

**Grant Creek Neighborhood Council
General Meeting, 7 p.m. May 15, 2018
Grant Creek Inn**

Attending: About two dozen, with 15 signed in.

Snowbowl Expansion: Andy Morris from Snowbowl discussed the area's plans to expand runs on TV Mountain, opening more beginner to intermediate terrain, and increasing the number of skier visits. There's little room for additional parking at Snowbowl, so the prospect of bringing skiers in by bus (from the university, for instance) seems like one way to get skiers to the lodge. Morris said that the parking lot near Town Pump at the mouth of Grant Creek isn't fully used during the summer or on some winter days and that Snowbowl would welcome considering other possible uses there, including a park-and-ride if Mountain Line served the lot. Some residents attending the meeting discussed the need to extend pavement farther up Snowbowl Road to reduce dust problems in summer and mud problems in fall and spring that affect residents neighboring the dirt road in the vicinity of the big switchback.

Bill Pfeiffer from Mountain Line discussed bus service in the vicinity of Grant Creek. The nearest line travels on Expressway and can't be expanded to include Grant Creek because the route is challenged to stay on schedule now, Pfeiffer said. If the community wanted a Park and Ride facility, the place to put it would be along Expressway where it could be served by the existing route, he said. Only a few properties in lower Grant Creek are taxed for the bus service, although everyone in the city benefits when persons are able to take the bus rather than drive to get around town, Pfeiffer said. If service is to be expanded in the near future, Miller Creek would be a priority, he said. Mountain Line is carrying about 5,000 riders a day.

Kevin Davis, a member of the Grant Creek Neighborhood Council leadership team and a local businessman, discussed his concerns about traffic flow and safety on Reserve Street. Kevin has a Facebook page, "Let's Improve Missoula's Reserve Street," and has organized a Reserve Street citizens group that meets monthly to discuss matters affecting Reserve Street. He hopes to work with local and state leaders to figure out how to improve traffic flow and safety on Reserve Street. He pointed out one of the unnoticed benefits of bus service, handicapped rider door-to-door service for persons living within one-quarter mile of existing bus routes. That service isn't available in Grant Creek because it's so far from existing bus routes.

Bert Lindler, a member of the Grant Creek Neighborhood Council leadership team and a board member of the Grant Creek Trails Association, discussed the partnership between the city Parks and Recreation Department, the Grant Creek Trails Association, and several homeowner associations in Grant Creek that allowed the Grant Creek Trail to be plowed by a contractor seven times last winter for about \$5,000. The Grant Creek Trails Association has been told that it is not eligible for liability insurance if it contracts to plow the trail, a concern that would not arise if the city plowed the trail. Ward 2 City Council Members Mirtha Becerra and Jordan Hess are seeking to include funding for plowing the Grant Creek Trail in the city budget.

Mirtha Becarra, Ward 2 city council member, said she was impressed with the Grant Creek Trail and was interested in doing what she could to support it. She said that improving Reserve Street requires working with the federal government as well as local and state governments. She suggested that anyone interested in seeing improvements on Reserve Street become involved with the many planning meetings that are the basis for decisions on transportation issues far into the future. Grant Creek Neighborhood Council leadership team member Lee Clemmensen asked why the city council was planning to remove the requirement that accessory dwelling units be considered a conditional use requiring city council approval given the extensive neighborhood opposition to ADUs when the city council established the present policy. Becarra said that very few ADUs had been proposed in the past several years and that all had been approved, which is the reason the city council no longer feels they need to be a conditional use.

Bert Lindler discussed a minor subdivision (25-acre parcel being split into five lots) being considered by Missoula County in Glen Eagle. Such issues arising on the edge of the city show the need for all Grant Creek residents to stay involved in issues affecting Missoula County, such as its ongoing review of zoning and the approval of subdivisions.

John Langstaff, a Grant Creek resident, said he would check on the status of fallen trees along Grant Creek Road that harm the appearance of the area and could represent a fire hazard. Bert Lindler said that the city's flood plain administrator would need to be contacted if dead trees were being removed from the flood plain or channel of Grant Creek.

Naomi Alhadef, Montana education coordinator for the National Wildlife Federation, discussed the Gardening For Wildlife certified wildlife habitat program for homeowners, organizations, and communities. More information: <https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/Certify>