

University Neighborhood Council Leadership Team Minutes

May 4, 2021

6:30 PM

1. **Introductions and Roll Call** Darcy Caron, co-chair, called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM. Others present included Dori Gilels, co-chair; Jennifer Copley acting secretary; Rick Caron. Bryce Rowe; Jordan Lyons; and Brad Cederberg; Kelly Elam, Missoula Neighborhoods
2. **Approve Minutes for April 6, 2021** Darcy moved to approve the minutes, Bryce seconded, and members voted to approve.

3. **Discussion Items**

- a. **Community Clean-Up Day** With short notice from the City, Dori helped put up posters, and Bryce Rowe organized a small cleanup effort. Bryce and Darcy joined other volunteers for about two hours in the Bonner Park area, filling a dumpster to 75% capacity. Bryce added an old mattress he carried to the site on his skateboard.

Kelly reported wide success in filling the many dumpsters set up around Missoula. Whitaker Park, for example, gathered 40 pounds of trash. Kelly noted that in the future neighborhoods will be given more time to prepare for the city-wide cleanup efforts. Bryce offered some of his pictures to the Missoula Neighborhoods. Rick suggested that the next cleanup be coordinated with fall raking efforts. Dori suggested composting the leaves, and Bryce added that the University District could pay any fees for composting services.

- b. **Jacob's Island and Bonner Park Concerns** TJ Machado, Parks and Recreation, canceled his planned attendance but sent a memo reporting that from spring through June, the City has few extra resources. TJ suggested we work with City offices to investigate consequences of dog waste, finding ways to educate the public about responsible use of the dog park. TJ will continue to submit capital requests for major infrastructure improvements.

Rick reminds members of the importance of gathering data about and lobbying for improvements to Jacob's Island and Bonner Park. Jennifer volunteered to draft letters asking City agencies to seek data. Dori asked that we also contact the Clark Fork Coalition to see what data they may have collected, again inviting one of their team to speak to and problem solve with the University District leadership team. Darcy suggested that we apply for a grant to support responsible use of Jacob's Island. Rick suggested that we could recruit a graduate student to gather data on Jacob's Island environmental issues. Jordan urged inviting Professor Vicki Watson to address our group, and Rick offered to contact Vicki. Dori said she would email Vicki, telling her we would like to "pick her brain."

Dori suggested a cleanup to demonstrate how much animal waste clutters the dog park. Rick, who has advocated for returning the area to multiple uses, said he will find a way to weigh the dog waste collected. Dori added that pictures would be useful, too. Jennifer said she will put the pictures into letters drafted for city officials. Darcy urged the team to get started soon, and members agreed to meet for a cleanup on Thursday, May 13, at 7:00 PM.

Jennifer explained that in her conversation with Parks and Recreation officials, TJ Machado had suggested seeking a city grant to pay for painting pickleball lines over the current tennis courts in Bonner Park, thus allowing use by a broader range of citizens. Maximum City grants are \$6,000, and Brad suggested that painting such lines might cost \$4,000 to \$6,000. Jordan asks us to think, also, about better use of the smaller basketball play area near the tennis courts. Dori said that to get ideas for improvements at Bonner Park we could canvas constituents at our next general meeting. Darcy suggested that at our June meeting, the leadership team could divide into subgroups, visiting Bonner Park to get ideas for park use.

- c. **Traffic Calming** Darcy hopes to get information about what data the city has on accidents and high traffic areas. Bryce reports that the city does an annual pedestrian count that we may review.
4. **Community Forum Report Kelly** says that the next Community Forum Meeting will be May 27, via virtual Zoom. Bryce and Jennifer will attend.
5. **Missoula Neighborhoods Report** Kelly said maybe around June 14, the City will know more about lifting its COVID mandates. City Hall will be closed until May 14, until decisions are made about public access. Kelly and Colin Woodrow of Missoula Neighborhoods are working to redo the existing website. Missoula Neighborhoods survey results are almost ready, and information will be disseminated to the leadership teams. There were 8 applications for grants, and the Missoula Neighborhoods will ask City Council for more money, but tight budgets will probably preclude additional funding. Because Bryce helps select winning grant applications, Jennifer asked that he report back on grant applications submitted and selected for approval. Such information could help us better plan what grant we choose to submit in the new fiscal year.
6. **ASUM Report** With UM ending its spring semester, no student delegates attended. Jordan reported that ASUM is reorganizing, and Darcy expressed the desire of this leadership team to continue to work with UM students through ASUM.
7. **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items** Brad asked for an explanation about sources of money and general areas of spending. Bryce explained that most of the money available to this Neighborhood Council was spent on mailings and pizza for the general meetings. New funds, he explained, will be available on July 1. Darcy noted the high cost of mailings. Dori received a call from a new Missoula resident interested in service on the leadership team. Dori also suggested that the Neighborhood Councils might have a regular feature in the Missoula Currents to help get the word out about the good things Neighborhoods are doing. Rick says that the 60- 70 students who raked and shoveled were not even mentioned in news sources.
8. **Announcements** Jordan, who works as Housing Specialist for Missoula County, says his office is putting out a Missoula County Needs Assessment and will send a survey to each member of the leadership team. His office is trying to develop an affordable housing strategy.

We will next meet on Tuesday, June 1, at 6:30 PM, and the first fall meeting will convene on Tuesday, September 6. (The U District usually does not usually meet in July and August.)

Rick nominated Brad as a new member of the leadership team, Bryce seconded, and members unanimously approved the nomination.

Brad moved to adjourn, and the meeting ended at 7:47 PM.