

Rose Park Neighborhood General Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2023, 5:00-6:45 PM, Memorial Rose Garden, 800 Brooks Street, Missoula

1. Meeting Details

- a. Rose Park citizens met starting at 4:45 pm, enjoyed Big Dipper ice cream and mingled with their neighbors. The business meeting began at ~5:25 pm. Citizens were encouraged to sign in.
 - i. Representing the Rose Park Leadership Team were Rachel Calderon-Naverro, Michael Painter, Wally Congdon, and Tony Rollin
 - ii. Representing the Missoula City Council were Gwen Jones and Mike Nugent.
 - iii. Several members of the Missoula Fire Department were present and they were thanked for their service.
- b. Rachel Calderon-Naverro, who served as meeting moderator, welcomed citizens, and introduced representatives from the Office of Neighborhoods: Laval Means and Melissa Glueckert. (Ms. Glueckert is a new member of the Office of Neighborhoods staff.)
- c. Quick Announcements
 - i. Citizens were encouraged to sign up for neighborhood email announcements by registering online at <https://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/list.aspx?ListID=286>
 - ii. Citizens were encouraged to volunteer for clean-up of the Slant Street Gateway which is the open space in front of the Mount Street Fire Station. Near Plymouth Street.

2. Presentations/Discussion

- a. Our Missoula: Growth Policy Update and Code Reform – Ashley Brittner-Wells
 - i. Ms. Brittner-Wells provided background information on Equity in Land Use: Online information & engagement. One purpose of the initiative is to fight segregation and gentrification. Citizens can learn more about this initiative and make your voice heard at <https://www.engagemissoula.com/our-missoula>
- b. Missoula Rose Society on activities in Rose Park
 - i. The representative from the Rose Society was not able to attend the meeting. The primary theme of their presentation was the Adopt-a-Bed process. More information can be found at <https://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/181/Memorial-Rose-Garden>
 - ii. The Rose Society will work to promote the Adopt-a-Bed program in the spring of 2024. Training for volunteers will be made available at that time. Look for more information online and by email for those who are signed up for Notify Me.
- c. Brooks Street Corridor Plan – Rachel Huff-Doria and Peter Walker-Kellerer
 - i. Rachel and Peter provided graphics and a discussion about the subject plan. The area of focus is mostly south of Rose Park Neighborhood along the commercial section of Brooks Street from Reserve Street to Mount Avenue. More information can be found at <https://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/2910/Transforming-the-Brooks-Street-Corridor>

- ii. Question was asked about impact on Brooks Street along Rose Park and north to Higgins Street. Concern was raised about trees along that portion of Brooks Street. Answer was that there would be no impact from this initiative on trees along Brooks Street.
 - iii. Point was made to make sure that, as the city grows, adequate space is maintained for vehicle traffic.
 - iv. Point was made to make sure there is adequate left turn capability.
- d. Midtown Missoula Master Plan Updates – Melanie Brock/Laval Means
 - i. Laval Means commented that the subject plan has been adopted following a year-long process which included citizen input. More information can be found at <https://www.midtownmasterplan.com/>

3. Neighborhood Updates:

- a. Citizens were encouraged to contribute to the Slant Street Gateway Use and Neighborhood Grant Idea Boards.
- b. Ideas submitted for Slant Street Gateway Use
 - i. Basketball/sports court
 - ii. Community-run auto shop
 - iii. Garden
 - iv. Mini amphitheater
 - v. Pool
 - vi. Sculpture Garden
 - vii. Park and fountain
 - viii. Cleaning pocket park on Mount
- c. Ideas for Neighborhood Grants
 - i. Neighborhood Toolbox
 - ii. Planter pots and art for roundabouts (Rollins and Harlem Streets)
 - iii. A kid-created neighborhood mural
 - iv. ADA access on all corners in the neighborhood
 - v. Non-motorized infrastructure improvements
 - vi. Pocket parks
 - vii. Pocket parks with more crosswalks
 - viii. Teaching/learning permaculture Free Food Garden
 - ix. Rose Garden update, cleaning, maintenance, rose replacement
 - x. Bird/butterfly garden
 - xi. Trails
 - xii. Historic sign about the origins of the Slant Streets (South Missoula edition) at the Slant Streets entrance at Park/Mount/Plymouth/Franklin Streets
 - xiii. Pickleball court at Williard
 - xiv. Murals
 - xv. Improved amenities for bus riders
- d. Grant Process Timeline
 - i. Each year, the Missoula City Council allocates \$20,000 for Neighborhood Project Funds for the Energizer grants. These grant projects should enhance the quality

