

Minutes

Riverfront Neighborhood Council General Meeting

Thursday March 21, 2013, 5:00-6:30 pm

Montana Natural History Center

Facilitator: Caleb Casper

Welcome: Caleb welcomed everyone and introduced himself.

City of Missoula Development Services: Don Verrue, Acting Director

Don presented the organizational chart which displays the new and consolidated functions of Planning, Development & Building, Engineering, & Transportation. Mike Hayes, formerly Planning Director for the City of Great Falls, is the new Director of Development Services. This consolidation is meant to be “one stop” service center which will improve efficiency and speed of services. There will be a new website, one phone number to call, and up to 8 people will answer the telephone. Questions and discussion included: code compliance issues, inspection questions, permit questions, and building height restrictions. ADUs were mentioned; a public hearing is scheduled for April 22.

Introductions were made by all in attendance.

Sawmill Project: Alex Taft

Alex provided a brief update, adding that Ellen Buchanan, Director, Missoula Redevelopment Authority, is most knowledgeable on this development. The City has closed agreement with the developer, and public infrastructure work has begun. This includes streets, and rebuilding of the trestle over Cregg Lane. The street scape will look something like the Lower Rattlesnake, and other improvement should be good for the neighborhood. A concept drawing of the total development is available at the redevelopment authority, and there is a website, www.oldsawmilldistrict.com. Alex urged the Council to maintain contact with the Development Authority and provide comments. It was agreed that we will place this on the agenda for the next meeting, set for June. Comments were added regarding sidewalks on California, and traffic control (ie roundabouts, etc).

Transportation: Alex Taft

Alex began by noting that several Riverfront Council meetings have addressed neighborhood transportation concerns, with much focus on 5th and 6th Streets. He advised us to illustrate the problems and concerns by completing the 10 page application the City uses - this will be the only way the staff can respond. Any proposed traffic changes will require good communication within the neighborhood. Caleb proposed formation of a subcommittee to work on transportation, starting with 5th/6th Streets, and including completion of the city's application. A sign-up sheet for volunteers was circulated.

Bridge Lighting: Gwen Hoppe

Brief discussion about some proposals to light the bridges on the Clark Fork are

circulating around town. There is a website, www.lighttourbridges.org . This is a private initiative, and the intent seems to be merely decorative. Concerns were expressed. It was agreed that more research is needed, and this should be on the next meeting agenda.

Walnut Street Landscaping: Gwen

Gwen proposed a clean-up day to be scheduled close to Earth Day. The clean-up will be held Saturday, April 20, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon.

Neighborhood Grant Program: Jane Kelly

A new grant cycle will begin this summer, and workshops about the program will be held in early fall. Eligible projects could include decorative painting of traffic signal boxes, pocket parks, landscaping of traffic circles, etc. The Walnut Street Garden was funded through a neighborhood grant. Smaller grants (up to \$500) are also available at any time. The application is on-line.

Photos Requested: Marisol Maddox, Outreach/Planning Assistant asked members to submit photos of our neighborhood for the City's Neighborhood website.

Community Forum: Mary LaPorte

Community Forum meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of the month in Council Chambers. The meetings are very informative; these are also broadcast on MCAT. A Neighborhood BusTour is scheduled for April 18th, 5:00 - 8:30 pm. Mary LaPorte and Patrick King will participate on the full tour. Discussion and prioritization resulted in the following places to be featured for the Riverfront Neighborhood:

- Natural History Center/ Boat Ramp/Silver Park/Millsite
- 4th Street/Hip Strip/ The Babs
- Freecycle

Annie Garde graciously agreed to speak about the History Center and the 4th Street/Hip Strip. Mary will be the back-up for the Silver Park, Millsite, etc. Bob Giordano will either speak or provide materials about Freecycles. We will work with Jane and her committee to determine the timing and details.

Election: Jonathan Qualben was elected as a member of the Leadership Team

Non-Agenda Items

Bob Giordano stated that we need to provide input on the Russell Street improvements. This will be on the next meeting agenda.

Next Meeting

The time will be changed to 5:30 - 7:00 pm. We will again meet here at the Natural History Center, but will remove the tables. Tentative date is either June 6th or 13th.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary LaPorte

03.23.13