

Captain John Mullan
Neighborhood Council Meeting
October 26, 2010 7 pm to 9 pm
Hellgate Middle School Commons Room
- Refreshments Provided -

Randy introduced the board members who were present (Randy, Kathie, Heather - Nathan, & Jordan were unable to attend and Rod and Josiah were delayed and arrived later), gave a short introduction explaining what Captain John Mullan Neighborhood Council is, and briefly went over the agenda.

Public Comment:

Karen Orzech is running for re-election and briefly explained why she feels she should be re-elected.

Office of Planning and Grants:

Laval Means updated the group on OPG work affecting our neighborhood. The zoning update is going pretty well. The process of maintaining and updating has already begun with clean-up of omissions and clarifications. They are now addressing decisions that were postponed such as wind turbines and affordable housing incentives. Next up will be road and transportation standards. The completion of Mary Jane to West Broadway and also to Mullan Road will be done by developers and that land is developed, but there are no proposals for development yet, so it will be a while. A new vehicle bridge across the Clark Fork is not even being discussed for development at this time, although a bridge in the Kona Ranch, Kelly Island, or Tower Street area is in the Wye-Mullan plan. The Old Milwaukee rail bed trail will include converting the old rail bridge across the Clark Fork for pedestrian use, but it will be 3 or 4 years before they even get started on the right of way issues.

Comments from City Council:

Roy Houseman explained the Council has addressed wind turbines for the zoning regulations and restricted noise and height to protect neighbors and also restricted the size to 25 kW. The City budget passed, including park and road districts. The budget has been reduced 6% over the last few years. Missoula is the only major city with no employee pay increases, but the special districts were necessary to maintain services. He asked for input from our neighborhood on proposed improvements to Russell Street. He said the Parks and Recreation department is starting to work on connecting the riverside trails out to our area, but the extension will be accomplished in pieces as opportunities arise. The Active Transportation Plan drafts are available on the Web. Neighbors should look at it and submit their comments. He explained the balance between homeowner desires for traffic calming and City ownership of streets and alleys. Basically, the streets and alleys are there to accommodate vehicular traffic, but that traffic should be managed for a reasonable speed through residential neighborhoods. If there are problems, City Council members can help the neighborhood interact effectively with City staff. There will be a "Tree Committee" coming on line.

Pam Walzer added that the theater addition, which will be an I-Max, includes a road connection to Great Northern. The street light is finally in on the corner of Mullan and Flynn so visibility at night is greatly improved.

Mullan Bike Trail:

Kathie and Randy brought up the idea of adding amenities to the Mullan Bike Trail such as benches and mutt mitts, and asked whether the group thought amenities were a good project to tackle next, or whether we should concentrate on safety issues first, such as the extension of the trail up Flynn Lane to the school and to Reserve Street, and the crossings at Flynn Lane and Mullan at the convenience store. The group overwhelmingly preferred that we work on the safety issues first, with the main concern being Mullan and Flynn and second the crossings at the driveways and side roads and the crossing at the convenience store. Apparently, the County has a grant program for projects that might include this type of thing. One of the neighbors said that the school is working on getting a grant to establish a bike path between 44 Ranch and the school so that kids wouldn't have to ride up Flynn Lane from the Mullan Bike Trail. Those at the meeting thought this would be an excellent project. The Mullan Bike Trail is on County Right-of-Way. Randy will talk to the State Highway people to find out whether they or the County is responsible for the trail. Meanwhile, Laval will check with the County and let Randy know. The extension of the Mullan Bike Trail to Reserve won't happen until those parcels are developed or there is an over-riding community need. Since that part is in the city, it may be a sidewalk rather than a trail.

Pleasant View Park Plans:

Kathie explained that the draft plans for the development of Pleasant View Park would be presented at a neighborhood open house on Tuesday, November 16, at 7 p.m., here in the Hellgate Middle School commons room. There was a discussion on the best way to get notices out to all the people in the neighborhood. A flyer will be developed by the City Parks and Rec staff and they will also put out a press release. The flyer can be e-mailed to those who are on our mailing list, but there are lots of people who aren't on that list. We could mail them through the postal service as we did with the charrette notices, or we could hand deliver them in the closest neighborhoods and post them on group mail boxes everywhere else. Kathie volunteered to walk around Pleasant View and Hellgate Meadows and hand deliver the notices if we got them printed soon. Alison moved and Heather seconded that we spend whatever it takes to print the flyers and hand deliver them. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Elections:

Randy's and Kathie's terms are expiring. Both said they would like to remain on the board. There were no other people interested in the board positions. Steve moved and Missy seconded that Kathie and Randy be re-elected by acclamation. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.