

**Date:** March 3, 2020

**Time:** 6:35-8:17 PM

**Location:** Lewis and Clark Village Community Room, 3000 S. Higgins Avenue, Missoula, MT

**Members Present:** Bryce Rowe, Darcy Caron, Rick Caron, Dori Gilels, Jennifer Copley (acting as secretary)

**Others Present:** Jane Kelly, Neighborhood Coordinator; Erika Byrne, ASUM; Anna Potter, ASUM;

Dori called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM. Bryce moved and Dori seconded the motion to approve minutes of the February 5 meeting.

Members introduced themselves to guest, Caroline Patterson, whom Dori Gilels had invited as a potential new member. Caroline runs the Missoula Writing Collaborative and is interested in Missoula affairs and was active in protesting the 4<sup>th</sup> Street development.

Bryce Rowe gave the treasurer's report noting no budget changes from February. The budget renews July 1 with unexpended funds going into a fund that the Neighborhood Office can reallocate for other needs. Jane said she has a small \$300 buffer fund for minor budget issues and reminded members that small grants are still available and could be used for trees, park benches, signs, and small things of lasting value. (Jennifer suggested that members come in April with ideas for small grant proposals from our district.)

Bryce reported on the February Community Forum meeting.

- While there, Bryce lobbied the Rose Park District as a potential partner in a competition to get yards certified as "wildlife habitat."
- He mentioned Long Range Transportation Plan presented by Erin Wilson, with the city bringing in both technical citizens' advisory committees. A Heart of Missoula Neighborhood Council member serves as a citizen advisor. Bryce will try to attend the public hearing from 5:00-6:00 PM on March 5 at 101 South Higgins.
- He heard a Zoning 101 presentation, and reminded the leadership team that a single-family residence on 5400 square feet is the most common zoning type in Missoula and in our University district.
- He learned that at various locations from March 23-27 Community Planning Services and Missoula Development Services will host a review of the Mullan Master Plan.
- He urged members to use the *What's My Zoning* site (<https://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/1529/Whats-My-Zoning>) to explore our own neighborhoods and explained that in the University district dwellings are spaced at 6 per acre with a city maximum of 43 per acre, housing density that will characterize the 4<sup>th</sup> street development just approved by City Council. In order to seek a zoning variance, explained Bryce, a developer needs offer no specific building plan.

Jane Kelly interjected that a developer will put in 900 apartments near the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the quarry, doubling the population of the Grant Creek area. None of the

housing will be designated “affordable,” with a one-bedroom apartment priced at market value of approximately \$800-1000 dollars. The city will expend public fund improve road access to the area.

Erika and Anna described ASUM’s activities in the neighborhood.

- A Housing Fair will occur at the Student Center on March 26 with over 100 students in attendance.
- Global Youth Service Day occurs on April 19 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. At this event, community members demonstrate ways to live in environmentally friendly ways. The University District leadership team was invited to put up a table at either events or to join the 50 volunteers needed for Global Youth Day.
- ASUM is still loaning snow shovels for students.
- ASUM’s Food Pantry celebrates one year of service, and students are eager to show off the pantry to visitors.
- Students just finished a survey of homeless and hungry, finding a 4% increase in both hunger and homelessness among young adults. They found that less than 10% of those in need use on-campus services to alleviate their needs.
- ASUM has a blog for Neighborhood Ambassadors. Leadership team members may post issues of concern by contacting Jordan Lyons. As in the past, the blog can be used, to advertise for the spring Neighborhood Meeting.

Erika and Anna see much discouragement among their college peers. Members agreed with students that job markets are difficult and education does not guarantee jobs.

Jane Kelly reported that she will soon have an assistant. She says there are only a few nominees for the Volunteer of the Year who will get a tree planted in their name, and notes that city council members much appreciate the positive nature of the ceremony. Jane will email reminders to those accepted for the spring bus tour.

Using a list prepared by Dori, members brainstormed ideas for the spring general meeting. Jennifer suggested that our meeting follow guidelines offered by the Local Government Center at Montana State University first describing priorities set at the previous general meetings, describing how the leadership team addressed those concerns, and then seeking new priorities of constituents.

Items suggested for the spring general meeting fell into five categories:

(1) Review of Past Priorities (Jennifer was asked to forward lists from the past to Dori for distribution among the group.)

