

Upper Rattlesnake Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

March 30, 2021 via Zoom

1. Introductions and Attendance
URNC LT: Bill Ruediger, Bev Young, Terri Roach, Chris Schmechel, Kathy Gaskill. Absent were Andrea Stierle and Doug Grimm. Colin Woodrow from the Missoula Neighborhoods also attended. We introduced ourselves to Colin.
2. Minutes of last meeting: Bill moved that we accept the minutes from our general meeting held on [March 1, 2020](#). Terri seconded and all approved.
3. Discussion Points:
 - a. **Barrow Pit Trail & Grant Application** – Bill Ruediger. First step is applying for a neighborhood grant for an engineering report for trail: materials used, work necessary and approximate cost. After discussion, Bill made the motion to use crushed gravel, Chris seconded and all approved.

Grants are up to \$6000 each from the neighborhood improvements grants fund which has a budget of \$20,000/yr total. Top 3 scoring projects will be awarded. Grant application workshop on Monday 4/5, 5:30 pm. Terri and Bill to attend. Advice from Colin: submit for a discrete project; show impacts to community in a positive way emphasizing community input, community value. Colin emphasizes engagement of community; volunteering is good – a big bonus for the application; building community around this event. Letters of support would be addendums to application. There needs to be a point person (Bill) who is coordinating the work and a backup person (Terri?). Reach out to City employees Neil Miner & Nathan McCleod (Parks & Rec Trails). Suggestion to inform local community for show of support via Upper Rattlesnake listserv kept by Missoula Neighborhoods. Bev to contact Ten Spoon Winery (Connie Poten). Application due April 30. Decisions by review committee by May 20, (4th Thursday). Then Community Forum votes; then that recommendation goes to City Council. Final decision/approval in June. Bill is thinking that volunteer labor would be used to build path. Surface materials would be paid for by grants, donations, Cornerstone HOA monies. Terri will find out how much money is available from the Cornerstone funds. It will be a very competitive process: 3 applications have already been submitted and Colin expects another 3-4 as well. **We should review past minutes to see the ranking of this barrow pit trail among attendees.**

- b. **Crossing Sign at Tamarack** – Terri Roach. Pedestrian/bike crossing signs at Foxfield Drive and Tamarack St.: UR/LR transportation committee in favor of this; Ben Weiss has responded and 2 signs have been installed. Southbound sign is north of Tamarack and it's rather far from the actual crossing. Northbound sign is appropriately posted near the crossing. Terri Roach will send an email to Ben saying that we all support having the north sign moved to a closer position; she will cc the URNC LT on this message. Suggestion to ask for street striping in the future.

- c. **Proposed Road project on Sawmill Gulch** - Shane Stack, County Engineer, sent an email to URNC LT on 3/2/21; Sawmill Gulch road work is needed to bring up to standard; bicyclists at risk; heavy use by community. Shane had asked the URNC LT to write a letter of support. Bev moves that we write this letter of support; Terri seconded and all in favor.

- d. **Pedestrian/Bike demarcations on Upper Duncan Rd.** - concern of Kathy Heffernan; referred to UR/LR transportation committee.

- e. **Money in our URNC fund:** We receive a budgeted amount each year. We have available **\$762** for the mailing supplement and **\$800** in our general fund that need to be used by the end of June. We need to notify the Missoula Neighborhoods by 5/31 if we are going to use these funds. Historically funds were used for mailings, general meetings. We can use the money or it will be swept back into general funds. Colin suggests to either use the money or, if not:
 - 1) use for micro-grants. We could allocate the funds to the Missoula Neighborhoods' neighborhood improvement grants.
 - 2) use to help build a neighborhood block-party mobile. This would facilitate group meetings held outdoors or indoors.
 - 3) use for a publicity campaign to get new/more participants in Neighborhood Council.Bill wondered if we can use this for weed eradication; probably not for multiple reasons. Officially we can use the money for:
 - Mailings
 - Printing newsletters and postcards
 - Meeting room rental
 - Facilitators for meetings
 - General meeting supplies (food, beverages, ice cream etc.)
 - Socials and picnics
 - Signage to advertise meetings
 - Equipment, trees, playground equipment, capital expenditures

Can we use these mailing funds to ask for donations for barrow pit project? **Colin will determine if we could use those funds for the Barrow Pit study.**

Funds need to be committed by end of June. If the funds would be used for services, then a contract must be in place by 6/30.

- f. **Deer Study** – UM student is still working on this. Bill has visited with several neighborhood councils. Would cost ~\$50,000/year to really try to control deer.
- g. **Next General Neighborhood meeting** – Colin had been working on outdoor meetings for the summer but has been told that the City is staying virtual. Some neighborhoods have had successful Zoom meetings; especially successful with breakout rooms. No strong support to have a Zoom general neighborhood meeting anytime soon. Suggestion for the LT to meet by Zoom in May to discuss when to have a meeting. **Discussed options and decided to meet 5/17 5:30 pm by Zoom.** Colin or Kelly will send the form/agenda template for that meeting.

- 4. **Office of Neighborhoods Report** – Colin Woodrow; relatively new to this position after Jane Kelly's retirement. He's available to connect by phone, email, etc. Missoula Neighborhoods is focused on issues important to each neighborhood. Missoula Neighborhoods has been moved into City long-range planning team. His background is in community planning. Colin gave an overview of the assessment report done by contractor Keegan Flaherty using interviews with neighborhood council reps, city council reps. Some findings:

- a. Equity based model, representative of neighborhoods. Socioeconomic (renter/owner); over half of Missoula rents
- b. New communication models
- c. Different meeting models (e.g. maybe no Roberts Rules of Order); design charrette model

In the future there will be neighborhood surveys; profiles and issue identification. Colin is looking for energizer activities to recruit new folks: cleanup projects, tree planting; something like downtown streets event in neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Cleanup – Colin sent out some information about this for Earth Day weekend. There wasn't any support for having a cleanup this year; focus on barrow pit project

- 5. Public comment on non-agenda items: none

6. Announcements: next meeting 5/17/21 at 5:30pm via Zoom.

Colin Woodrow, Neighborhood Coordinator
Kelly Elam, Program Assistant
Upper Rattlesnake Leadership Team

woodrowc@ci.missoula.mt.us 552-6081
elamk@ci.missoula.mt.us 552-6084
upperrattlesnake@missoula-neighborhoods.org