and whether we were able to use funds to address any of these issues. Our discussions focused on:

- **Speeding.** RLT members discussed concerns about speeding in many of our neighborhoods. We will continue to discuss this with the goal of exploring whether there are places where it would make sense to purchase and deploy "kids at play" signs to attempt to put some traffic calming measures in place.
- **Traffic Light at Cregg and Orange Street.** Christine received an update on the status of this planned project. It is still on the list of projects that Missoula intends to pursue. RLT members discussed the importance of continuing to press the City on this and noted that there had been a bad accident at that intersection earlier this week. The City has the results of a traffic survey that was conducted, and we will reach out in the new year for an update.
- **The "Roundabout" on Wyoming Street.** RLT members discussed the challenges presented by this "roundabout" because it is not marked like other ones around Missoula, and it is also much smaller. Drivers and pedestrians are often confused about who has the right of way. Early in the new year we will explore whether there is some additional signage that might help rectify this situation and determine whether to engage further on this with the City.

- **Concerns About Safety in the Vicinity of the California Street Foot Bridge and Silver Park.** Riverfront residents continue to express concerns about the safety of these areas, especially at night. We will continue to discuss this issue in the coming year, with a goal of possibly engaging with the Missoula Police Department to better understand their priorities in this area and how residents can engage with them on these issues.
- **Sculpture Park Proposal.** Christine reported on her discussion with Missoula Parks and Recreation about the status of this proposal. Parks and Recreation supports doing the feasibility study but noted that any decision or implementation is likely far off. Nonetheless, RLT members expressed concerns that only one location — in our neighborhood - is being considered for a “feasibility” study. Our strong preference is that the city explore multiple locations as part of any feasibility study and that community engagement start at the beginning of this process not after the study is complete. The RLT decided that we will draft a letter to the City and Parks and Recreation laying out our interest in multiple locations being considered. We expect to have this letter ready no later than early December 2022.

Community Forum Update. Eva provided an update on the most recent meeting. There was a discussion of a new zoning proposal and RLT members will be going to EngageMissoula.com to learn more about the proposal and its potential impact on the Riverfront Neighborhood. This issue will be discussed at a November 28, 2022 City Council meeting. RLT members and interested Riverfront residents are encouraged to share their views with the City on this issue via the City’s Engage Missoula website.

Projects of Grant Funding. The RLT briefly discussed some ideas for neighborhood improvement. Given the deadline to apply for funds for this year, the RLT has decided to focus on identifying some quality projects for next year that we will have time to fully explore and seek neighborhood input on. Some of the ideas that have come up from within the neighborhood include: an ice rink, community gardens, and EV charging stations.

Next Meeting. The RLT will not meet in December 2022. We will meet next on January 19, 2023 at a location to be determined.