

University District Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2021 6:30 PM

1. Introductions and Roll Call

Presiding, Co-Chairperson, Darcy Caron called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Also in attendance were Dori Gilels, Co-Chairperson; Jennifer Copley, Secretary; Colin Woodrow, Missoula Neighborhoods; Jordon Lyons, ASUM Neighborhood Ambassadors, Chloe Loeffelholz, Neighborhood Ambassadors; Anna Potter, Neighborhood Ambassadors.

2. Approve Meeting Minutes for December 1, 2020

Minutes were approved as submitted.

3. Treasurer's Report

Bryce Rowe reported \$248 remains in our treasury. Rick Caron and Jennifer Copley noted that Missoula Neighborhoods representatives had previously encouraged the University District to seek additional funds to cover the \$4800 cost of mailing postcards to announce the first 2021 general meeting. Colin did some research as the members went through the agenda. He then reported that his office has sufficient funds to cover the cost of such a mailing and said the University District may apply to his office for the needed money. Additional grant funds may be available in April or May.

In an effort to find a less costly printing and mailing service, members discussed bypassing the City's usual provider, Alpha Graphics. Colin said we are free to use other communications companies. Efficiency and cost take priority, said Colin.

Rick Caron researched online to confirm that there more economical providers. Dori noted the cards are routinely mailed to "Residents" of neighborhood addresses, protecting citizen privacy. Darcy encouraged use of the University District logo on the cards and said that expensive graphics would be unnecessary.

Hoping to increase attendance and involvement, the Riverfront Neighborhood has launched its own website.

ASUM Ambassadors Report

Jordan Lyons asked Chloe, Program Manager for Neighborhood Ambassadors to make the night's report. Chloe explained that Neighborhood Ambassadors are trying to recruit new members because many current members will graduate this spring. An Americorps volunteer now helps run the student food pantry.

Chloe said that UM offers a new online website, grizhub.umt.edu, for events and virtual opportunities, many of which are open to the community.

In the spring, Neighborhood Ambassadors hopes to complete a service project, perhaps as a virtual event.

Jordan asked Rick for the name of an outstanding student volunteer among those who raked and shoveled for area elders. As a group, Rick said, the girls' basketball team deserves the accolades.

Darcy asked the Neighborhood Ambassadors to work online to help the University District plan its spring meeting.

4. **Community Forum Report**

Bryce Rowe reported that Community Forum held no meetings during the month. Colin is back at work after paternity leave. The Community Forum will meet online via ZOOM on Thursday evening on January 21. In the future, Community Forum will aim to meet every other month, six times yearly. Bryce volunteered to attend the January 21 meeting.

5. **Office of Neighborhoods Report**

Colin said the City Council wants to improve the membership on, participation of, and contributions from Neighborhood Councils. It wants to make Neighborhood Councils more inclusive and effective. At its February meeting, he reported, the City Council will review seven recommendations resulting from interviews with former or current members of Neighborhood Councils, and/or Community Forum, and all neighborhoods was represented in the study. City Council hopes the study will help the City better inform citizens and engage them in shaping City policies.

City Council approved the Downtown Plan that the Community Forum previously approved. Colin now seeks Community Forum endorsement for the seven recommendations.

Jennifer said at the previous University District meeting members had complained that city residents do not know where to get help for matters such as what to do about alley flooding or dangerous sidewalks. She urged Colin to include that concern among those the City Council discusses. Colin agreed, explaining how citizens have also found it difficult to get information about abandoned lots, for example. He said his office wants to help citizens find the help they need.

Colin directed members to contact Kelly Elam for information about procedural matters, including posting of minutes.

6. **Planning for Neighborhood General Meeting**

Colin says we will use a ZOOM webinar format for our general meeting. Colin or Kelly will act as the host for the meeting, with Darcy acting as cohost so that she can allow participants to gain the virtual "floor." We will set up a link early, asking people to preregister for the meeting. We will also post a phone number so all attending can participate in voting.

Colin said Zoom might help us build community. We could set up brief breakout rooms, asking participants to share something about themselves with neighborhood residents also in attendance.

Members discussed possible topics for the spring general meeting.

- a. Colin says we can add new members, if needed. However, he urges, "If you must "shake loose," please find someone equal or better at the task to fill your position." Members learned that Julie Stephenson is stepping down after a number of years of service, some years as chairperson. Dori suggested that the postcards announce our need for a replacement member, and we all help recruit interested volunteers from among acquaintances. Jordan Lyons was nominated and approved as an official member of the Leadership Team.
- b. Jennifer and Rick suggested moving the general meeting from February to March. Colin urged taking our time, and Dori agreed that we could push the date back to March.
- c. Jennifer reminded members of Dori's December comments about using the general meeting to build neighborhood connections. Dori said Colin's idea of breakout rooms would support that goal.
- d. Dori suggested March 9 for the spring general meeting via ZOOM and said she will email Heather Harp and Gwen Jones to let them know of our new March date.
- e. Rick suggested that the postcard go out at the beginning of the week of February 21, giving people time to plan their schedules for the March meeting.
- f. The UM calendar looks clear for March 9. Rick reported that the school district calendar also appears clear for that date.
- g. Chloe offered to put Neighborhood Ambassadors in charge of designing and mailing the postcards. Dori volunteered to help.
- h. Darcy asked Anna and Chloe to prepare a presentation for the general meeting.
- i. Dori, Bryce, Darcy, and Jennifer volunteered to frame a proposed agenda for the March general meeting. Colin asked that a representative of Missoula Neighborhoods also attend. (Colin said a working group does not violate public meeting laws unless when it merely offers recommendations, neither making determinations nor taking votes.)
- j. The committee volunteers agreed to meet Tuesday evening, January 12, at 6:00 PM. Information will go Anna and Chloe by the first week of February so they can prepare the mailings.

7. **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

None

8. **Announcements.**

Rick Caron said we now have six volunteers for shoveling the sidewalks of three very elderly residents. Two are in their 90's and one in their 80's. Rick will let us know if the program can serve more elders.

9. **Adjournment**

Dori moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM.