

**South 39th and Moose Can Gully Joint Neighborhood Council Leadership Team (LT)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday May 18, 2022 at 5:30 PM by Virtual Zoom**

**MCG Neighborhood Council LT Present:** Betsy Weber, Carol Garlington, Janet Van Dyke

**MCG LT Absent:** none

**South 39th Street Neighborhood Council LT Present:** Paul Kilzer, Ruth Burke

**South 39th LT Absent:** Dave Bell, Jeff Stevens, David Touchette

**City Staff Present:** Kalina Wickham, Program Specialist II, Kelly Elam, Program Coordinator

**Others present:** Brian Hensel, Missoula Street Operations and Maintenance Division Director and Aaron Wilson, Missoula Infrastructure and Planning Manager

**1. Call to Order, Introductions and Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 PM by Paul Kilzer.

**2. Approve Minutes for April 20, 2022 meeting**

Minutes had been distributed for review prior to the meeting. No revisions were suggested. Janet moved to approve them as written. Seconded by Ruth. Unanimously approved.

**3. Presentation: Missoula Sidewalks & Streets** - Paul Kilzer, Brian Hensel, Aaron Wilson

Streets and sidewalks are among the priorities in Moose Can Gully Neighborhood, South 39th Street Neighborhood, and other Missoula neighborhoods. With Aaron Wilson and Brian Hensel in attendance, Paul presented recently sent emails and photos illustrating issues with Missoula streets and sidewalks:

- Snowplows throwing snow from streets onto sidewalks making them "dangerous, unsafe or difficult to the free passage of pedestrians" in violation of Missoula City Ordinance 12.16.030.
- Road grit displaced by street cleaning onto Missoula sidewalks and ADA ramps, making them dirty, more difficult to traverse, and unwelcoming to pedestrians.
- Road grit displaced by street cleaning onto ADA ramps obscuring their truncated domes or engraved surfaces and defeating their purpose as a requirement of the Americans with Disabilities Act and an investment in safety.
- Ongoing volunteer efforts to clean sidewalks in our neighborhoods only to have them again covered with road grit by the Missoula Street Division with no apparent effort to resolve the problem
- Road-killed urban deer on Missoula streets and delays in removing some of them, resulting in roadway safety hazards, the potential to attract bears, degraded air, and other harms
- Gouges in asphalt surfaces from skipping snowplow blades, causing asphalt damage and an annoying rumble strip effect on bicycles.
- Displaced sidewalks that present tripping hazards.

Mr. Hensel acknowledged the described issues and offered explanations for the snow removal and street cleaning processes. He said that Missoula property owners are responsible for maintaining the sidewalks adjacent to their properties and that the City of Missoula does not have the budget or resources to clean the sidewalks. Regarding the recently cleaned sidewalk along Lower Miller Creek Road, Mr. Hensel did acknowledge that the City of Missoula has agreed to clean the sidewalks near the Miller Creek Road roundabout as part of a right-of-way agreement. He described efforts to have Republic Services remove dead deer from Missoula streets. He and Mr. Wilson described the City of Missoula sidewalk hazard complaint policy, which is complaint-driven and requires the property owner to remove the hazard or

replace the sidewalk. They agreed to discuss among themselves the requests to prevent the contamination of sidewalks and ADA ramps and/or to clean a small fraction of the sidewalks along the busiest streets where road grit is heaviest. Ruth asked if money from our Neighborhood funds could be applied to sidewalk cleaning, and Mr. Hensel suggested that a bid from a private contractor be considered. Mr. Wilson suggested that we pursue action on these street and sidewalk issues by contacting our City Council members.

#### **4. Bylaws Update**

Kalina reported a discussion with City of Missoula Attorney Ryan Sudbury about our suggested revisions to the proposed Neighborhoods bylaws. For the most part, Ryan was in favor of our revisions, and noted his preferred language in a new document. Some wording i.e., updating Missoula Neighborhoods name, still needed revision. Kalina thought the Bylaws could be readied for the General Meeting June 29. Ruth offered to incorporate Ryan's language into a new Google Docs document for us to review. Because of the need for posting 14 days before the General Meeting, we agreed to a special virtual meeting June 8, to vote on the latest changes. Ruth will set up the virtual meeting.

#### **5. Hillview Development**

Carol reported discussion with the developer, Pando Holdings in Denver. 105 acres at 5001 Hillview Way are planned for residential development. The developer is available to present preliminary plans for this project at our General Meeting June 29. Carol will contact him about details.

#### **6. Cold Springs School Property** - Paul Kilzer

The Cold Springs School property on Briggs Street has been vacant since November 2018, when the newly constructed Jeannette Rankin Elementary School opened. In September 2019, a 10-year lease agreement was approved by Missoula County Public Schools (MCPS), allowing Missoula Early Learning Center, Corp. to provide childcare at this location, and a September 2020 opening was anticipated. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted those plans. Paul reported that, after recent unsuccessful efforts to get an update from Mark Roberts of the Missoula Early Learning Center, he contacted the MCPS Superintendent's Office and learned that a request to terminate the Missoula Early Learning Center lease was received and was approved at the May 2022 MCPS Board meeting. Current tenants of the Cold Springs School Property include Studio M (a dance school) and Cancer Support Community Montana. More comprehensive plans for the Cold Springs School property will not be known prior to our June 2022 S. 39th Street/Moose Can Gully Joint Neighborhood Council General Meeting.

