

Captain John Mullan Neighborhood Council General Meeting

March 21st 2012

7:00 pm

Introduction of Officers: President Randy Johnson, Secretary Kathie Snodgrass, and County Representative Nathan Howard were introduced. Board Members Josiah Hodges and Steve Schmidt were unable to attend.

Agenda: Randy explained the agenda for the evening and invited everybody to help themselves to refreshments.

Public Works: Kevin Slovarp, a City engineer, updated the neighborhood on projects in and near our neighborhood. The City hasn't heard from the County what the timing is for the Mullan to Hellgate School trail construction, the street light at the Mullan/Flynn intersection, or the trail crossing at the Trading Post, but he suggested that Greg Robertson or Brent O'Connor (County employees) could be contacted to find out. The 2012 Public Works target list includes chip seal on Mullan Road from Reserve Street to Broadway this summer. The City hasn't received clear indications from Pleasant View on how the remaining funds from the England Boulevard SID should be spent. Those funds cannot be refunded. It has been suggested by some that a right turn lane onto Reserve from England be added, but others objected. The Airport applied for a Tiger Grant to connect George Elmer Road and England Boulevard together to better serve drivers wanting to access the Airport from the south, but these grants are difficult to obtain and the chances of being successful are unknown. If the grant is not obtained, that roadwork would not occur until the adjacent area is developed some time in the future. Neighborhood members expressed concern about all the residential areas where the only way "out" is Mullan Road. The City development plan shows a grid of roads, but they will not be built until the adjacent area is developed. Meanwhile, there's a LOT of traffic on Mullan. Particular concern was expressed about a large group of apartments located a block west from WalMart on the north side of Mullan and that are currently being constructed. Neighbors have noticed that construction vehicles are accessing the site through the Hellgate Meadows Neighborhood (and making a muddy mess on those streets), but it isn't clear whether the apartments will have a second access point through Hellgate Meadows.

City Council Report: Cynthia Wolken was unable to attend because she was out of town. Adam Hertz, our new City Council Representative, updated the neighborhood on current issues. Adam reported that sidewalk funding is one of the big issues currently. There is considerable sentiment in favor of doing a property tax increase so the City can partly fund these improvements, with the property owner also partly funding adjacent sidewalk construction. Another option is a gas tax. Accessory dwelling units are also a hot topic. Some on Council want to allow them in all residential zones. Adam's counterproposal is to require a special use permit for accessory dwelling units in residential zones that don't currently allow them, with hearings and a supermajority vote required to approve them if they are protested. Some neighbors expressed concern that it isn't fair to current residents to change the rules on what's allowed within a zoning area, because people choose their neighborhood with the expectation that the laws about what sort of development is allowed will remain the same. Splitting the Office of Planning and Grants, which is currently a combined City/County department is another hot topic. Grants and a few other services will stay together, but much of the current department would be split and reorganized with the intent of providing better customer service and especially pipeline service for permits and development.

44 Ranch Park: Kathie explained how the subject of allowing or disallowing alcohol use at the 44 Ranch Park came to the neighborhood's attention (a new picnic shelter is to be built there this coming summer, and a City staffer sent an inquiry about Neighborhood preferences). She also explained that City policy is to allow alcohol use in parks unless there is a compelling reason to disallow its use, such as the park also serving as a school playground, a park that serves as an official Little League ball park (Little League rules forbid alcohol), etc. There were two residents of the 44 Ranch development at the meeting who felt there are compelling reasons that alcohol shouldn't be allowed at the 44 Ranch park. Kathie passed along the info that City Parks and Recreation staff would be happy to meet with them to discuss the issue.

Pleasant View Park Master Plan: Kathie Snodgrass summarized the work already completed:

- The neighborhood assigned a park committee to work with Parks and Recreation to develop a master plan
- The park committee met multiple times with Parks and Recreation and then Parks and Recreation plus the consultant
- The consultant, landscape architect Kent Watson, was hired using Pleasant View Homeowner Association, Captain John Mullan, and Neighborhood Grant funds. Mr. Watson also did some planning work with the Pleasant View Homeowner's Association so that the Association-owned common space uses would complement the City park space, and vice versa.
- A neighborhood planning meeting/charrette was held at Glengarra Place in April 2010
- A draft master plan, using information and input gained at the neighborhood planning meeting, was presented at Hellgate school last November. Comments showed overwhelming support for the plan.
- The neighborhood approved the plan at the General Meeting last November.
- The Parks Board approved the plan.

Now we can begin planning for implementing the plan. The City priority list for parks improvements is very long. If we are to see development occur in less than 20 years, we'll need to do some of the work ourselves. We have made little progress since November in reactivating the Park Committee or attracting more members from Pleasant View. Neighbors at the meeting suggested a recruiting committee, flyers to go out with the Pleasant View HOA bills, an announcement at the next HOA meeting, and an e-mail to HOA members as ways to find more Pleasant View committee members.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Kathie Snodgrass
Secretary