

Bicycle and Pedestrian Right-of-Way Subcommittee Minutes

January 17, 2020, 4:00 PM

Wave and Circuit

829 S. Higgins

Missoula, MT 59801

Voting members present: James Walter (Chair), Jay Bruns, Jesse Blumenthal, Jessica Dougherty Goodburn (Vice-Chair)

1. Call to Order

James Walter called the meeting to order at 3:02.

2. Roll Call & Introductions

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes were approved as submitted.

4. Approval of Current Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Comments from City Staff, Agencies, Boards, etc.

There were no city staff present.

7. Old Business

7.1. ROW Questionnaire Discussion

7.2. General ROW Recommendations

8. New Business

8.1. ROW Subcommittee Mission

Mission: Research creative approaches to safety and accessibility in the public right-of-way.

8.2. Slant Street Gateway Design Session

The majority of this meeting centered on the discussion of a proposed design for the Slant Street Gateway to be presented at the Rose Park Neighborhood Leadership Team Meeting on January 22 at 5:00pm.

The committee discussed three questions related to the design of the two triangle parcels located at Mount and Plymouth Streets.

1. What is the Slant Street Gateway Project currently providing to the community?

The committee believes the project could provide much more for the community than it does in its current condition. There is a labyrinth, seating, and gardens. A lot of thought went into the project in 2007 when it was last improved. Despite current design elements, the space sits mostly vacant.

There is a small amount of traffic control by way of an elevated roadway, and the narrowing of Plymouth.

As a previous neighborhood improvement project, the location provides a potential sense of identity for the neighborhood. It could also provide a place to gather. There is flagpole which could be used or replaced by something that more represents the community. There is a ghost bike at this location.

2. What could be changed or added to benefit bikes, pedestrians, and the greater community?

The committee discussed possible improvements to create a community gathering space at this site. Through a confluence of art, seating, a little free library, trash cans, bike parking, and pedestrian facilities, a multi-use design could provide a plaza for a wider range of people.

Food trucks: This would likely encourage more people to visit. Designating permanent parking for a food truck is potentially counter to this committee's objectives. Would need to create a permitting process.

A sound barrier would provide some protection from Mount Street traffic and make the area more comfortable to be in.

The committee is interested in seeing infrastructure for large scale and high impact art installations, such as public sculpture. Ideas presented included walls for public art display, a small performance venue, street level paint, a sculpture pad, and the possibility of rotating exhibits. Members discussed installing one structure versus something that would be changed over time.

Regarding infrastructure, the committee discussed more egress, delineating the space, line of sight issues, and integration with neighborhood greenways.

3. How can the Slant Street Gateway Project have an egalitarian purpose?

Some elements that could contribute to a more egalitarian space, are protection from weather, a shade shelter, picnic tables, a sound barrier, seating, accessibility for wheelchairs and walkers, and pedestrian facilities.

With respect to art installations, more egalitarian will mean providing opportunities to emerging artists, considering environmental impact of materials used, and extending art calls to reach artists from all over the area.

The committee opted to independently create designs in advance of the Rose Park meeting based on priorities set in this session.

9. General Comments and Announcements

10. Upcoming Meetings

There are no scheduled meetings.

11. Adjournment

James Walter adjourned the meeting at 5:40pm.