

## Riverfront Neighborhood Council General Meeting Minutes

Date: June 10, 2015

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Silver Park, Main Shelter  
700 Cregg Lane  
Missoula, MT 59801

*\*Before and during the meeting attendees will enjoy pizza, water from “Hit the Tap” and partake of free bike tune-ups, courtesy of Free Cycles*

Leadership team members present: Mary LaPorte, Caleb Kasper, Jonathan Qualben

Others Present: Jane Kelly, Neighborhood Coordinator, Jennifer Betz, Homeward, Bob Giordano, MIST, Emily Bentley, City Council, Alex Taft, City Council

There were approximately 60 people in attendance.

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Mary opened the meeting and initiated introductions.

1. Sweetgrass Commons Development – Jennifer Betz talked about the location of the building, that construction will start the fall of 2015 and be ready for move in the winter of 2016. There is a June 30th design input meeting from 3-6pm at the Sister Rita Mud center.
2. Road Diets
  - a. 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Street Traffic Calming Update – Caleb Kasper - Council people Bentley and Taft give an update that although everyone thought a traffic study was funded, it is actually not. Several ideas for how we can encourage the mayor and city council to include the study in the budget are floated. General discussion of various benefits begins. Beth Jaffe talks about speed and the danger of kids crossing the streets. Everyone is encouraged to comment to the mayor and council people. Comments are critical at the June 15th council meeting and the June 17th Budget meeting. Caleb to follow with details on these meetings. Those in attendance appeared to be in support of the study. There were some concerns expressed on traffic being pushed off of 5th and 6th to adjacent streets.

- b. Higgins Avenue Calming – Bob Giordano, MIST - Recommendation of Leadership Team (LT), May 11 - Bob clarifies some beneficial calming designs both for 5th and 6th and Higgins. 4-3 lane conversions are discussed. Next year a new Lower Rattlesnake Traffic Plan will be looked at, and the growth policy is being reviewed this summer. Bob encourages attendees to support traffic calming in the neighborhood. Attendees enthusiastic.
3. May 26, 2015 Meeting Re: Osprey Fireworks – Riverfront Leadership Team - Jonathan Qualben stated there are currently 5 displays scheduled and the use agreement does not have a number cap on displays. Neighbors are concerned about frequency, affect on pets, sound, and fires. Dale McCormick stated the new use agreement has the potential to limit displays, but sound ordinance does not cover fireworks. Emily Bentley suggests changing the sound ordinance. Some folks talk about how they like the fireworks. Dale says the trend has been that the frequency of displays has increased over the years. Jennifer Anthony brings up the option of soundless fireworks. Jonathan asks for attendees thoughts. Emily talks about the grave affect on pets. Several folks tell pet stories, talk of illegal fireworks, and other concerns. Some folks mention they like the displays. There is general concern for pet welfare and agreement that the fireworks are pretty. Gwen Hoppe would like to see a limit of 3 displays. There was no consensus regarding the fireworks.
4. California Street Improvements: Emily Bentley, City Council Member - Projects that fund the street improvements through the MRA are starting to happen. Mary LaPorte suggests a committee is formed. Emily thinks lobbying the MRA board personally is the best strategy. Beth Jaffe suggests writing and calling the Sawmill developers to encourage them. Folks generally want to see development in the area get going already. Folks are also really thankful for Silver Park.
5. Missoula Community Certified Wildlife Habitat – Jane Kelly talks about traffic circles that need to be adopted. There are 4 in our neighborhood that need stewardship; 1st and Hickory, 4th and California, 4th and Chestnut, and 2nd and Hickory. There is an effort to make Missoula the first certified Wildlife Habitat Community in Montana. Traffic Circles are able to be certified as Wildlife Habitats to help this effort become a reality.
6. Office of Neighborhoods Report – Jane Kelly, Neighborhood Coordinator - The urban forester is developing a master plan and seeking input on which tree species should replace the aging maples.
7. Community Forum and Elections for Leadership Team – Mary LaPorte -Ed Nolder is nominated and elected to the leadership team! Welcome Ed! At community

forum Mayor Engen talked about the reorganization of city departments. And Donna Gaukler talked about the goal of 10 new playgrounds so that every kid in Missoula would have a 10 minute walk to a playground.

8. New Business - Katie from the Clark Fork Coalition talks about the urban river corridor and the CFC restoration and access project. There is a river use/volume count going on this summer and the CFC is looking for volunteers.
9. Public comment on non-agenda items - Beth Jaffe presents Jennifer Anthony with an art print of Silver Park and thanks her for her incredible number of volunteer hours and devotion to the neighborhood. Folks in attendance clap, agree, and support Jennifer volunteerism and tenacity. Alex Taft talks about a couple speed monitors that have been acquired by the city. He states that folks can request certain locations. Michael Dean talks about parked nuisance cars and suggests a review of the ordinance is in order. Dale McCormick asks about Cregg Lane improvements. Alex Taft says it will not happen this summer.
10. Announcements - None

**Submitted by: Caleb Kasper**

Jane Kelly, Neighborhood Coordinator	<a href="mailto:jkelly@ci.missoula.mt.us">jkelly@ci.missoula.mt.us</a>	552-6081
Darcy McKinley Lester, NWF	<a href="mailto:mckinleylesterd@nwf.org">mckinleylesterd@nwf.org</a>	541-6708
Emily Bentley, City Council	<a href="mailto:ebentley@ci.missoula.mt.us">ebentley@ci.missoula.mt.us</a>	546-6652
Jennifer Betz, Homeword	<a href="mailto:jennifer@homeword.org">jennifer@homeword.org</a>	532-HOME x 24
Bob Giordano, MIST	<a href="mailto:mist@strans.org">mist@strans.org</a>	