



MISSOULA NEIGHBORHOODS
Community Forum Report
City Council Chambers, 140 W. Pine
February 23, 2012 at 7:00 pm
Moderator, Ray Aten

Captain John Mullan – Steve Schmidt
Farviews/Pattee Canyon – Ray Aten
Franklin to the Fort – Mark McMillin
Grant Creek – Bert Lindler
Heart of Missoula – Bill Flannery
Lewis & Clark – Absent
Lower Rattlesnake – Absent
Miller Creek – Absent
Moose Can Gully – Lyle Geurts
Northside/Westside – Absent

Riverfront – Absent
River Road – Jesse Neidigh
Rose Park – Absent
South 39th – Absent
Southgate Triangle – Erik West
University District – Absent
Upper Rattlesnake – Doug Grimm

City Council Liaison – Absent
Neighborhood Liaison – Absent

OTHERS PRESENT:

Erika Foster

QUORUM:

A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

The agenda was approved with the addition of the Transportation Plan Update after the Branding Report.

APPROVE MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes for [January 26, 2012](#) were approved as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

PRESENTATIONS:

Russell St. Environmental Impact Statement – Steve King

Mr. King, Public Works Director stated the 3rd & Russell St. project began in 1998 and has been in progress for 11 years. In 2000 the Environmental Impact Statement was issued and the plan is to implement the project this year.

The Long Range Implementation Plan (LRIP) contains a large amount of funds that supports vehicular, motorized vehicles, transit, bike/ped, trail projects & programs over a 30 year period. The Public Works department addresses the LRIP program every four years and 2012 is the year to discuss and plan projects.

On an annual basis the Public Works department creates a project list that is linked on the City website at www.ci.missoula.mt.us under the Public Works Department. The list includes projects regarding major maintenance, neighborhood chip sealing, road maintenance operations, utility storm drains, sanitary sewer and federal aid projects. The list is prioritized and some projects may not be completed in the year it is proposed but they continue until completed. The list is created to communicate and coordinate with the public and utility companies so everyone is informed of City projects. Mr. King listed the current projects.

1. The Rattlesnake University Crossing project (RUX) is a federal aid earmarked project that connects the trail from the Lower Rattlesnake to extend across Rattlesnake Creek, over Van Buren and across Broadway to the Van Buren Street pedestrian bridge and continues to the University campus. This project will produce a prominent and safe corridor for alternative transportation. There is a neighborhood public information meeting that is scheduled for Wednesday, February 29th at 6:00 pm located in the City Council Chambers.
2. The results of the traffic signal optimization which coordinates the timing of traffic lights on the major corridors will be presented to the City Council. The plan is to implement intelligence transportation systems to respond to the demand of traffic flow.
3. The Department of Transportation (MDT) prepared and submitted a safety audit report on Brooks St. (Hwy 93) from Dore Lane to the Buckhouse Bridge. There has been a series of serious injury accidents and fatalities that have occurred, and the City Council will discuss the report at next Wednesday's committee meeting.
4. The City Council has been discussing sidewalk financing to find alternative ways to help pay for sidewalks and lessen the financial burden to property owners. The council asked staff to draft alternative ways relating to sidewalk funding, and the options will be proposed to the council. The public hearings will begin in March or April 2012.
5. Public Works is working on the Wastewater Utility Hybrid Poplar Plantation. The project allows wastewater affluent flow into a commodity and that will feed the hybrid poplar trees. This project is located on 130 acres of leased land next to the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the future plan is to extend it to 1000 acres. The City plans to sell the poplar trees for a profit and this project will be implemented this year if the Department of Environmental Quality allows a land application permit.
6. The Russell St. sewer interceptor flows from River Road down to 3rd Street and continues south. The plan is to make sure all the underground utilities are solid and in place before the Russell St. project begins. Russell St. is a core street for the City and effects six neighborhood councils and three council wards. The project will impact several trail systems, promote better neighborhood access; organize a multi mobile road to accommodate vehicles, bicycle, pedestrian, and transit & neighborhood conductivity.