#### **7. Joint Moose Can Gully/South 39th Street Neighborhood Council General Meeting June 29, 2022**

- Agenda Items:
  - City Council Members - John Nugent (Ward 4) and Stacie Anderson (Ward 5) have agreed to attend. Amber Sherrill (Ward 4) responded that she may not be able to attend due to a family care situation. John Contos (Ward 5) did not respond to two requests.
  - Hillview Development - Preliminary Report 15 min
  - Charmell Owens - Office of Compliance—Kalina to confirm
  - Bylaws Changes and Vote
  - Election of new Leadership Team Members
  - Neighborhood Concerns—ask for ideas, open forum
  
- Kelly has reserved Playfair Park Picnic Shelter for the meeting.
- Big Dipper Ice Cream will be served by Leadership Team Members
- Kalina is asked to contact people who expressed interest in serving on the Leadership Team via email or sign-up sheet at Clean Up Day.

- Sandwich Boards:
  - Carol will get signs printed and laminated
  - Betsy has the sandwich boards and will attach the signs.
  - Paul will place the sandwich boards along neighborhood streets in mid-June.

#### **8. Report on April 30, 2022 Neighborhood Cleanup**

Betsy reported on another successful clean up event. 25 people participated, despite many competing city-wide events. Many bags of garbage were collected and it was a good way to meet new neighbors.

**9. Carol announced** that she will not continue serving on the Moose Can Gully NC Leadership Team after the General Meeting due to other responsibilities.

#### **10. Community Forum**

The following report of the April 28, Community Forum meeting was submitted by Carol.

“With a quorum present the February 24, minutes were approved.

The major presentation was made by Marie Boggess of Urban Forestry and Karen Sippy, of Trees for Missoula. Urban Forestry takes care of planting, pruning, and hazard removal of trees lining streets in Missoula’s parks, river corridors, cemeteries, plazas, and parking lots, as well as those in yards and alleys within the Missoula right of way (which varies from 6 inches to 5 feet beyond sidewalks). Numerous studies have been done showing the benefits of trees in urban settings. They absorb storm runoff, save energy by lowering ambient temperatures, increase property values, and improve air quality. They encourage lingering and shopping.

You can find much good information on the Urban Forestry page of the city website.

Within the next few weeks, they will start the project of planting 50-75 trees along the Honeysuckle Park area near South 39<sup>th</sup> Street, and each year they will concentrate on a single neighborhood. This year it is to be the Northside neighborhood. They not only provide and plant the trees; they give hoses to homeowners who agree to their upkeep. They also are committed to zero wood waste, which means that they take the wood from trees around the city that need to come out, have them milled and used for Parks & Rec features (tables, trail markers, shelters, etc). They (either Trees for Missoula or Urban Forestry) also offer a course on tree pruning for citizens

Reference was made to the tree study that Janet van Dyke took part in several years ago. They said that those suggestions ended up being too specific to be fulfilled. Perhaps the urban forestry plan evolved from that. They don’t use fruit trees in any Missoula right of way because of the fruit mess, bear attraction, and extensive pruning needs.

The strongest recommendation they make to all citizens is to deep water your trees. We have a symbiotic relationship with trees, and our part is to water them because our Montana climate is too dry.

By vote we approved the unanimous committee recommendation of 7 Neighborhood Improvement grants, all for less than the amount requested. Several had to do with traffic calming features, one a topographical survey necessary for the design of a new park in Farviews, one for pickleball painting on the tennis courts in Bonner Park.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Garlington

Carol noted that the S. 39th Neighborhood previously was represented at Community Forum by Jeff Stevens, while Carol represents Moose Can Gully. Jeff has not attended a meeting for several years. Paul is his designated alternate.

With Neighborhood Council Leadership Team elections coming up at the General Meeting, it was decided to ask Dave Bell or new members to fill in. Carol will need to be replaced on Community Forum. Betsy is her alternate.

#### **11. Missoula Neighborhoods Report**

Kelly reported that they have been busy getting General Meetings scheduled for all Neighborhoods.

#### **12. Public Comment on Non-agenda Items**

- Ruth asked that we keep Urban Deer on our monthly agendas to list concerns observed and note the priority.
- Paul inquired about the Sunday May 15, Missoulian. "This Week in Government" post announcing this South 39th Neighborhood Council Leadership Team meeting while omitting the Moose Can Gully Neighborhood Council LT meeting. Kelly will ask the Missoulian to also include Moose Can Gully Neighborhood in future postings.

#### **13. Upcoming Meetings**

- Special Virtual Meeting June 8 to be arranged by Ruth
- Next monthly meeting changed to June 25, Virtual Zoom
- General Meeting June 29, Playfair Park

#### **14. Adjourn**

With no further business, Ruth moved to adjourn; seconded by Janet. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:07 PM.

Minutes by Betsy Weber, MCG