

Riverfront Neighborhood Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2023

3:30 PM

Montana National History Center

The following team members were present: Eva Dunn-Froebig, Tristan Hustler, Tyler Warren, Deb Bonk, and Kalina Pritchard, Missoula Neighborhoods. Several residents of the Riverfront neighborhood were in attendance. The meeting was chaired by Eva Dunn-Froebig.

Business Conducted:

- 1. Meeting Minutes:** Eva asked if members had a chance to review the notes from the February meeting. Attendees had, and Tristan moved to approve the February 16, 2023 minutes. Deb seconded the motion.
- 2. Discussion with Missoula Transportation Planning.** As a follow-up to our general meeting in March, the RLT invited Ben Weiss, Missoula's Transportation Planner to this session to hear from neighbors about traffic concerns in the Riverfront area. One of the neighbors who raised this during the general meeting led off by reviewing the concerns raised in the previous meeting. These included concerns of speeding and traffic volume along Hickory Street and limited visibility and dangerous conditions for pedestrians and bikers along First Street. Other RLT members highlighted what they saw as dangerous conditions elsewhere in the Riverfront Neighborhood. Discussions with Ben highlighted the following:
 - The transportation team will do some speed, traffic, and incident research in the areas discussed over the spring and summer. The goal of this research is to see what kind of traffic calming options might be available.
 - In response to a question about traffic circles, Ben noted that they have become much more expensive with new ADA requirements. The City has been exploring options other than circles as traffic calming measures due to increased cost.
 - In response to a question about lowering speed limits in these areas, Ben noted that Montana law has a bottom limit of 25 mph for setting speed limits and Missoula would not be able to do anything in this regard.
 - In response to a question about the status of a light at the intersection of Cregg and Orange Streets, Ben noted that this was a decision for the State vice the City since Orange Street is the State's responsibility. He said that the State recently agreed with Missoula's recommendation to put a light at this location and will now move forward with impact and design assessments. He noted that the developer was pushing back a bit on timing and funding and that completion of this project was likely 2-3 years down the road.
- 3. Planning for Riverfront Neighborhood Clean Up.** The team reviewed current planning for this event. Christine Littig and Eva Dunn-Froebig are serving as co-captains for this event. Kalina passed out posters announcing the event for members to use in highlighting the event. The event will be held across the Riverfront Neighborhood on April 29, from 11:00 - 2:00. Our command post will be in Silver Park and residents will be able to pick up gloves, tools, and bags and return trash to a dumpster located in the park. The RLT approved dedicating funds to procure ice cream for those involved

in the cleanup.

4. **Neighborhood Profiles.** Kalina provided an update on the status of efforts to refine and update the Riverfront Neighborhood Profile. This will include demographic and other data that will help the City and RLT better understand the composition of our neighborhood.

5. **Scariano Development Along First Street.** Eva noted that she had not been able to get an update in advance of our meeting. RLT members suggested inviting the developers to come to a future meeting to discuss their plans. Eva asked about the availability of Ed and Leslie Wetherbee to discuss the status of Old Sawmill District development. Deb noted that she was waiting to hear back on potential availability.

6. **California Street Project.** As a follow-up to the general meeting and some comments by Daniel Carlino about a project moving forward in this area, Kalina provided an update. She noted that while a preliminary plan is under discussion nothing has been formally approved at this point. The Missoula Redevelopment Agency has a brief description of the project, and the status is on the MRA website.

7. **Sculpture Park.** The RLT discussed the City's response to our December 2022 letter and noted that it would be useful to invite the appropriate officials and the project's initiator to attend a future meeting as part of our ongoing discussion.

8. **Treasurer's Report.** Tristan provided an update on the RLT's budget, noting that current funds must be spent by June 30, 2023.

9. **Community Forum Report.** Tyler provided a readout on the last community forum, noting the primary topics were neighborhood grant recommendations and planning for a number of neighborhoods cleanup efforts.

Non Agenda Items:

1. The RLT highlighted a vacancy for members at the general meeting in March. Danny Gundlach attended this meeting and expressed his interest in joining the RLT. A motion was made, and seconded, to have Danny fill this vacancy. Kalina will update the email aliases to include Danny on RLT communications.
2. A resident of the Riverfront neighborhood highlighted ongoing concerns about accumulating trash and homeless encampments in the area of California and First Street. This resident noted extensive outreach to the City to get the area cleaned up and to keep it free from encampments. Stolen mail has become an issue in this area.
3. Deb Bonk noted that the Old Sawmill District is setting up a Neighborhood Watch and that the new Missoula Crime Prevention Officer would be speaking to residents on Monday, April 24, at 5:30 in The Sawyer at 775 Wyoming Street. RLT members were invited to join this discussion.