

Franklin to the Fort Neighborhood Council General Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, February 29, 2016

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Franklin Elementary School
1901 S 10th St W
Missoula, MT 59801

Leadership Team Attendees: *Tim Streets, Matt Loomis, Brad May, Jake Riggs, Wayne Raymond*

Others Present: *Jane Kelly, Office of Neighborhoods*

Others present: Invited speakers (see below), and 57 neighborhood residents as determined by sign-in sheets and diligent effort at a physical count.

- 1) Welcome and introduction: Neighborhood Coordinator Jane Kelly briefly described the history of the Montana state constitutional convention, the establishment of city self-governance, and Missoula's establishment of neighborhood councils.
- 2) Franklin School update
 - A) Karen Allen, Executive Regional Director – Region 3, Missoula County Public Schools (MCPS)
 - i.) Six years ago, MCPS met with community members to determine needs for 21st century education
 - i.) Two results:
 - a. How to keep students engaged in learning
 - b. How to create learning environments
 - i. Developed “Smart Schools 2020” plan
 - ii. Placed a bond proposal to the electorate, which was approved in November 2015
 - B) Burley McWilliams Operations and Maintenance Supervisor, MCPS:
 - i.) Architecture committee. Consists of 5 people who reviewed 10 proposals, which were reduced to 3 for interviews. Selected L'Heureux Page Werner of Great Falls
 - ii.) General contractor was selected by similar process. Selected Jackson Contractor Group of Missoula. Scored on how well they will work with the community during the construction process.
 - C) Mark Kobos, of Jackson Contractor Group:

- i.) Will use email and social media to inform neighborhood residents of the construction process.
- ii.) May provide quick tours of the construction site to the public.

D) Amy Shattuck, Principal, Franklin Elementary School:

- i.) New entrance on 11th St.
- ii.) New bus drop-off on 10th, separate from car drop-off on 11th.
- iii.) Will keep existing gym, will continue to be available for community use.
- iv.) New dedicated space for arts, band, maker space lab.
- v.) Designed for 450 children; current enrollment is 260.
- vi.) Will keep most of the shade trees on Grant St.
- vii.) Will have classroom grade-level separated playgrounds, moved away from Johnson St.
- viii.) Will keep or upgrade the garden space.
- ix.) Parking has not been decided.
- x.) During construction, will relocate to Jefferson Elementary building.
- xi.) Completion by late summer 2017.
- xii.) Surplus property sale in March of this year.
- xiii.) Information will be available on MCPS website.

3) Russell Street construction update; Trevor Iman, WGM Group (engineering):

- A) During next 6-8 months: acquisition of right-of-way.
- B) Will always keep two lanes open during construction.
- C) Completion in 2019.
- D) Description of features are not listed here, but can be found in previous publications from the city and on the Montana Department of Transportation website. <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/russell/documents.shtml>

4) Leadership Team elections: Jane Kelly described the duties and called for volunteers or nominations to fill two vacancies. Andrea Dahl had volunteered *in absentia*, and Alison Petty volunteered at the meeting. Jake Riggs asked for further nominations, and hearing none, called for a vote. The slate of two was elected unanimously.

5) Question and answer with Ward 6 City Council members Marilyn Marler and Michelle Cares:

- A) Michelle: Franklin Park playground equipment has been purchased and will be installed this summer. Sidewalks - The 2016 city infrastructure proposals have been presented to City Council. Includes sidewalks, streets, and sewer. Access: <http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/DocumentCenter/View/33441>
- B) Q: Plans for the forest service depot? A: Community desires to acquire this for park space. "The idea is not dead." There is also an undisclosed location being considered for a park.

- C) Resident concern: Sidewalks in the Livingston & Clark area are in deteriorating condition, although relatively new. A: Issues such as this should be reported to Public Works.
- D) Q: How is the location of a sidewalk determined? A: Doug Harby, Construction Projects Manager, will work with residents on-site.
- E) Q: Concern about materials and workmanship in sidewalk and street projects. A: There are uncertainties in state and federal funding which complicate our local interests. The city has not received its portion of state gasoline tax. City Council has written letters to the state seeking remedy. Marilyn favors a local 2 cent per gallon tax to fund transportation projects.
- F) Item: The town home development of 56 units at Spurgin & Eaton will occur, because a 2011 state statute, the "Town Home Exemption," allows developers to build on smaller lots and more quickly, but also avoids public review. The City Council is actively working to get standards put in place to address this exemption.
- G) Q: What happens to development fees? A: A citizens' advisory committee makes recommendations. Franklin Park received some funds from this to supplement bond money for purchase of additional playground equipment.
- 6) Update on the missing section of the Bitterroot Branch Trail: Matt Loomis reports that Montana Rail Link is not likely to do any industrial development along this section of rail right-of-way, and they are considering releasing it for trail development. Completion could still be several years in the future.
- 7) Public comment of non-agenda items.
- Patricia Hogan reported that the city is developing a plan to replace and add trees in all neighborhoods. Public suggestions are welcomed.
 - Brad May reported that 3 traffic signal boxes in our neighborhood were decorated in 2015 with art selected by a citizen committee. The last remaining three undecorated boxes in the Franklin neighborhood will be done next summer. Funds for these projects come from the Office of Neighborhoods.

Meeting adjourned ca. 8:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Brad May