

Northside/Westside Neighborhood Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2023

6:00 PM

Lowell Elementary Library, 1215 Phillips St.

- Introductions and Roll Call:
LT Members present: Leah Whitney, Gabe Sather-Olson, Timmothy Garrison, Amy O'Hoyt, Joyce Gibbs, Derek Kanwischer
Absent Members: Courtney Perreten, Mikyla Veis, Roe Erin
Community Members present: Rick Mcleod, Josh Nichols, City representation: Kelly Elam
- Minutes for January 18, 2023 were approved.
- Items to be discussed:
Neighborhood Profiles, Marc Hendrickson (Community Planner / GIS focus)
Marc shared large format printed maps profiling the NS and WS neighborhoods. These maps have been scanned and added to the LT Google Drive folder to be shared with these minutes.

Marc Hendrickson gave a brief overview from the long-range planning department and gave us built, demographic, neighborhood level information formatted similar to this map. This map is intended to contain the one set of data that we can all work from. With a common data set, the City can make transparent decisions.

The data set is derived from ESRI – decennial census data, and a host of other sources. Marc is seeking feedback about the presentation of this information. Kalina is seeking something similar to a handout for neighbors. Deadline would be the middle of March to develop a blurb.

Action Item: Review NS/WS maps and provide comments to Marc Hendrickson via the email provided here: hendricksonm@ci.missoula.mt.us

Marc is seeking any feedback such as missing data, safety considerations, missing or poor infrastructure, and other ideas of items you would like clarified or included in the final versions of the maps.

Action Item: The maps need a short description that characterizes the neighborhood. The default text (about 2,000 words / 1-2 paragraphs) should provide a brief overview of the character of the neighborhood including key attributes. Please provide these comments to the Leadership Team and we will submit suggested text as a group of a whole. We will discuss these comments for the description and what to submit at next meeting on March 15.

- Community Art Grant Update
The grant submissions are currently in the review process. No decisions have

been made at this time.
Amy Hoyt joined the grant committee.

- Meeting Locations
Burns Street Bistro is the decided location for future meetings.
- NS Softball Field Status
This is still a rumor, no other update provided.
- Parks and Recreation update from Gabe:
Pedestrian bridge budget is approximately 2.5 million. City will proceed to fund this project with fall/winter 2023 as the end / date for completion.
The elevators will not be removed because it is cost prohibitive.
Are there possibilities for small commercial/ coffee shop utilizing the electrical?

White Pine Park will be moving. Will move to land adjacent to NS cemetery near Villagio and Village Way.

Need to figure out ADA wheelchair access over the Scott Street Bridge. Lots of challenges and obstacles here.

NS greenway pavement renovation project. Parks worked with MDT to double the funding to complete this project putting up bids in March.

- NMCDC Community Survey
NS/WS Community Survey is currently open if you have not taken it. Please share with your neighbors at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/88YQG9C>
- Guest Speaker to invite to Future Meetings
City councilors from Ward 1 and Ward 2 (one from each Ward) will be contacted to see if they are able to attend our next meeting in March.
Marie Nolan – who manages the City stormwater management plan may be on the agenda for following month (tbd).
- Community Bulletin Board Location
The Northside's best / biggest gathering site is the dog park. We would need two signs or bulletins. Pedestrian bridge great location and Lowell Park also a great location. Parks Dept. would need to approve these locations. Leah will seek permission. Will also consider required budget moving forward.
- Neighborhood Budget:
Northside \$935.76
Westside \$1485.77
Note: Funds must be spent by June 30, 2023
Big Dipper, Westside \$500 – NSWS \$500

Fresh Market-- \$446.59

Ideas discussed include hosting an end of school ice cream social.

Action Item: Bring ideas to next meeting for how to spend budget / funds.

- Community Forum Report:
Higgins Ave. Corridor Update – Timmothy Garrison
The presentation suggests that the City is moving forward with a plan to create 3-lane vehicle access on Higgins between the X's and Brooks Street. The center lane will be a turning lane where it exists. Studies suggest there will be a small delay for pass-through traffic. As a benefit, studies suggest there will be fewer vehicle accidents and reduced car / bike / pedestrian accidents.
- Missoula Neighborhoods Report–Kelly
No neighborhood report.
- Public comment on non-agenda items
Josh Nichols, Northside resident said “everyone is talking about the pedestrian bridge” as an area of concern. It was good to receive the update from Gabe and Mirtha Becerra via the Parks Department suggesting that the City is taking this issue seriously and prioritizing this important infrastructure, even with increased expenses.
- Announcements
Ward 2 City Councilor, Mirtha Becerra provided an email update about Scott Street / Phillips Street traffic speed / congestion and crossing infrastructure. The email from Councilor Becerra is here in blue:

Good morning everyone,

I just wanted to share some info we received from our Public Works department regarding traffic and safety for the Scott/Turner and Scott/Phillips intersections:

- First, in the coming weeks we will install a speed radar sign on the south side of the bridge. This will serve as an interim measure to alert traffic that is driving too fast as they approach the Phillips intersection until we are able to evaluate and construct a roundabout at that intersection.
- Second, this spring/summer we will install a rapid flashing beacon (RRFB) for the crosswalk north of the bridge. This will most likely be at Turner, but we will get input from the neighborhood before making a final decision. This requires concrete work to make the crossing ADA accessible, so timing will be dependent on when Brian's crews can perform that work.

Also, city council approved funding for the parks department to repair and work on the pedestrian overpass. For more info on that you can contact David Selvage with Parks and Recreation or one of us.

I'd be happy to join you at one of your meetings in the future to learn more from you about neighborhood issues. Feel free to contact me if I can be of help.

Thank you for serving and for all you do.

Mirtha Becerra
Missoula City Council-Ward 2

A google drive folder has been created for the Leadership Team to access and contribute comments. The link to access the files will be provided in the email to the Leadership Team.

- Next Meeting
March 15, 6:00 pm to 7:30 located at Burns Street Bistro, 1500 Burns Street.
- Agenda items for next meeting
 1. Budget – how to spend it?
 2. Guests (City Council)
 3. Lowell School flashing speed limit sign (status)
 4. Review and Comments to Marc Hendrickson (neighborhood maps and Community Blurb contributions (NS & WS)
 5. Community Bulletin Board(s)
 6. Neighborhood Grant update
 7. Other project updates?
- Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.