

Grant Creek/North Reserve Neighborhood Council Leadership Team
Microsoft Teams 6 to 6:45 p.m. March 26, 2024

Attending:

- *Grant Creek/North Reserve Leadership Team:* Wendell Beardsley, Kevin Davis, Bert Lindler, Craig Van Bockel
- *Presenters:* Erin Edge, Bear Smart Missoula; Gordy Hughes, Fire Chief, City of Missoula Fire Department; Mike Cole and Rich Lasko, Wildfire Risk Task Force of the Friends of Grant Creek
- *Office of Neighborhoods:* Kalina Pritchard
- *Grant Creek/North Reserve Neighborhood Members:* Roy Regel, Tanner Falcon

Fire Levy June Ballot Measure

Missoula Fire Chief Gordy Hughes discussed the need to increase the number of firefighters available to respond to fires and medical emergencies.

Missoula has grown 11.5 percent since 2008 but the number of firefighters has not. The city has put a 34-mill levy on the June ballot that would raise about \$7 million a year, allowing a new fire station—Station 6—to be staffed by 20 firefighters and built where most needed, probably in the rapidly growing area near West Broadway.

Full information on the ballot measure and the need for it can be found on the city's Engage Missoula web site: <https://www.engagemissoula.com/fire-levy-ballot-measure-2024>

Bear-Resistant Garbage Containers

Erin Edge, an employee of Defenders of Wildlife, has spent two decades helping Missoula residents learn to live with bears. She discussed the new Health Department regulations that will require trash collection companies to supply bear-resistant garbage containers in both the city and county bear buffer zones: <https://missoulacountyvoice.com/bear-smart-missoula>

The regulations are being phased in over three years with bear-resistant containers being required by April 30, 2024, in Grant Creek and the Rattlesnake.

Nearly half of the conflicts in Missoula relate to garbage, according to a report released by Bear Smart Missoula: <https://missoulabears.org/projects/bear-hazard-assesment/>

Grant Creek Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Mike Cole, a retired wildland firefighter and a member of the Friends of Grant Creek's Wildfire Risk Task Force, discussed the Grant Creek Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The plan was prepared over several years by neighborhood volunteers with wildland and structural firefighting experience. The plan, which focuses only on the Grant Creek watershed, will be presented the Friends of Grant Creek general meeting at 7 p.m. April 23 in the Grant Creek Inn.

Grant Creek Road Pedestrian Crossings at Expo Parkway and Stonebridge Court

These crossings will not be required until the developer of the Grant Creek Village Apartments has received permits for 193 units.

General Meeting

Although the general meeting has generally been scheduled the third week in May, this year the general meeting will be scheduled in September in deference to the Friends of Grant Creek general meeting April 23.

Leadership team elections will be held during the general meeting.

Lee Clemmensen, who has represented Grant Creek Hills on the leadership team, resigned March 25, 2024 because of ill health.