



## **Rose Park Neighborhood Council – Leadership Team Meeting Minutes**

Apr 26, 2017 (Wednesday) – 5:00 pm - Jack Reidy Room, Missoula City Council Chambers (140 W Pine)

In Attendance: Gwen Jones (RPNC; City Council Ward 3 Rep), Julie Devlin (RPNC LT), Tate Jones (RPNC LT), Michael Painter (RPNC LT), Jane Kelly (Office of Neighborhoods), Karen Gasvoda (Office of Neighborhoods), Ryan Sudbury (City Attorney's Office), Brian Upton (RPNC), Bob Giordano (Free Cycles; Lower Rattlesnake NC LT)

**Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items** – None. Painter reported that Margaret Mallino (RPNC LT) was under the weather & would not be in attendance.

### **Missoula Catholic Schools Letter**

Gwen Jones gave a report on the history of the closure of the playground to public use @ St. Joseph's. Deputy City Attorney Ryan Sudbury reported on his research into the Buy-Sell agreement. After lengthy discussion, Gwen offered to write a response to Missoula Catholic Schools and to set up a meeting with Missoula County Public Schools to elicit their support for further action. That suggestion was endorsed unanimously by the leadership team members present.

### **Proposed Traffic Study for "Hip Strip" / Other Street Projects**

Gwen Jones discussed current public works projects in the planning & study stages of interest to Rose Park, including: possible changes to Higgins from Broadway to S 6<sup>th</sup> St; the Higgins Street Bridge repair / rebuild; and the Brooks Street Corridor. Bob Giordano reported that RiverFront NC recently endorsed some of the traffic study recommendations in the "Hip Strip" & S 5<sup>th</sup> & S 6<sup>th</sup> Streets.

### **General Neighborhood Meeting**

Painter asked for input on holding a general neighborhood meeting either this spring or in early fall (September after school starts). Given the current status of several neighborhood projects, it was unanimously agreed by the LT to plan on scheduling a general meeting in the fall. Jane Kelly also reminded the LT that we may want to consider hosting or co-hosting a candidate's forum.

### **Community Forum Report**

Julie Devlin reported on the March Community Forum meeting - presentations included: design & progress of fund-raising for the new Missoula Public Library; Public Art Committee's Traffic Signal Boxes; and the Downtown Apartment Complex on E Front.

**Office Of Neighborhoods Report** – Jane Kelly noted that there would be a Traffic Circle Day event held at Bonner Park on May 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. – anyone interested in learning about "adopting" a traffic circle or about maintaining plants there should attend. Jane will be attending Neighborhood Works training in Minneapolis the week of May 21<sup>st</sup> through May 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **Next Leadership Team Meeting – Wednesday, May 24th, 2016 – 5:00 pm – Jack Reidy Room, Missoula City Council Chambers (140 W Pine)**

Minutes submitted by Painter 05/10/17.

3/22/2017

Dear Ms. Jones and Rose Park Neighborhood Council,

Thank you so much for your patience and understanding during the process of reviewing the playground closure at St. Joseph Catholic School with our school leadership and school board. As you know, prior to and since purchasing the building, it has been the home to thousands of Missoula area students and families. Being a neighborhood school is what once attracted us to this facility as Missoula Catholic Schools (MCS) is already a vital part of this neighborhood with its sister school just down Edith Street. The school is also a significant component to fulfilling our mission and we are eternally blessed to be part of the ongoing neighborhood development and spirit of service that is so evident in our neighbors.

St. Joseph students and staff have spent countless hours providing service to our neighbors. We are proud that along with cleaning the school grounds, raking leaves, shoveling snow and verifying that our school community plays a strong part in watching out for our neighborhood, we are blessed to have this location in such proximity to our high school.

Thank you for meeting with us on January 15<sup>th</sup>. We feel it was a very productive meeting and hope that everyone felt heard. After speaking with our Executive Committee and then the entire school board, it was strongly supported that opening our playground through the night, especially on weekends, is a risk that we cannot afford to take. Further, the negative incidents that led to the closure have ceased completely since the overnight closures began. It was decided that we will continue closing our playground but wanted to let everyone in the neighborhood know that our playground is not closed until approximately 6pm each weekday evening. Over the summer months, the playground is open during most weekdays, and is available for use to the neighborhood families and their children.

It is our sincere apology than anyone took offense to our signage on the fencing. We will be replacing that signage with something that is more welcoming and more expressive of the playground's availability but will exclude any animal usage of the facility. We are simply unable to manage the animal issue regardless of the human usage. As a school community we are excited to continue the historical use of the facility, which has been ongoing since the purchase in 2005, including the near daily use of our playground and gymnasium for Missoula area youth sports teams, recreational leagues and as a polling place. Hosting these practices and events, along with running the gymnasium as a polling place, is a significant logistical task and is difficult on the daily operation of the school. However, we enjoy the connectivity with the neighborhood and will continue with that traditional usage. We feel it truly shows our commitment to the neighborhood and the Missoula community.

Again, more than anything, we want to thank the entire neighborhood council leadership, council members, and Councilwoman Jones for advocating for the community and hope that everyone feels welcome at St. Joseph. We will continue to be good stewards of the historical Roosevelt Building and welcome the ongoing usage of our facility for the city of Missoula.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Beck, MCS President



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