

**Riverfront Neighborhood Council Ice Cream Social and General Meeting
June 19, 2013, Freecycles
Meeting Minutes**

Facilitator: Jonathan Qualban

Jonathan asked for introductions from all. Special Guest Councilman Bob Jaffe was introduced. Jonathan thanked Bob Giardino, Freecycles, for his hospitality in hosting the meeting.

I. Update on Millsite Development: Chris Behan, MRA, City of Missoula

The City is nearly finished with completion of infrastructure development, as planned, in advance of the private development process. Key points:

- This project is a result of the 2008 Millsite Development Plan
- Current projections forecast a slower, more organic process, much as neighborhoods grow naturally. Density will not be as great as originally planned.
- Chris displayed the site plan, including Silver Park, the Wyoming Street cut through, and other features.
- The water line will be upgraded, a corner at Hickory/Cregg will be aligned properly, and sidewalks will be installed, although sidewalks will take awhile.

Questions/Discussion:

- The development process: developers will put projects together; there are 2-3 in process now. The size of these discreet projects will be about 1/4 block - there will be buildings commercial on ground floor, with residential above.
 - Extent of "Green" projects: The city is using existing materials from the site, and is making their own soil and using existing fill. Very little material is coming off the site. There are existing standards for energy, environmental, and structural aspects.
 - Mixed income, types of units: zoning for this was completed 6 years ago.
 - Methane is being monitored, levels have been reduced. The Parks Department shop and boneyard will eventually be removed
 - Pavillion was discussed: The timber frame structure will be going up next month
- The Master Plan is available for view on the website: www.oldsawmilldistrict.com

II. News from Community Forum

Mary LaPorte provided a brief update on recent city-wide Community Forum meetings. Presentation in April and May included information on the Smart 911 Program, the Public Art Committee and design improvements for traffic signal boxes throughout the City, the Abandoned Vehicles Program, and the Wayfinding System in Missoula.

Information about the Community Forum, and all neighborhood councils, is posted on: www.missoula-neighborhoods.org. Meetings are held the 4th Thursday of most months, and held in City Council Chambers, 140 W. Pine Street. The next meeting is June 27, Mayor John Engen will be presenting the FY2014 Budget.

Neighborhood Grants Program:

Grants of up to \$3,000 are available for neighborhood projects. A training workshop will be held in August or September re: neighborhood proposals. We should begin formulating ideas for potential projects. Some ideas included improvements on the Bitterroot Trail, or a project with the Willard School kids. Suzanne Dussault expressed interest in this.

III. 5th & 6th Street Lane Change Proposal: Caleb Kasper

Caleb has been leading a subcommittee of neighbors over the past few months in consideration of options for traffic calming on these streets. They have held 4 meetings and conducted a poll, via in-person paper surveys as well as on-line surveys. The participation has been very good. The group has come together around forming a single lane of auto traffic, bike lanes, and parking space, with provision for two turn lanes at intersections.

Support for this proposal has been strong. The subcommittee is working on gaining more support, meeting with city and MDT officials, and working to resolve constructive criticism of the proposal. The major objections include potential resulting overflow to adjacent streets, and creation of congestion at the intersections.

Work will continue with the Engineering and Development Department of the City of Missoula, and further modeling of the traffic flow will likely be completed. Next steps:

- July 9: meeting of the Bike/Pedestrian Advisory Board
- July 10: Meeting with Public Works

The City Council may consider this in the fall.

A motion in support of this proposal was made by Jennifer Anthony, and seconded by Carol Belin, on behalf of this initiative:

On 5th and 6th Streets between Russell and Higgins bicyclists will have a wide lane, motorized traffic will have a dedicated lane, and parking will remain in its current configuration while gaining buffer space. At controlled intersections motorized traffic will return to two lanes in order to facilitate turning and traffic flow.

Discussion: comments about the previous modeling, and a similar, positive project in Philadelphia and other cities.

The motion was voted upon, and passed unanimously.

IV. Public Comment on Non Agenda Items

Dale McCormick: Dale, a member of the Extraordinary Events Committee, raised the issue of notification and communication about events, especially fireworks. There is a lack of communication regarding events and fireworks. The council seeks a go-to location for residents. Ideas suggested included the Osprey website, and the Events area of the City of Missoula website. Information should be posted at each site, and a hyper-link included. Residents may call 911 for a Quality of Life complaint for problems such as fireworks, noise, etc. Only 2 firework displays are planned for this summer.

Jonathan Qualban: A 3-plex unit is under construction on a small lot in the 600 block of S. 1st Street. Although new zoning allows for only 2 units at that site, 3 units are allowed because the previous building that burned there contained 3 units. This is a

concern as the setbacks and building size are likely to not be consistent with other properties in the neighborhood. Councilman Jaffee explained the zoning process, stating that the building permit was conforming to current requirements, and nothing can be done to stop this now. To prevent future development issues, the neighborhood could request a change in zoning. This may be a project for the Riverfront Council.

Jennifer Anthony: Jennifer informed the Council about a surge in graffiti in our neighborhood. She maintains the timber frame shelters in Silver Park, and the problems are way up so early in the summer. Recently she was threatened, and some of the tags are identified with the dangerous 18th St. Gang. If anyone sees suspicious activity, including individuals painting graffiti, they are advised to call 911, do not become involved. Bob Giardano offered assistance through volunteers from Freecycle if there are tasks to be done to help.

Gwen Hoppe: Water your trees as the summer heats up!

Steve Loken, Loken Builders: Steve informed the Council about his new project located at Inez/Dakota. Features include super-insulation and designed for residents using non-motorized transportation.

Emily Bently introduced herself. Emily will be running for City Council, for the seat being vacated by Bob.

Next meeting: Possibly in September. A request was made that the meeting not be held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary LaPorte
June 27, 2013