

University Neighborhood Council Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

Date: February 7, 2018

Time: 6:30 pm-8:30 pm

Location: Lewis and Clark Village Community Room, 3000 S. Higgins Ave., Missoula

Members Present: Peter Drakos, Dave Chrismon, Tony LaPlante, Jeff Birkby, Julie Stephenson, Katie Sullivan

Others Present: Jane Kelly (Office of Neighborhoods) Brendan Shull (Student Ambassador), Jordan Lyons, Director (UM Off-Campus Renter Center and Neighborhood Ambassadors)

1. Approval of Minutes—A motion was made to approve meeting minutes from January 8, 2018. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

2. Correspondence—University District resident Jennifer Copley has attended the leadership training, and would like to become more involved in University District issues. It was decided to invite Jen to attend the next leadership team meeting.

Missoula County Public Schools would like to attend our next meeting and talk about an operations levy. It was decided that we would invite them to our next meeting.

3. Treasurer's Report—Peter Drakos—The leadership team has about 64% of its annual budget remaining (about \$1553 available). This must get us through until mid-summer, and we must cover expenses for the spring Neighborhood Council meeting. We spent about \$850 on the fall council meeting, so it appears that we have more than enough funds to cover the meeting. The leadership team should think of ways we could apply the excess funds to University District projects. Team members will bring ideas to the next leadership team meeting in March.

Brandon Shull, a neighborhood Ambassador, and UM student, said that he would help think of ways to inform the UM students on campus about our next council meeting in May and try to increase student attendance.

4. Jordan Lyons—Neighborhood Ambassadors—The ambassadors are working on plans for the neighborhood block party (to be held April 29th). The block party will be held in front of the United Congregational Church, probably from 1-5 pm. This is the last weekend before finals week.

Jane Kelly—Traffic Calming Circle Grants. Each traffic calming circle (or individual representative of that circle) can request up to \$150 in grant funds per year. On the neighborhood website is an official traffic calming circle guide, with recommended planting and maintenance tips. <http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/1544/Adopt-a-Traffic-Circle>

5. Community Forum Meeting Report—Katie Sullivan

Will Sebern discussed grant programs in Missoula, including the Community Development Block Program (CDBG).

A discussion was held on new sidewalk installations in Missoula. Missoula has three neighborhoods that are classified as “low-wealth communities” that are being targeted as priorities for the installation of new sidewalks. The city of Missoula will cover 60% of the cost of sidewalks, and the federal government will cover 40% of the costs. There are plans for the installation of a significant number of new sidewalks this spring and summer.

A budget increase for the neighborhood fund was approved by a committee. It now goes to the Mayor. If this gets passed, then there would be \$27,000 available for neighborhoods to apply for. Grant applications are due by October 27th. Grant limits are \$3000 each. (The Univ District leadership team should think of potential projects that we could apply for by this October grant deadline. Perhaps better signage for trailheads in and around the Univ District? There may also be some separate trail sign grants available from the city this spring.

The next Community Forum meeting is on 22 February (it’s held on the 4th Thursday of every month.)

There may be a discussion at the next Community Forum about the Community Forum bylaws.

6. Jane Kelly—Office of Neighborhoods Report

Jane discussed the upcoming Neighborhood bus tour (to be held April 19th), and asked the Univ District team to come up with three “must see” attractions in the Univ District that should be on the tour. The following were ideas suggested to Jane;

*Beckwith Traffic Calming Circle

*House behind the UM Stadium

*University Area homes, (And discussion of neighborhood design standards)

*Bonner Park

*Local garden by the Iron Griz Restaurant (by the golf course). Have chef discuss how produce is used on UM campus and in the restaurant.

*Garden City Harvest rental plots behind track field.

*UM Flat (Green Building discussion)

*The role of the Neighborhood Ambassadors in the Univ District

MCAT is conducting a Needs Assessment of the community. They will hold four focus groups on April 3 and April 4. Topics will be Education, Community Service, the Arts, and Business. This Needs Assessment is part of MCAT’s work to renew its franchise with the City of Missoula (will be a ten-year contract if renewed.)

7. Bylaws--Julie asked the leadership team to review the Univ District Bylaws. The team voted to table the review at this current meeting to allow more time for review. All team members should review the bylaws and think of possible changes.

8. Leadership Team and General Meeting Date Discussion

The team held a discussion on when to hold the Leadership Team meetings, and how to best schedule them. We could continue with the Doodle polls to get a consensus every time, or we could set the meetings for certain date (such as the second Tuesday of each month.) Also, we might consider not holding leadership team meetings in July, August, and January since so many team members are gone during those times. Everyone on the team was asked to think about these options and be ready to discuss at our next monthly meeting.

Discussion on whether we should have a Univ District folded newsletter, instead of a postcard to announce our spring general meeting. This could be a two-page flyer (front/back) with space for mailing address.

9. Neighborhood Speeding/Traffic Calming Issues

Missoula Traffic Office Chad Pancake wrote the Leadership Team about the traffic speed analysis he has been conducting on Maurice Avenue. He thinks that enforcing current laws would be the best way to reduce speed. Some ideas suggested by the leadership team included posting speed signs. We agreed to ask the city to conduct additional speed analyses now that the students are back from winter break.

10. ADUs—Katie and Jane discussed the Accessory Dwelling Unit reviews that have happened in the city. There have been 24 properties put through the ADU process, including 10 within the University District. There is a discussion at the city council about eliminating the application/review fee, as well as other streamlining approaches for future ADUs.

11. Neighborhood Priorities—The Leadership Team postponed discussions of neighborhood priorities.

12. Public Comment on non-agenda items—There were no public comments

13. Announcements—No general announcements

The meeting ended at 8:30 pm.
