

Captain John Mullan
Neighborhood Council Meeting
March 16, 2010 7 pm to 9 pm
Hellgate Middle School Commons Room
- Refreshments Provided -

Randy introduced the board members who were present (Randy, Kathie, Nathan H., and Rod – Jordan was unable to attend), gave a short introduction explaining what Captain John Mullan Neighborhood Council is, and briefly went over the agenda.

Comments from City Council:

Pam Walzer talked a little about upcoming projects in our neighborhood. A street light (not a traffic signal) will be installed at Mullan Road and Flynn Lane when the bicycle trail along Mullan Road is built this summer. The Mullan Road and Reserve Street intersection will be re-stripped to attempt to relieve congestion by providing two turn lanes onto Mullan for those traveling north on Reserve. This means we will lose the bicycle lanes and the pedestrian islands. There has been some talk about providing a pedestrian bypass by the river (under Reserve at the bridge), but that would cost a lot and is not the current top priority for the State. There will be new roads built that will relieve traffic on Reserve as housing and other developments are completed. There will be a new arterial west of Reserve...but it will probably not be completed for 20 years.

Roy Houseman is getting oriented to the city council. He has questioned the cost of wrecks at Mullan and Reserve vs. a \$3 million cloverleaf, but the State doesn't have the capacity or authority to consider societal costs when planning road work. The City would like to connect the Mullan Trail to the sidewalks on Reserve Street, but the capital improvement list is currently 10 years long, so it won't happen for a while. It is on the Active Transportation Plan and there will be more pressure to complete that section as the riverside trail is completed east of Reserve, also.

Mullan Bike Trail:

Tim Elsea, the County engineer for the Mullan Trail project updated the group on progress on the trail project. The County received \$600,000 of American Reinvestment and Reconstruction Act funds for the trail on the north side of Mullan from Flynn lane to the Hellgate Trading Post, a crosswalk at the Trading Post, and the trail on the south side of Mullan from the Trading Post to Cote Lane, for a total of 3.1 miles. The construction contract has been awarded to Knife River, and they will have their preconstruction meeting Monday. The trail will be completed by September. It will be an 8 foot wide asphalt trail, meet ADA grade and slope requirements, and be located as far from the roadway as the right-of-way allows. There will be no associated utility work. Tim let the group know that they are still working on the alignment on the section at Riverwalk Estates, because while Riverwalk already constructed a paved path, there is no easement to connect it to the rest of the trail, which runs on the road right-of-way. They may have to go ahead and build trail on the right-of-way in that area, which would mean there would be sort-of a double trail there.

Graduation Matters:

Don Collins spoke to the group about the Graduation Matters program. North America has a 25% dropout rate in high school, and Missoula's rate is also high. Less than 1/3 of

dropouts go on to get their GED. People without a high school diploma are 50% more likely to be unemployed in a bad economy. The lifetime income for high school graduates is 90% higher than for dropouts. He presented many other statistics about the serious consequences of failure to graduate from high school, and the reasons why kids drop out. Missoula Superintendent of Schools Alex Apostle has convened a steering committee of 40 or so people to address this problem. Don presented a handout on Graduation Matters Missoula (<http://www.GraduationMattersMissoula.org>) and urged people to get involved in small or large ways for the benefit of not only the kids directly, but also of society as a whole.

Pleasant View Park:

Kathie Snodgrass explained what's going on with the Pleasant View Park design. We received a grant to help pay for the design, and have engaged a landscape architect (Kent Watson) to do the master plan for the park. We have been working closely with the City Parks and Recreation Department also. There will be a charrette open to everybody in the neighborhood, including a separate planning process for school aged kids, in April. Kathie explained how the charrette process works, and the review and approval process after that. The location and date for the Charrette haven't been finalized, but it is expected to be around the middle of the month and probably at the Hellgate school. There will be a mailer sent to everybody in the neighborhood inviting participation. After the master plan for the park is in place, we can start work on developing the park.

Board Member Appointments:

Randy explained that the board has 2 vacancies, and asked whether anybody would be interested in joining the board until the next election in September. Josiah Hodge said his life has settled enough that he would like to be on the board again. Heather Phillips also expressed an interest in joining the board. The meeting attendees unanimously approved appointing them both to the board. Welcome Heather, and welcome back Josiah!

The meeting adjourned about 9 pm.