- of life in our community and must be located within city limits and have lasting benefit for city residents. Grant recipients can be awarded up to \$6,000 each.
- ii. Neighborhood Energizer Grants support resident-initiated projects that improve our neighborhoods and the city as a whole. These projects facilitate civic cooperation, neighbor engagement, and community building; create real physical improvements to benefit Missoulians; and engage in community planning or visioning, all at the neighborhood scale.
 - iii. The next grant cycle will be starting very soon. The Missoula Neighborhoods office will post the application on the website by the end of September. They will then host a grant workshop in early to mid-October. This is a good chance for you to learn more about the application and get some tips and tricks from the Neighborhoods office on how to proceed with your project. Then the applications will be due right before Thanksgiving.
 - iv. For more information or details about this project, please reach out to the Missoula Neighborhoods office and speak with Kalina Pritchard, the Neighborhoods Specialist.
- e. Rose Park Leadership Team Elections
- i. Missoulians established the Neighborhood Councils through the City of Missoula Charter to strengthen and encourage resident participation in local government and to improve communication between neighbors and City officials.

The council's purpose is to:

- enhance the livability of the area
- to provide an open process by which all neighborhood residents may involve themselves in the affairs of the neighborhoods
- to increase resident participation in the neighborhood
- to provide an avenue for citizens to make recommendations and communicate with City Council and City government.

Everyone who lives within the neighborhood boundaries (owner, renter, resident or occupant) is a part of the Neighborhood Council. At least once a year, the Leadership Team hosts a General Meeting, which we are a part of right now. These meetings are an occasion for neighbors to connect socially and address topics of shared interest/concern. At these general meetings, the Neighborhood Council elects a Leadership Team made up of 5-7 volunteers to represent the residents and serve as an ambassador for the neighborhood.

Some responsibilities of the Leadership Team include:

- Holding regular NH Leadership Team Meetings
- Reporting to the Community Forum and City Council
- Set meeting agendas and recording meetings
- Coordinate volunteers
- May edit and publish a newsletter
- Set up and host NH Council meetings

Some benefits of being a part of the Leadership Team include:

- Strengthening neighborhood participation
 - Advising City Council and the Mayor
 - Building cooperation
 - Improving communications between neighbors and between residents and City Departments
 - Through the CF, Neighborhoods share information and help bridge the gap between citizens and government.
 - Neighbors work together on neighborhood issues and projects and get to know each other.
 - Effect real, tangible change in neighborhoods through access to the Neighborhood Improvement Grant program and other NH programs
 - Exposure to diverse views and expertise
 - And many, many other opportunities!
- ii. Five citizens volunteered for Rose Park Leadership Team (RPLT). Their names will be sent to the Office of Neighborhoods. It was moved by Linda Lemox to elect these new members to the RPLT. A second was offered by Elizabeth Marshall. The vote was taken and was in unanimous support of electing the five individuals.
- f. Questions and Answers by City Council – Ward 3 & 4 City Council members (Gwen Jones and Mike Nugent). Topics only are listed below. For more information on these subjects, contact your Ward's City Council Members.
- i. Zoning for the Women's Club
 - ii. Roundabouts
 1. Reason for eliminating uncontrolled intersections with roundabouts or stop signs
 - a. Reduce speed (sometimes as much as 80 mph)
 - b. No thoroughfare in residential neighborhoods
 2. Size of roundabouts is concern for trucks. Fire Department had some stakes removed from some traffic circles to allow for fire trucks to pass.
 3. Concern on snow plowing around roundabouts
 4. Comments or concerns should go to Ben Weiss, Missoula Senior Transportation Planner or to your City Council representative.
 - iii. Other topics were discussed after the meeting.
4. Public Comment on non-agenda items
- a. A citizen raised the issue of chemicals use in public spaces for weed/insect control. Several chemicals were mentioned, and the point was made concerning safety of kids and animals. Note: the citizen who raised this issue is requested to reach out to the Rose Park Leadership Team for a proper follow-up on this issue.
 - b. Wally Congdon raised the issue of tree care, especially along streets and boulevards. He pointed out that watering trees is very necessary, especially in the fall to strengthen them. He questioned whether compensation for water used on trees can be obtained from the city.

- c. Another citizen pointed out that watering of trees in September is very important for tree health.
 - d. The question of who to contact for tree replacement was raised. Contact the Urban Forestry Division via email or phone (406) 552-6253. Their office is located at Park Operations, 100 Hickory St., 59801.
- 5. Announcements
 - a. The next meeting of the Rose Park Neighborhood Leadership Team will be October 18, 5:15 pm, in the Hal Fraser Conference Room, 140 West Pine Street.
 - b. The next Rose Park General Meeting will be held in September, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Rollin, member, Rose Park Leadership Team