



Community Forum Minutes

Date: January 26, 2023
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Council Chambers (in person) or TEAMS (virtually)
Attend in person: City Council Chambers, 140 W Pine, Missoula MT

During the meeting, please remember to 1) Be recognized by the moderator before speaking, 2) Turn on your microphone. 3) State your name. 4) Speak clearly, 4-5 inches away from your microphone.

1. Administrative business

1.1 Call to Order

1.2 Roll call by neighborhood council

Members present: Grant Creek, Bert Lindler - Lower Rattlesnake, Robert Schultz - Miller Creek, Lee Boman - Northside/Westside, Timmothy Garrison - Riverfront, Eva Dunn-Froebig - Moose Can Gully/S. 39th, Dave Bell

Members absent: Captain John Mullan - Farview/Pattee Canyon - Franklin to the Fort - Heart of Missoula - Lewis & Clark - River Road - Rose Park - Southgate Triangle - University District - Upper Rattlesnake

Other present: Charlie Menefee, City Transportation - Gwen Jones, City Council, Ward 3 - Kalina Pritchard - Kelly Elam, Missoula Neighborhoods

1.3 Determination of quorum

No quorum

1.4 Approval of minutes

No quorum, minutes will be approved at a later date.

2. Public comment on non-agenda items from audience

No public comment.

3. Presentations

3.1 Higgins Ave. Corridor - Ben Weiss, Transportation

Charlie Menefee, City Transportation gave an overview of the Higgins Corridor plan which kicked off the summer of 2021 and gained community vision. In Sept. 2022 the plan was developed with the vision and concept designs. The Department of Transportation (DOT) has jurisdiction over the road and selected and supports the designs. He showed a presentation including Project Goals with a safer design and economic activity. There is policy support backed by the City Council. He discussed the details of the plan.

He noted the Beartrack Bridge known as the Higgins bridge will affect the project.

The plan's benefits will reduce crashes by 50%, the lane widths will be widened and will improve maintenance & emergency access.

Trade-offs in decision includes motor vehicle safety, parking, pedestrian comfort, transit access, bicyclist safety, and streetlight data.

There was public outreach and the City received many comments and emails, and the results included mixed opinions. There were many mixed results from the businesses.

The Public Works committee will discuss this project on Feb. 1, from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm located at the City Council Chambers, if approved the City Council will approve it at their City Council meeting on Feb. 6, 2023. The project will begin in 2025 - 2026.

There were questions regarding parking loss, traffic light synchronizing, and federal grant funding.

More information can be found on www.engagemissoula.com

4. Neighborhood project funds

4.1 Grant Project Update - Kalina Pritchard

Kalina said Missoula Neighborhoods received seven grant applications. A sub-committee is in the process of being formed and there are currently three members and she asked for more volunteers. There will be two meetings to go through the grants and score them on a matrix. The grants will go to Community Forum on March 23, and then to City Council for approval in early April. If anyone is interested please contact Kalina.

5. Neighborhood Council & Community Forum

5.1 Community Forum Officers - Kalina Pritchard

Kalina said she wanted to discuss bringing back Community Forum officers and was hoping for a full quorum. The forum lost the officers during COVID and term expiration. The officers includes a chair, co-chair and a treasurer. The funds are important and needs to be utilized, she will bring this forward at the next Community Forum meeting. If anyone has questions please contact Kalina.

6. Special events

6.1 None at this time

7. Reports

7.1 Staff Reports

7.1.1 Missoula Neighborhoods - Kalina Pritchard

Kalina mentioned the Local Government Academy begins Feb. 9, 2023 and this program informs residents of how municipal government operates. The application process closed on Dec. 20, and 30 people were chosen. There were at least two applicants from each neighborhood and there were a few neighborhoods that didn't have any applicants. The sessions will be taped by MCAT.

7.2 Neighborhood Council reports

7.2.1 All neighborhood updates

Grant Creek, Bert Lindler - no report

Lower Rattlesnake, Robert Schultz said they had a general meeting in November and elected new members. There will be a leadership Team meeting on January 31.

Miller Creek, Lee Boman said they met and discussed traffic issues, Jeanette Rankin school has no more room.

NSWS, Timmothy Garrison said they met and discussed what organizations are in their neighborhood, Phillips ST./Scott St. bridge roundabout, and a grant was submitted.

Riverfront, Eva Dunn-Froebig said they had 2 leadership Team meetings that included Neighborhood Watch, Higgins Ave. corridor plan, Opportunity Resources came and spoke about a piece of property located in the neighborhood. Developers have offered to purchase it.

7.3 City Council liaison report

7.3.1 Gwen Jones, Ward 3

Gwen Jones, Ward 3 said they have been discussing the fee schedule for Parks & Rec., code reform, and following the legislative bills.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.