

Upper Rattlesnake Neighborhood Council General Meeting

February 11, 2018, Messiah Lutheran Church

The following topics were discussed:

Syringa Bike Skills Park—Meg Witcher, Parks and Recreation

This Park will be developed on Lincoln Hills Rd. across from the soccer and ball fields. It is on former County land that the City now owns. The Tanner Olsen Memorial Fund has raised \$140,000 but they need \$325,000 for full development. Phase 1 includes water well development, bike infrastructure, jumps and pedestrian loops; phase 2 has a picnic shelter, tool station, and bike racks. The bike park will have no separate parking; parking will be at the soccer fields. There are no plans for a crosswalk. Restrooms will be like those at Pineview Park: Portalets, which the Park Board has approved. There will be some type of fencing on the south side adjoining the residential area and they are working with urban forester to protect viewshed. Final plans will be posted online. Right now they are at 95%.

Fire Safety in the Rattlesnake—MELT (Montana Elders for a Livable Tomorrow)—Jan & Harold Hoem

There will be 3 events in March on fire preparedness: March 7, 5pm at UC Theater for MOLLI members and guests w/ Jack Cohen (Fire Researcher); March 11, 1pm Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Bonner; March 21, Grant Creek Best Western, 7pm

Smart911.com—Nick Holloway, Missoula Co. Office of Emergency Management

They send emergency alerts - neighborhood specific - for law enforcement, fire department, etc. If you have a cell phone, then you need to voluntarily sign up for alerts; landline numbers are automatically enrolled. At Smart911.com you can also create a safety profile which is tailored to your needs and your house. If you call 911, then your specific info will be available to the responders. Sign up at Smart911.com. They send text message alerts and also send deputies out for direct door-to-door contact.

Van Buren Roundabouts—Shane Stack, MDOT

Big Sky Public Relations is handling public relations for this project and staff handed out materials about the project. The construction contract will be awarded in early March. Some tree and shrub removal will occur in March since regulations prohibit removal during migratory bird nesting period (April to August). Work could begin in late April and there will be 4 stages:

1. 51 day timeframe to complete work: utility work, storm drains, retaining walls
2. 35 day timeframe: east side of interchange with traffic (both north & south) proceeding in existing southbound lanes. Could start by June 4
3. another 35 days: other side of interchange
4. Noise wall construction, bridge work, interstate work. There will be delays on interstate as things are necked down. Noise wall on bridge will be glass due to weight of concrete.

North/south traffic will be kept moving; ramps may be shut down, but there's a financial incentive for contractor not to do this. Maybe one ramp closed at a time. Similar size and look to Orange St. Bark, trees and shrubs will be planted inside roundabout. Contractor possibly could get a variance to city noise laws for evening work. No change to westbound ramp to I-90. Further information can be found at:

<http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/vanburen/>

Van Buren Phase 3—Monte Sipe, City Engineering

This project covers Van Buren north of Lilac and going to Missoula St. intersection. There will be curbs and sidewalks, bulbouts at Holly, combination use trail (10 feet wide, concrete) on west side of Van Buren. They will bury the ditch on west side of Van Buren. Bid project in next few weeks. Some water & sewer utility work. Both travel lanes will be open w/exception of underground utility work. 75 calendar days w/start in late March or early April; done by mid-June. New left turn lane onto Missoula Ave. with a full 90 degree turn. Bulbouts will not encroach on the bike lanes. There will be a small retaining wall on east side by new

sidewalks. There will be some traffic delays but they will try to minimize this. This issue was raised: traffic detouring to Greenough and wanting ability to turn right onto N 2nd when there is traffic backed up due to trains. Request was made to allow, temporarily, 3 lanes of traffic, with west lane being right turn only.

Removal of Rattlesnake Dam—Paul Parson, Trout Unlimited

The dam on Rattlesnake Creek is 115 years old and was abandoned by Mountain Water in the 1970s due to giardia contamination of the creek. The gates are welded open, the fish ladder is no longer useful and the dam doesn't provide any flood water storage. Concern is that it blocks migrating fish and also represents a liability to the City, who now owns the water system, the dam and the 42 acres around the dam. Opportunity exists now to examine the dam and what removal might mean. Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, the City of Missoula and Trout Unlimited have signed an agreement to look into dam removal. River Design Group of Morrison-Maierle Engineering is collecting data now; they also handled the Milltown dam removal. A tentative date of March 20 has been set to look at options. This meeting would be at 6:30pm at Missoula International School in the lower Rattlesnake.

Bear Buffer Zone and Republic Services trash collection in the Rattlesnake—Hans Hoffman

A City ordinance restricts citizens from putting trash out before 5:00am in the bear buffer zone without a bear-proof trash can. Most residences do not have bear-proof cans. There is a working group with Bryan Von Lossberg, Beth Judy, Jamie Jonkel, Hans Hoffman, Aaron Edge (Defenders of Wildlife) & Republic Services. There is no clear decision but they have talked about a later pickup time between 7am & 8am and lower cost for bear proof cans. A suggestion was made to have bear proof cans provided only to those with pickup before 8am. Republic Services has around 1000 older bear-proof cans that may be put to use.

Q&A with City Council—Bryan von Lossberg and Heidi West

A concern has been raised about the pedestrian crosswalk at Van Buren and Broadway (west side): southbound right turning cars often do not see the pedestrians step into the intersection and cars do not stop. The traffic signals have been changed to have a “leading pedestrian interval”. Pedestrians now get a walk sign 3 seconds before the traffic light goes green. This is the first instance of the leading pedestrian interval being used in Montana. Several people mentioned the need for a sidewalk on Lincoln Hills Rd. Bryan will ask City Engineering about this.

We can report potholes online at the City Street Division or call our City councilors and have them report it.

Urban deer – Brian has taken over this issue for City Council. There is a general lack of interest except in Ward 1. Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks say it's up to private landowners to protect their property.

Leadership Team Elections—Jane Kelly, Neighborhood Coordinator

There are currently 7 leadership team members; Robin Carey, Andrea Stierle & Hans Hoffman are still within their terms. Doug Grimm, Bev Young, Bre Ender and Bill Ruediger have expiring terms but are willing to continue serving. There were no volunteers or nominations for others to serve. Georgia Cobbs moved that these 4 be re-elected and Tom Javins seconded. All approved.

Public Comment on non-agenda items: none

(minutes submitted by Bev Young, secretary, URNC leadership team)