The project will allow four lanes on Russell St. including a turning lane, raised medians, bike lanes and sidewalks on both sides of the road. It is a model of Stephens Avenue and the first phase covers 3rd St. to the Broadway intersection.

The Russell St. bridge was constructed in 1957 and Mr. King mentioned he was born the same year, but looks much better than the bridge does, and he clarified the bridge is structurally sound but is functionally obsolete. The new improved bridge will contain four lanes with a gap in between that will accommodate the development of turning lanes at the Broadway intersection. The project also provides the Riverfront trail to continue and connect to Mullan Road.

Mr. King discussed the presentation slides of the new design, and mentioned this project is a \$26 million federally funded project that will take five years to complete.

7. The 3rd street project will begin in 2013 and the first phase starts at Catlin to Johnson & Kemp Street. Turning lanes will be provided, but the raised medians will wait until funding becomes available. An assessment from adjacent property owners is the main funding for this project. The property owners will fund the curb & sidewalks and the City street crews will build the roadway.

The Forum clarified and discussed questions.

Neighborhood Project Funds – Ray Aten

Mr. Aten stated the neighborhood project account has \$20,000 and \$18,200 is allotted for large grants and \$1,800 is allotted for small grants. The committee discussed, scored and made recommendations for the [neighborhood projects](#).

There were thirteen project applications and the scoring is based on funding the amount requested, the amount that is recommended, and the approval level allowed.

Mr. Aten noted some projects have other funding sources available and it was not necessary to allocate funding for those projects. He mentioned a few projects that were not chosen.

Mr. Flanery said he participated in submitting a grant application and the project was recommended for funding but he was concerned about the stipulation.

Mr. Flanery moved to modify the recommendation to state \$5,130 is the *estimated* total cost of the project and that amount is needed to fund the landscaping, architectural services and miscellaneous costs. If the total funding amount is not obtained by Monday, September 17, 2012, then this grant will not receive neighborhood project funds.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Mr. McMillin moved to accept and present the recommendations to the City Council for approval.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Mr. Neidigh announced there will be follow up meetings with Ms. Kelly to discuss the projects that were not approved; she will contact the people who submitted an application and were denied.

Fiscal year 2013 Neighborhood/Forum budget recommendations – Erika Foster

Ms. Foster discussed the summary for the recommended budget. The budget is broken down into several accounts including the general budget, printing & duplicating, training and reallocation funds. Currently each neighborhood council receives \$800 per fiscal year for general expenses and mailing supplements. She noted the postage cost has increased and the Community Forum Leadership Team discussed a mailing supplement increase. Currently the mail fund is permitted \$12,075 per year and the money is dispersed through the neighborhood councils depending upon the population percentages. The leadership team purposed to increase the mail fund to \$13,300 to sufficiently cover the mailing costs.

Ms. Ross asked how much total money was left over from the FY12 mail account. Ms. Foster said she didn't know and will find that information.

Ms. Ross stated the mailings have become a complex task for her neighborhood, and in the future they decided to request community service people to distribute the flyers and spend most of their funds on printing. She suggested renaming the mailing supplement funding account to "outreach budget".

She mentioned there has been previous discussion regarding the mailings and suggests purchasing a bulk mailing permit as it would be more feasible for all neighborhoods.

Mr. Neidigh suggested inviting a USPS person to discuss the mailing options.

Ms. Foster said Ms. Rehbein, City Clerk has addressed this option and this item can be discussed at a later Community Forum meeting.

Mr. Aten clarified the categories. Ms. Foster said there are neighborhoods that are currently in the funding equation and that may be removed after further discussion.

Ms. Foster said the Training Fund is currently \$1000, and the reallocation fund is at \$5000. She asked if the Forum would like to request additional funding for any of the categories mentioned.

