

Upper and Lower Rattlesnake Transportation Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: January 9, 2018

Time: 5:30 – 7:00 PM

Location: Messiah Lutheran Church

Attendees: Bob Giordano (Co-chair), Tom Carlson (Secretary), Tom Javins, Tom Cook, Hans Hoffman, Jane Kelly (City of Missoula Office of Neighborhoods)

Guests: Bert Lindler, Kevin Davis, Wendell Beardsley, and Karen Sippy (board members of the Grant Creek Trails Association)

Next meeting: February 13, 2018, 5:30 – 7:00 pm, at the City of Missoula Jack Reedy Conference Room, 140 West Pine Street.

1. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items – *none related to transportation issues*
2. Approval of [December 12, 2017](#) meeting minutes. - *approved*
3. Approval of Agenda - *approved and prioritized for items #4 and #10. No other agenda items were discussed.*
4. Connecting trails, Clark Fork to Recreation Area – Bert Lindler, Kevin Davis, Wendell Beardsley, and Karen Sippy (board members of the Grant Creek Trails Association) to share their experience with getting the bike/ped. trail up Grant Creek

The discussion was primarily a presentation by the GCTA board members describing the process they used to get the Grant Creek Trails constructed and what they learned. Key points of the discussion were the following:

- *This was a 12 year effort that resulted in 2.5 miles of trail construction (so far). Safety for pedestrians and bicyclists was the primary goal.*
- *The GCTA (<http://www.grantcreektrails.org>) was formed as a 501c3 non-profit in order to collect tax deductible donations, and facilitate establishing partnerships, securing grants and easements, and for coordination with the city and county. The GCTA now has a website, Facebook page, P.O. Box, logo, letterhead, and liability insurance for board members. An organization separate from the neighborhood council and transportation committee allows for focus on trails projects and avoids legal restrictions on government sponsored committee communications, etc. Having an attorney on the board helps.*
- *The Friends of Missoula Parks (www.fmparks.org) could be approached to explore the possibility of fiscal sponsorship for a Rattlesnake Trails non-profit association.*
- *A survey of residents was used to sense approval for the trail concept (67% return, >80% approval).*

- Coordination and support from Missoula Parks and Recreation and Missoula County was essential to facilitate planning, engineering, and funding. Establishing a Memorandum of Agreement with the city and county was recommended. The city or county must do actual easement agreements and may be able to fund or support some planning work. The trails association advocates and facilitates process
- A good first step is creating a planning document that includes proposed route(s), preliminary engineering needs, draft easements, etc.
- Gaining necessary easements requires a sensitive approach. The GCTA developed a process that includes a rock solid plan, and pleasant, passionate, and persistent techniques. Some resistance should be expected and door to door contacts are essential and sometimes necessary to gather signatures for grant funding, etc. Some grants require all easements to be voluntary or donated.
- The GCTA raised \$200,000 and used funding from various sources including: Missoula City Large Neighborhood Project grants, MT FWP Recreation Trail Program (RTP) grants, the Missoula open Space bond, and the federal Community Transportation Enhancement Program (CTEP). (CTEP is no longer available.) Many grant programs require matching funds to be raised. Higher income residents can be big donors and fund raising matches, challenges, and community gatherings can encourage donations.
- Maintenance of trail, signs, fences, etc. should be included in planning and funding. Specify what party is responsible for necessary tasks and funding sources.
- The GCTA meets each 3rd Thursday and board members offered to be available for further discussion.

The transportation committee discussed possible next steps in the process including:

- Determine best/most desirable routes and options.
- Identify low hanging fruit including short connectors between existing trails and quiet streets. Examples include: gaining an easement for a connector trail between Jackson Street and Missoula Ave., working with hobby farm along upper Rattlesnake Drive to move fences to enable a trail location off road, and connecting the existing trail north of the PEAS Farm to the trailhead at the end of Duncan Drive. (Note - This process could involve a review existing city transportation plans to build on planned projects. An initial review of the city plans has been completed and was sent to the Rattlesnake Transportation Committee e-mail list at: rattlesnaketransportation@missoula-neighborhoods.org on 12/26/17.)
- Form a 501c3 non-profit trails association. Hans will draft mission and vision statements. Tom will review the GCTA website and obtain a copy of the GCTA planning document.
- Contact the Upper and Lower Rattlesnake Neighborhood Council leadership teams to make them aware of the need for a trails association and to discuss a survey of residents. (Note – See minutes of 12/12/17 meeting. Bob and Tom J. will make contact with leadership teams.)
- Continue the discussion of all items at the next transportation committee meeting.

5. Bicycle and pedestrian mobility and safety – Broadway/Van Buren
6. Intersection of Greenough, Spruce, Madison, 2nd Ave. / railroad tracks
7. Concerns for traffic during the 2018 summer reconstruction of Van Buren Street and the I-90 interchange
8. Transit service improvements, including snow issues at bus stops

9. Alvina to Lolo Street (on Greenough Drive) bike and walkways
10. Van Buren/Front intersection safety – (Note – See minutes of the 12/12/17 meeting.) Tom Javins drafted a letter to the Upper and Lower Rattlesnake Neighborhood Council leadership teams to advise them of the continuing safety problem and suggest possible actions. The Upper team supports reinstallation of a stop sign for east bound Front Street vehicle traffic but there was also some comment in opposition. The Lower team has not yet met to discuss this issue. (Note – This item is included in the 2017 Missoula Bicycle Facilities Master Plan as Spot Improvement #36: “Front Street and Van Buren St intersection improvements – RUX transition redesign. Stop sign to be restored in the EB direction. Better crossing markings installed. Improve geometry to better match existing use.”)
11. Vine/Greenough trail entry safety
12. Psyllium and sustainable paving Greenough Park
13. Pentachlorophenol safety issue on Greenough Bridge
14. Madison pedestrian bridge to Greenough Park connection
15. Improve the turnoff for northbound bikes from Van Buren onto Missoula Avenue
16. Bulbouts and bicycle safety at Rattlesnake School
17. Bicycle and pedestrian safety along Lincoln Hills.
18. Lack of parking for the Syringa Park bike park and the soccer fields along Lincoln Hills Drive
19. Discussion of Long Range Transportation Plan and Bicycle Facilities Master Plan letters
20. Winter walkway and bikeway maintenance
21. Madison Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project
22. Moving of the railway yard out of its present location
23. Need for Griz game day parking restrictions
24. Need for roundabout at the intersection of Lolo Street and Rattlesnake Drive
25. Driver confusion with the three-way stop at the Rattlesnake Drive/Lincolnwood intersection

Jane Kelly, Neighborhood Coordinator

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Association

Upper Rattlesnake Leadership Team

Leadership Team

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