

# University District Neighborhood Council Leadership Team Minutes

May 3, 2022

7:15 PM

UM Theater

1. **Introductions and Roll Call** After attending the Greek Life Dinner and Awards, Chairperson Darcy Caron the meeting to order. In attendance were Kalina Wickham, Vicki Watson, Jennifer Copley, and Beverly McNamara.
2. **Minutes for April 5, 2022** Since no quorum was present, approval was delayed to June.
3. **Program Presentation** Lacey Zinke, still hosting the Greek Life Dinner, was unable to attend.
4. **Items Discussed**
  - a. The grant proposal for pickleball lines was approved but money for a study to add adult exercise equipment was not approved. Parks and Recreation, though it had worked with the University Leadership Team, told the evaluation committee that such a study was not in their work plan for this year. Kalina suggested that in the next grant funding round, the UDLT reach out to a playground planning firm to get more detailed cost plans and then to seek matching funds from Parks and Recreation. Despite this disappointment, Kalina urged the leadership team to explore EXOFIT and AARP Community Challenge grants. Darcy suggested working on such grants over the summer.
  - b. Jennifer Copley was given permission to write to the City of Missoula to thank them for street and alley repairs in our neighborhood.
  - c. Kalina gave an update on the Neighborhood Clean-Up saying eight neighborhoods responded. Franklin to the Fort Leadership Team filled up their dumpster and seven other neighborhoods participated. After visiting each collection site and talking to teams across the city, Kalina concluded that in 2023 we need more publicity and preparation. Next year she will split her staff's responsibilities for grants and cleanup to devote more time to the cleanup. Jennifer suggested that to improve student involvement, the cleanup date should not conflict with end-of-year testing at UM.
  - d. Vicki Watson announced a Campus Thrift Collection on May 12, 13, and 14, with a sale to follow on Wednesday, May 18, in Shreiber Gym.
  - e. Leadership positions are open for the University District Leadership Team and elections will be held at the June 8 meeting.
5. **Community Forum Report** Jennifer presented a printed report, including pictures of successful grant proposals. Darcy suggested that decorating a traffic circle at a cost of \$3000 would be a good project for our neighborhood.
6. **UM Representatives Report** Kat Cowley was unavailable due to surgery, and Lacey was hosting Greek Awards Night at UM. No report could be made.

7. **Missoula Neighborhoods Report** Kalina reported that the Affordable Housing Trust Fund is part of Missoula Gives and offered to send more information.
8. **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items** About a month ago at a meeting about proposed ADU's on Evans, Council member Gwen Florio asked that the parking question be deferred for future investigation. In our April meeting, Dan Carlino and Gwen Florio had reported the University has requested changes in the parking permit system now in place.

Beverly McNamara, (406-396-2987), spoke of her strong concern that some University District neighborhoods may lose what limited parking they already have. She asked how residents, already heavily impacted by rising taxes, can be expected to give up their only available parking spaces, spaces used for simple tasks like carrying in groceries.

Kalina suggested bringing a city or UM parking specialist to the next meeting. Beverly said that Gwen needs to communicate with residents about this issue very soon, even if the timeline is moved up. Numbers of small homes near the University do not have driveways or onsite parking. Darcy added that many houses have converted their garages to housing.

Vicki Watson urged that to protect their parking access to their homes neighbors prepare specific proposals for city and university officials.

Beverly would like to come to the June meeting. Jennifer and Vicki Watson concurred that we should invite individuals from UM so that we would have good communication about proposed development.

Jennifer urged respect for student parking needs in all communications but warned that more conflict will arise as football and basketball games in fall causes more parking to back up into the neighborhood.

Darcy reminded members that the Gateway issue has been introduced, but not carried out.

9. **Announcements** We will next meet on June 7, perhaps at Paxson School or Bonner Park. The meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM.