

Riverfront Neighborhood Council
General Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2014 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Location:

Free Cycles
722 S. 1st St. W.
Missoula, MT 59801
541. 7284

Moderator: Jonathan Qualben

I. Introductions

II. HIVE Development : Lizzie Juda

Lizzie Juda is the owner and developer of the 28,000, 2.5 acre, project located at 3rd St. and Walnut. Ms. Juda shared her plans for the Community Learning Center. Visions for the space include housing, urban agriculture (aquaponics, 5,000 square foot greenhouse), workshop space, a mini-golf course, event space, indoor/outdoor playground, commercial kitchen, classroom & art space. Community potlucks are held Wednesday evenings, 6:30 - 8:30, the community is invited. There are also Saturday work parties.

Discussion and questions included the zoning (it is zoned C1), need for city permits, parking capacity, timing for completion. Lizzie indicated that there is a Facebook Page that will include updates. Lizzie was thanked for her presentation and invited to remain in contact with the RFNC as the plans develop.

III. Russell Street & Milwaukee Trail Crossing Options: Loren Frazier, WGN Group

The focus of Loren's presentation was the trail crossings. As an introduction, Loren provided some background on the Russell Street improvements and updates.

There will be an underpass at the trail crossing. Three options were presented and discussed: a box culvert, an arch construction, and a bridge. Following discussion of pros and cons, a straw vote was taken in the options. *The Arch design, with 13 votes, was the deemed favored design.* (box culver: 4 votes, bridge: 4-5 votes)

IV. South First Street Sidewalk Improvements: Ben Weiss, City of Missoula

Ben provided a brief description of the project. The city in collaboration with MRA, plans to provide sidewalks in this area, which is designated as a residential street. Ben stated that the city's position is to not develop bike lanes as the curbs and sidewalks will be traffic calming, but it is also seeking community input.

Melissa Schmidt stated that the problem on S. 1st St. W. is not a traffic issue but a parking issue. There is much activity here, due to the Loyola High School athletic activities. She presented photos of the street which demonstrated that cars haphazardly park on the street, and drivers do not use the school's parking lot. Speed is not as much of an issue as space.

It was determined that more work is needed for this issue. A RFNC subcommittee was formed. Member include Melissa and Bob Giordano. The subcommittee will report to the RFNC Leadership Team at its monthly meeting in order to develop recommendations for these improvements. This will also remain an agenda item for RFNC General Meetings as needed. Although there is no deadline, Ben

indicated that attention should be directed in the autumn or winter. Comments were added regarding the need to work on pedestrian and bicyclist safety on California Street.

V. Bitterroot Trail Improvements: Neil Miner, Parks & Recreation

The City has recently received funds from the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) for trail improvements. This \$78,000 initiative was matched with \$15,000 locally. Plans include recommendations for safety improvements, including flashers that can be self-activated, as well as other lighting enhancements for the Bitterroot Trail, such as those now on the Milwaukee Trail. Specific safety crossings have been identified. The project is now in an approximately 6 month design/build stage, and it not yet ready to receive specify neighborhood input. The RFNC will continue to be informed of developments.

VI. Mural Project Update: Gwen Hoppe

Gwen provided background on the “Flourishing” Mural, located on Nutritional Lab’s building at S. 3th Street and the Bitterroot Trail. This project was sponsored by the Riverfront Neighborhood Council and funded through a large neighborhood project grant through the City of Missoula. A 32-foot mural has been successfully completed; around 60 feet of blank wall remain unfinished. A community celebration and unveiling of the mural is planned for October 3rd.

The collaborating team is seeking support for submission of an application for a \$500 small grant to continue the project. This grant will provide support for artist Stephanie Frostad to work with Willard Alternative High School students this fall to develop concept drawing for phase. The following motion was unanimously approved:

The Riverfront Neighborhood Council supports the submission of a Small Grant Request for \$500 to the City of Missoula, Office of Neighborhoods.

The annual large grant funding cycle is upcoming, requests are due October 6. Gwen is working on a proposal for phase 2 of “Flourishing” to complete the mural. The following motion was also unanimously approved:

The Riverfront Neighborhood Council approves submission of Large Grant Request to the City of Missoula, Office of Neighborhoods, for completion of the mural.

VII. Update on 5th/6th Street: Caleb Kasper

Caleb, along with other residents, has been working on this issue for some time. After a hiatus due to seasonal work commitments, he is ready to resume focus on 5th/6th Street traffic calming. Ben Weiss updated the Council with information that these streets are slated for chip & sealing, along with new painting. Input will be need before March.

There was a brief discussion on the project’s history. While these routes have been efficient for east-west traffic passing through our neighborhood, traffic patterns have caused difficulties here, including hazards to pedestrian safety, bike accidents, and side-swiping of parked cars. The RFNC has endorsed plans for removal of 1 lane of traffic, to be replaced by a buffered bike lane. Two lanes are retained at the stop lights in order to ease traffic flow.

An objection to this plan was voiced by Judy Holbrook, a 5th Street resident. Judy stated that cars line up in front of her house at rush hour. Judy volunteered to serve on the 5th/6th Street Subcommittee.

VIII. Community Forum Update

Mary LaPorte provided an update on the August Community Forum meeting, including the planning process now underway, as well as the plans for the Lolo Trail project.

IX. Election of Leadership Team

The following motions were unanimously passed:

- The Riverfront Neighborhood Council elects Emily Sullivan as a member of the Leadership Team.
- The Riverfront Neighborhood Council elects Judy Holbrook as a member of the Leadership Team.

X. Public Comment on Non Agenda Items

Tom Zavits, City of Missoula Development Services, provided information about the Missoula Assets Mapping Project, support by the Sonoran Institute. Residents are encouraged to participate in design of the City's Growth Policy through public meetings, in-line surveys, and focus groups over the next 6 months. The end result will be a map of all of Missoula's physical assets. This process is part of the state-mandated review of the growth plan. As Tom stated, this will create a "policy in case there is growth," and will help create policies, and then guidelines, that will be in place when developers comes to town.

Ben Brewer presented his idea for a landscaping project on S. 2nd Street. He was encourages to keep working on his ideas, possibly in preparation of a small grant request.

XI. Announcements

- Mural Celebration, October 3, 5-7:00 pm, Nutritional Laboratories
- The October Leadership Team meeting will be October 6, 6:30 -7:30 pm,

Bernice's
Bakery.

Meeting Adjourned, 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary LaPorte

October 6, 2014