

Heart of Missoula Neighborhood Council General Meeting Minutes

Date: March 25, 2015

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Missoula Public Library

301 East Main Street

Missoula, MT 59802

Leadership Team Members Present: Kim Brown-Campbell, Will McLauchlan and Sherry McLauchlan

Others Present: Jane Kelly, Neighborhood Coordinator, Neil Miner, Parks Department, Katherine Brady, ASUM Off-Campus Renter Center, Bryan von Lossberg, City Council and A.J. Russell, Missoula Osprey. There were approximately 16 people at the meeting.

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1. Renovation at Kiwanis Park – Neil Miner, Parks Department - explained that a CDBG grant for \$180,000 had been received for the renovation of Kiwanis Park, and these funds, plus others from Kiwanis would be used to replace the existing play area and to construct separate shelter and restroom structures using crime prevention through environmental design principles. He presented a schematic drawing showing an enlarged play area and a paved path separating it from the basketball courts and connecting to Hartman and the trail along the river. The play area would include new swings and natural play structures simulating logs or stepping stones and boulders which would provide a place to sit for parents. Photos of sample structures for the shelter and restrooms chosen in part as a result of the on line survey were shown. The restroom structure is lit by infrared sensors to indicate the presence of someone inside, have separate lockable stalls, surfaces that can be hosed to clean and in other ways are better than present facilities.

In response to questions, Neil provided information on who to contact about maintenance issues such as need for sand in the volleyball courts and restroom maintenance. He said that an environmental review was in progress and they hoped to solicit bids this spring and finish the construction this summer.

2. Student Housing, New Student Oriented Housing Project for the Heart Neighborhood, the Neighborhood Ambassador Program, renter services and voluntary housing inspections – Katherine Brady, ASUM Off-Campus Renter Center talked about the impact of the proposed new student housing project at

Clay and Front. She indicated the very low vacancy rate for rental housing in Missoula in this area, which tends to increase rents and may force students into unsafe units. The proposed new units would help alleviate this pressure whether or not the new units themselves are low rent. She explained the different types of student housing and indicated the developer is still working out what type will be offered and the number of beds. There will be on-site parking and on site management and maintenance. She said that Farran Realty, the developer, plans to meet with residents once plans for the project are more fully detailed. There is no official affiliation with the University, and the University has declined to participate with out of state developers of student housing who have contacted them in the past. The University does not have the funds to construct new additional student housing itself despite the need.

Katherine also explained the voluntary rental inspection program, free to students and \$15 to other renters. A City Building Inspector will check a unit for safety problems within a couple of days of being contacted and will work with the landlord to get them corrected but will NOT force the renter to move out. Forms and brochures were distributed. Katherine also explained the Neighborhood Ambassador Program in which student volunteers go door to door to explain services and work with renters and homeowners to resolve issues. Several student volunteers introduced themselves and explained what they did.

3. Q & A with City Council Representatives – Bryan von Lossberg answered questions and gave an update on a number of current issues including ward boundary changes, thinning of the forest in the Rattlesnake, trial concerning City acquisition of the water utility, planning for growth, proposed traffic changes in the downtown, new parking meter system, and possible development of a new outdoor ice sheet. He particularly urged comment on the Lolo National Forest website for the Rattlesnake (Marshall Woods) proposal.
4. Introduction of Leadership Team and Leadership Team Elections – Kim Brown-Campbell
Kim Brown-Campbell, Chair, introduced the Leadership Team, including Bill Flanery, who was absent, and asked others present to introduce themselves. She explained the duties of the Leadership Team. Will McLauchlan moved and Kim seconded the nominations of Ann Andre and Chris McAdams to the Leadership Team. The nominations were unanimously approved.
5. Proposed changes in bylaws and boundaries – Will McLauchlan reviewed the changes proposed in the out of date bylaws and moved for their adoption. Sherry McLauchlan seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

6. Update on Heart of Missoula Small Grant Projects and Update on Downtown Projects – Sherry McLauchlan
 - Renovations at Hellgate Park funded in part by a \$3000 neighborhood grant last year were approved by the Park Board in January and are expected to be underway this summer.
 - A similar grant was awarded for improvements to a trail to the river in the Ben Hughes (Easy Street) area and work has begun with local volunteers David Spildie and others.
 - A small neighborhood grant of \$500 was just approved by the Community Forum and will be used to supplement other funds for more pianos to be placed for public use in the downtown in the summer.
 - The proposed Art Park at Pine and Pattee is ready to go forward now that the concerns over security, maintenance, and parking raised last fall after the presentation to the Heart Council by Laura Millin, Director of the Missoula Art Museum, have been resolved. Construction will begin after the completion of some additional fundraising.
 - A postponed hearing on the conversion of Front and Main to two way traffic is now scheduled for April 14th at 6:00 in the Council Chambers. Residents expressed concerns over changes in bus routes that might be required by the conversion and/or construction.
 - There is no progress to report on the redevelopment project proposed for Orange and Front.
7. Community Forum Report – Will McLauchlan - gave a brief report on the Community Forum and referred those interested to the City website.
8. Office of Neighborhoods Report – Jane Kelly - explained the Neighborhood Bus Tour, which will take place on April 16th and will include the Heart of Missoula Neighborhood this year.
9. New Business - The next general Neighborhood Council meeting will probably take place early next fall and will focus on traffic changes and cooperative efforts with the Lower Rattlesnake neighborhood.
10. Announcements - AJ Russell from the Missoula Osprey talked about the proposed Neighborhood Night at an Osprey game on August 18th with discounts for groups of 10 or more and other activities.
11. Public comment on non-agenda items – None

Submitted by: Sherry McLauchlan