



## Community Forum Minutes

January 21, 2021

6:00 PM

Virtual Zoom

### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

### **Neighborhoods Present:**

Captain John Mullan, Antony Jo – Farviews/Pattee Canyon, Ray Aten - Franklin to the Fort, Toffer Lehnherr, Cody Baker – Grant Creek, Bert Lindler, Tony Marino, Kevin Davis – Heart of Missoula, Leah Morrow – Lewis & Clark, Colleen Biehl, John Conner, Terry Conner, Dave Westfall – Lower Rattlesnake, Robert Schultz, Peter Lesica – Miller Creek, Alex Fregerio, Medora O'Connor – Moose Can Gully, Carol Garlington – Northside/Westside, Randall Gunn – River Road, Kim Walterskirchen - Riverfront, Ed Nolder, Jean Kiely, Christine Littig – Rose Park, Mike Painter, Tony Rollin - South 39<sup>th</sup>, Ruth Burke – Southgate Triangle, Mary Sajna - Two Rivers, Kate Laney - University District, Bryce Rowe – Upper Rattlesnake, Bill Ruediger

### **Neighborhoods Absent:**

None

### **Others Present:**

Missoula Neighborhoods, Colin Woodrow and Kelly Elam, City Council, Ward 1, Heidi West

### **Determination of Quorum:**

A quorum was present.

### **Approval of minutes:**

Minutes for October 22, 2021. Colleen Biehl moved to approve the minutes and Bill Ruediger seconded. The minutes were approved as submitted.

## **Grants, Past, Updates, Timeline, Committee: – Kelly Elam**

Kelly gave a PowerPoint presentation on the neighborhood grants. The neighborhood Department receives \$20,000 per year for the grant program. \$18,000 goes to the large grants and each large grant is awarded up to \$6000. \$2000 goes to the small grants and awarded up to \$500 each. The goal is to eliminate the small grants and award more funds to each large grant.

The Grant Fund Committee members include Ray Aten, Farviews/Pattee Canyon Colleen Biehl, Lewis & Clark - Randall Gunn, Northside/Westside, Jeff Stevens, South 39<sup>th</sup> and Heidi West, City Council, Ward 1. Jeff has expressed he does not want to meet by virtual Zoom and would like to participate when people can meet in person. There was a call for more volunteers to join the committee that includes Bryce Rowe, University District - Kate Laney, Two Rivers and Alex Fregerio, Miller Creek.

The committee will meet on February 10 to discuss and re-write the large and small applications, and revise the scoring criteria. The new timeline for grants includes:

- February 10 - The Grant Committee meets at 5:30 PM by virtual Zoom.  
The discussion will be about reorganizing the grant structure.  
The finalized updates will go to the Community Forum for approval by email or letter.
- March 8 - Applications will be posted on the neighborhood website.
- March 11 - If needed, an optional applicant meeting for questions & answers.
- April 30 - Applications are due to the Missoula Neighborhood office by 5 PM.
- May 5 - Application packets will be sent to the committee members.
- May 19 - The committee will meet for application review and scoring.
- May 27 - Awarded applications to be approved by the Community Forum.
- June 2 - Awarded applications approved by the City Council Administration & Finance Committee.
- June 7 - Approval by the City Council.
- June 9 - The award letters and grantee package will be sent to the applicant(s).

## **Strategic Assessment Report: – Colin Woodrow**

Keegan Flaherty, Flaherty Consultants generated an assessment for the Missoula neighborhoods. Colin gave a presentation on the [assessment report](#). He reported the Community Forum meetings would occur every other month. There will be a review on what is working and what is not. Work to empower the neighborhoods to grow and build committees. The finding's report includes the purpose and value of the neighborhoods and the diversity of the neighborhoods.

There will be a survey sent to the neighborhoods in March and the results will give an overview of diversity in each neighborhood.

The group was divided into small break out rooms and they discussed the issues in their neighborhoods. Some of the comments presented includes:

- Diverse neighborhoods and difficult to get people involved.
- Engaging with renters is difficult because they do not stay long enough.
- Social Media needs to be utilized more and most neighborhoods are using Next Door and seems to be successful.
- Not enough publicized Missoula Neighborhood information.
- Lack of the weekly Digest.
- Hard to involve younger and new people.
- How can neighborhoods help other neighborhoods?
- Motivated about Missoula engagement.
- Survey is important; neighborhoods are excited to see the results.
- Enhance communications.
- Lack of communication about the purpose of the neighborhoods.

Colin discussed each assessment recommendation and noted they should have been rewritten to help clarify the results.

There was discussion about re-writing the by-laws. Some neighborhoods find the bylaws difficult to follow. Grant Creek may have an issue because their area involves City and County properties. Their Home Owners Association (HOA) is strong and there is one person from each HOA that makes up the Neighborhood council. A working group will be created to help re-write the bylaws. All volunteers are welcome.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM