

Rose Park Neighborhood Council – Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

October 23rd, 2019 (Wednesday) – 5:00 pm – Missoula Senior Center (705 S. Higgins)

Leadership Team Members in Attendance: Julie Devlin, Casey Erickson, Carol Gordon, Tony Rollin, Clare Wood, Michael Painter. Others in Attendance: Karen Gasvoda (Office of Neighborhoods), Sarah Knobel (Big Sky Public Relations), Colleen Biehl and Terry Conner (Lewis & Clark NC), Claudia Hewston (National Wildlife Federation), James Walter (Bike-Ped Advisory Board, Rose Park NC), Jesse Blumenthal.

Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m.. Introductions and welcome.

Higgins Avenue Bridge Project – Sarah Knobel from Big Sky Public Relations on behalf of Montana's DOT gave a presentation on and answered questions about the upcoming rebuild of the Higgins Avenue Bridge. There will be additional information available on impacts, timeline and final bridge plans at an open house at the Residence Inn at the Merc on November 13th from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Residents can also contact Sarah with questions.

Pedestrian & Traffic Safety – Lewis & Clark and Rose Park Neighborhoods – Colleen Biehl and Terry Conner with the Lewis & Clark NC Leadership Team discussed their neighborhood's interest in and efforts toward adding additional pedestrian and traffic safety devices. Lewis & Clark NC intends to continue to work with the City's Bike-Ped Advisory Board, Public Works Department and City Council to approve funding for improving safety in their neighborhood and surrounding areas. Rose Park NC's Leadership Team will ask for residents interested in meeting with representatives of Lewis & Clark NC and supporting their work toward that end.

Gardening for Wildlife – Claudia Hewston, AmeriCorps representative for the local office of the National Wildlife Federation, discussed NWF's ongoing efforts to certify homes, schools, gardens and other open areas as Certified Wildlife Habitat. Missoula was Montana's first certified community and NWF is working to recertify the community as well. Claudia handed out applications and additional information is available from the NWF office in Missoula (240 N. Higgins Ave.)

Traffic Signal Box Art – Neighborhood Grant Application – Casey Erickson has been working on a neighborhood grant application for art to be placed on two Traffic Signal Boxes – one at Beckwith & Stephens, the other at S. 6th St. & Orange. The Leadership Team voted unanimously to support the grant application.

Slant Street Gateway – Tony Rollin went over his report on availability of water for a community garden at the Slant Street Gateway. Tony obtained information from Missoula Water on the location of water mains and the general process for and cost of connecting to city water; and discussed the possible costs of excavation to connect with two contractors. Painter has contacted Garden City Harvest – Genevieve Jessop Marsh (GCH's Outreach Coordinator) will send some possible dates for GCH representatives to do a walkabout at the site to discuss the possibility of and process for putting in a community garden on at least one of the parcels. James Walter (a Rose Park NC resident and member of Missoula's Bike-Ped Advisory Board) and Jesse Blumenthal (Missoula resident and sculptor) expressed interest in exploring adding a pedestrian / bicyclist shelter, bench and pedestal for art on the other parcel. RPNC's LT will communicate future meetings regarding plans for the site to James and Jesse.

Community Forum Report – Julie gave a brief report on the September Community Forum meeting – presenters included Mayor John Engen on the FY2020 City Budget and City Parks & Rec Director Donna Gaukler on upcoming open space and trail projects. The Leadership Team discussed other

resources for information on Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts – there were two presentations made at the Local Government Citizen’s Academy (available on MCAT’s website) and additional information is available from a recent report made by Nick Shontz (with River Road NC).

Office Of Neighborhoods Report – Karen reminded the LT that the deadline for this year’s large neighborhood grants is October 29th. City Council candidate forums were filmed by MCAT and those recordings are available on their website.

Leadership Team Meeting Minutes – Minutes from the September 25th Leadership Team Meeting were approved.

Announcements / Public Comment – Painter asked that all LT members and others encourage neighbors and friends to support this weekend’s work with the Missoula Rose Society on preparing the rose beds at Rose Park for the winter. The Rose Society and Parks & Recreation will be coordinating that work on Saturday, October 26th, from 9:00 am to 11:30 am. Painter also handed out copies of the UM Neighborhood Ambassadors’ October Newsletter and encouraged LT members who were not signed up to receive those newsletters to consider doing so. Julie Devlin expressed on behalf of the Rose Park NC’s Leadership Team our condolences to the family of former RPNC LT member Margaret Sheldon Mallino who passed away in Missoula on October 1st. Margaret was a generous and gregarious member of our neighborhood and the Leadership Team and will be missed by her friends and neighbors.

Next Meeting – The next Rose Park Neighborhood Council Leadership Team meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 20th, 2019, at 5:00 pm at the Missoula Senior Center (705 S. Higgins).

Submitted by Painter Oct.24.2019.