

## River Road Neighborhood Council Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

March 26, 2024; 6pm

Currents Aquatics Center, Headwater's conference room

---

### Present

#### River Road Leadership Team

Kim Walterskirchen

Charlie Byrne

Chris Foster

Josh Deshner

#### Other

Phillip, Assistant Fire Chief

Andy Drobeck, Local 271 (Missoula Fire Union President)

Melissa Glueckert, Neighborhood Specialist

The minutes from the February meeting was passed with no changes or objections.

Chief Keating talked about the history of the fire department.

Originally the mill levy was going to be on the ballot in 2020 however with the cost of living and raise in property taxes in addition to the covid pandemic many Missoulians were not in a good financial space to vote on an additional levy. Because of this, fire decided to pull it off the ballot in fear it would be voted down. But now they are reintroducing it again. The population has grown, and the need had not changed, it has only increased.

This levy will continue to fund the mobile response team, a group of mental health professionals under the fire department that help with call volume. This also would help go towards a new fire station in Missoula and help staff that station with 20 new firefighters. Because ARPA funds have run out this is the only way the MRT will continue to have funding.

LT Question: What kind of population does the MRT work with? Do they primarily work with the houseless population?

Fire: The MRT work with approximately 40% unhoused and 60% housed populations. Many of the calls are for mental health crisis'.

Union President Andy Drobeck highlighted what it looks like to be a firefighter in the department right now. He touched on the need for more staffing as the response time is not as good as they want to see.

The LT decided they did not want to participate in the clean-up this year but may considered doing their own neighborhood cleanup later in the year.



## Missoula Neighborhoods

The team decided one of the things they would like to focus on is helping neighbors to be informed about the city and how they can get involved.

River Road's neighborhood report at city council is not until the end of May and will discuss what they want to highlight at their next neighborhood meeting.