

General Meeting of the Grant Creek Neighborhood Council
November 12, 2013
Grant Creek Inn

President Bert Lindler opened the meeting and introduced newly elected Ward 2 City Council member Jordan Hess. Mr. Hess expressed his interest in meeting Grant Creek residents and assisting with local issues.

Lindler introduced Alan White, construction projects coordinator for the city of Missoula's Parks and Recreation Department. Dave Shaw, the city's parks and trails design manager, has left to take a job in Washington State, so White will be the city's ongoing contact for the final stages of the trail's design and construction. White said he wanted to construct the trail the way we want it to be and to build it wisely in terms of future use and maintenance. White introduced Nathan Lucke, project engineer at Territorial Landworks, Inc. (TLI), the city's engineering contractor for the trail, who discussed progress, status and planned timeline for completion of the city portion (2 miles) of the Grant Creek Trail:

- Wetland delineation was completed in May and June.
- TLI met with city parks and engineering staffs to review detailed plans on July 10.
- Design work proceeded throughout the summer and fall.
- TLI has submitted applications for a "404" wetlands disturbance permit to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, a permit for the bridge over Grant Creek to the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and a floodplain permit to the City of Missoula.
- TLI expects to submit trail design plans to the city in early December for review and to the Montana Department of Transportation in mid-December.
- Final design will be completed in January and the project should be ready for the city to request bids from contractors in February
- TLI is completing all design work for the trail to the city-county line. Currently-available funds are believed sufficient to complete all work on the trail from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to Starwood Drive. If surplus funds are available after the bid for that work is awarded the additional short section from Starwood Drive to the City-County line will be added to the contract at the City's discretion.
- The trail should be completed about five months after contract award.

Several questions were posed by residents. White said that he was still getting caught up and couldn't give definitive answers yet to all the questions. Snow plowing of the trail would be done as previously promised by the City as budgets and other priorities permit. This would also apply to litter pickup, but that City resources are insufficient for this task and the assistance of local citizens would be needed. He suggested the Grant Creek Trails Association form an "adopt-a-trail" program. Toilets and water fountains are not provided on City trails due to vandalism and maintenance expense. The trail plan currently envisions a pedestrian/biker crosswalk across Grant Creek road at the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation headquarters. That will allow pedestrians and bicyclists to cross Grant Creek Road and use the sidewalk to connect to other city streets and trails. The paved trail continues from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation behind the Cottonwoods condominiums, but the trail is only 5 feet wide there and has been badly buckled by tree roots. One resident requested that the City present a more definitive statement on how the trail will be maintained at a future meeting.

Lindler reported on status of the proposed second southbound lane on Grant Creek Road at the I-90 interchange. Montana DOT is willing to consider the project, as is the city. Even the least expensive option for addressing the problem requires replacing the present system that senses vehicles in the single lane. DOT expects the City to cover much of the project costs. Lindler expressed regret that no apparent progress has been made on this project during the decade that the Grant Creek Neighborhood Council has been working on the problem.

Mr. Lindler reported on the preliminary approval of a \$3,000 grant application submitted by the Grant Creek Neighborhood Council for beautification of three traffic control boxes along North Reserve Street. City Neighborhoods Coordinator Jane Kelly congratulated Lindler for his work in applying for the grant.

In comments on non-agenda items, Grant Creek Hills resident Brian Walter reported on the planned project to deepen the water line on the slope above the Creekside neighborhood where the Grant Creek Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail will ascend the hill.

Leadership Team elections were held with the following residents being nominated and unanimously elected by voice vote to two-year terms: Bert Lindler (Prospect Meadows), Dennis Muth (Prospect), Brian Walter (Grantland Landowners), Kim Birck (Grantland 10), John Beighle (Glen Eagle), Kevin Davis (at large No. 1), Ron Larsen (at large No. 2), John Langstaff (area outside association) ,and Mike Hall (Grantland-Colorado Gulch).

Mr. Lindler adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Ron Larsen