(2) Review of Leadership Team Achievements

- Lobbying with all city council members for each of the top priorities set at the fall meeting.

- Communication with the city about needs for improvements to the snow plowing service in the University area.
- Lobbying members of Missoula City Parks and Recreation about citizen concerns for Bonner Park and the Jacob's Island Bark Park
- Communication with the city officials about issues of concern in the neighborhood (*e.g.* handicapped access from top of new Higgins Street bridge to Caras Park)
- Addition of mile marker bollards to the Kim Williams Trail
- Addition of the Bonner Park Perimeter to the city Rx Trail System.

### (3) Announcements/Updates

- Traffic-calming circles in need of adoption (including ones that students can no longer maintain)
- ASUM report including about their now year-old Food Pantry
- Morgan Valliant, Parks and Rec, reforestation of urban parkland and seeking volunteers

### (4) Setting New Priorities

- Wildlife Habitat challenge with Rose Park neighborhood
- Dog waste in neighborhood parks and city trails and the possibility of leading an initiative to help alleviate the problem

### (5) Question and answers from City Council Members

In preparation for the spring meeting, the leadership team took the following actions.

- Confirmed that Julie arranged for the use of Hellgate High School on May 12, opening doors at 5:30 PM and beginning activities at 6:00 PM.
- Confirmed that Rick Caron will order pizza and Jane will bring eating supplies donated to her office.
- Agreed with Dori's suggestion that we will recycle as much as possible from the meeting, with Bryce bring to recycling any leftover plastic.
- Agreed that, in communication with Jane about deadlines and printing companies, Darcy will tackle the job of preparing the invitational post cards. Completed design must go to Alpha Graphics by May 1. The spring post cards will invite residents to bring food for the ASUM Food Pantry.

- Confirmed that they had invited Claudia Hewston, Wildlife Habitat volunteer, to present, but will check with her again about her availability.
- Heard that Jane wants to give a short presentation about the history of Neighborhood Councils and run the spring election of new members who may self-nominate or be recruited by others for service.
- Heard that Dori will call Morgan Valliant, Lands Conservation official, to ask him to show a slide of planned forest development in university area and briefly discuss proposed riverfront entry points in the area. (Darcy expressed concern about how far along the city plan will be by April, but Rick added that the neighborhood would have high interest in Morgan's information, should he come to the meeting.)
- Decided to will lead a carefully timed exercise to add new priorities to the previous lists, then holding a weighed vote to revise the priority list. Jane has stick-on dots, and each person in attendance will be allowed a certain number of dots to visually express their priorities.
- Learned that Bryce is storing one of the District's sandwich boards, and Jennifer has the second, which Bryce will store after the spring meeting.

Dori suggested that the University District and other Neighborhoods adopt sections of river for cleanup. Jane Kelly and Jennifer shared concerns about safety issues, while Rick expressed concern about liability for such activities, which he believes would require state approval and supervision. No follow-up plan was developed on Dori's suggestion.

As directed at the February meeting, Jennifer drafted a letter to Donna Gaukler and the Missoula Parks and Recreation Board addressing three issues: a Senior Exercise Park in Bonner Park; band shell improvements in Bonner Park; and exploration of waste and access issues for Jacob's Island Bark Park. Members reviewed and approved the draft, asking that copies also be sent to Heather Harp and Gwen Jones, city council members. Jennifer will deliver copies to Missoula Parks and Recreation on Wednesday, March 4, along with the newly completed Rx Trail sign that members saw during the meeting.

Guest Caroline Patterson suggested that the group should explore whether federal grant money might be available to bring the band shell at Bonner Park into ADA compliance. Rick Caron expressed concerns the large number of Seattle homeless may exacerbate that corona virus locally when they commute to Missoula in the spring. Jane responded that a press release is going out to inform the community about plans for dealing with the corona virus in Missoula. Dori suggested that, should the situation change, we could invite someone from the city to answer questions.

Dori inquired about how this leadership team could communicate with constituents, and Jane responded that she has names of those who asked to be put on such a list.

Jane said that Neighborhood Councils usually have co-presidents. Members urged Dori to consider again serving as chairperson and Rick suggested that Darcy would be an excellent co-chair. Both Dori and Darcy agreed to serve, with Bryce taking on duties of Treasurer and Jennifer acting as Secretary.

After setting the next meeting for Tuesday, April 7, the meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.