Mr. Lindler moved to approve \$800 allotted for each for each neighborhood councils and increase the mail supplement by 10.41% for a total of \$13,300, and leave the general budget, printing & duplicating, training and reallocation funds to remain the same amount.

Mr. McMillin seconded the motion.

Ms. Ross feels two of the inactive neighborhoods (Orchard Homes and East Missoula) should not be removed because they may become active in the future and they will need the money provided.

Ms. Foster said there are 17 active councils and the others are not currently active neighborhood councils.

Mr. Aten clarified the Forum requests funding for the active neighborhoods. The Forum asked Ms. Foster to provide additional information regarding the inactive neighborhood councils at the next meeting.

The Forum agreed to withdraw the motion to fund only the active neighborhoods.

Ms. Ross moved to request an increase for the mail supplement by 10.4%. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Training Funds possible uses – Erika Foster

Ms. Foster said the training fund balance is \$1000 and this money is required to be spent on training or it will be returned to the City general fund. The leadership team suggests inviting a neighborhood liaison from another City to come and discuss different ideas to increase neighborhood council participation. Another option is to offer computer classes for neighborhood representatives. Watercolor Computer Training offers various workshops and the Forum discussed various benefits.

Mr. Aten suggested outreach training to recruit more people who are interested in participating with neighborhood councils.

Ms. Foster will send an email to all the leadership teams to inform them of the possible classes that include postal, website & general, and social media trainings. The Forum can discuss the results at the next meeting.

Leadership Team Vacancy Announcement and Nominations – Mark McMillin

Mr. McMillin stated Nancy McCourt has resigned from her position and asked if anyone is interested in serving on the Forum's Leadership team.

An email will be sent to the neighborhood leadership teams to request interested volunteers.

Branding Report – Mark McMillin

Mr. McMillin reminded the Forum the shirts need to be cotton or polyester/colon blend and no nylon or pocket tees. They also need to be a light color because the embroidery is a black/gray style. He noted if people are not interested in the shirts, there are visors and hats available. He noted he will need all the tee shirts, caps and visors by the next meeting.

Bike Walk Bus Week - Long Range Transportation Plan – Ray Aten

Mr. Aten said the Long Range Transportation Plan Community Advisory Committee met and scheduled a public workshop for March 8th located at the Holiday Inn Parkside at 6:00 pm. A consultant from Fort Collins, Colo. will be speaking about a broad assessment regarding all transportation options including bicycles, walking, transit, motor vehicle, maintenance, safety, security and funding.

Mr. Aten stated the Forum had a table at the Bike Walk Bus Week last year which was successful and a bike tour of the Milwaukee Trail was offered, unfortunately there was only one participant. He asked for ideas for this year's event that is scheduled for April 28th through May 5th.

Ms. Ross suggested an information table to inform citizens of the 3rd & Russell St. redesign and ask for their comments. The Forum agreed to discuss options at the next several meetings.

REPORTS:

Staff Report - Erika Foster

Ms. Foster feels each awarded grant project should display recognition for the Community Forum and Neighborhood Councils in some way. For example, a park project could have a recognition plaque or something that recognizes the funding source and neighborhood volunteer dedication.

Mr. Aten suggested sending Ms. Foster their ideas through email and the Forum can discuss them at the next meeting.

Ms. Foster announced Ms. Kelly's hip surgery was successful and she is recovering well at home.

Neighborhood Council Reports:

Upper Rattlesnake – No report

Captain John Mullan – No report

Southgate Triangle – Ms. Ross reported the Bellview park grant was awarded, and a general meeting is scheduled for March 14th at the Southgate Mall Community room at 7:00 pm.

Moose Can Gully – No report

Farviews/Pattee Canyon – No report

River Road – No report

Grant Creek – Bert Lindler thanked the grant committee for their efforts and for approving the grant that will support the Grant Creek trail additions.

Heart of Missoula – Bill Flanery thanked the committee for their grant award and for all their efforts.

Franklin to the Fort – Mark McMillin – Inaudible

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Elam

Kelly Elam
City Clerk Office