

Miller Creek Neighborhood Council General Meeting
August 22, 2017

Jack Walton, Co-chair of the Miller Creek Neighborhood Council and Jane Kelly, Neighborhood Coordinator welcomed all to the annual meeting with Jane giving a history of Neighborhood Councils. There were approximately 90 people in attendance.

Kevin Slovarp, city engineer, gave history of the chip seal and striping on Linda Vista Boulevard from Lower Miller Creek Road to Jack Drive. This is scheduled to come before the Public Works Committee next Wednesday, August 30, at which time a striping recommendation will be developed to take to the full council. Ben Weiss of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Program outlined the three options. He related that 80% of neighborhood comments received were in favor of option 1 which is shared driving/bike lanes with parking on both sides. The other two options had about 10% each. Following the discussion all of those present placed their votes on the poster for option 1.

Kevin Slovarp also gave a summary of the development of Shaver Drive which will continue down the hill eventually connecting to Linda Vista with a roundabout.

Erin Edge, Rockies & Plains Representative introduced James Jonkel who gave a history of creating the bear buffer zone around Missoula. This zone was established to create an area around Missoula that removes attractants so bears don't come into developed areas. Residents can go to the website missoulabears.com to find a map of the zone, post siting of bears or find further information. Mr. Jonkel also said a watch similar to the Neighborhood Watch can be set up for reporting bear and lion activity.

Susan Daniel, Principal of Cold Springs School, and Mark Thane, Superintendent of MCPS, briefed the group about progress of the new school which is scheduled to open fall of 2018. Residents can go to the district or school website for the school design and updates. The school is being built to the state elementary recommendation of 500 students. They addressed questions concerning size, flood plane, sidewalks and traffic. Staff, students, and the community will have input into the naming of the new school and the Board of Trustees will make the final decision.

Ethan Smith, a crime prevention officer of the Missoula Police Department related how a Neighborhood Watch program can be an asset to the community regarding varied safety issues. As a public outreach they can come to your home and evaluate things you can do for added safety. Residents can contact him via email: esmith@ci.missoula.mt.us . Officer Smith will be contacting those who indicated on the sign in sheet that they were interested in the program. Much discussion centered on speeding in the neighborhood to which he said officers will respond to calls pertaining to speeding issues.

No one from the parks department could make the meeting to discuss Jeffrey Park, which is being developed at Alicia and Joy, but printed information was provided.

Jane Kelly conducted the election of the Miller Creek Leadership Team. The members are: Jack Walton, Richard Paschke, Rich Eudy, Marshal Odell, Debra Odell, Nicole Hyman and new member Jack Chambers.

During the question and answer period with city council member Annelise Hedahl, stated that she will relate the residents' overwhelming opinions of striping to the full council and invited people to attend the Wednesday work meeting and/or the regular Monday night meeting. She also addressed the issue of no city bus service to the Miller Creek area and encouraged a grass roots petition to extend service to this area.

Minutes submitted by Mary Eudy