

Grant Creek/North Reserve Neighborhood Council Leadership Team

November 3, 2022

4:00 PM

Virtual Zoom

Attending: Bert Lindler, John Langstaff, Kalina Wickham, Mirtha Becerra, Sierra Farmer

Welcome to Sierra Farmer: Light attendance at the leadership team meeting means that most members have not had the opportunity to visit with Sierra Farmer. She's interested in learning more about the Grant Creek/North Reserve neighborhood. Farmer works at the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), where she is Trustlands Program Manager for the Southwestern Land Office in Missoula. She has a bachelor's degree in business and a master's in public administration, both from the University of Montana. She worked as a marketing manager for Stafford Fitness and as a workshop specialist for the Rocky Mountain School of Photography before joining the DNRC in May 2019 as business manager of the Southwestern Land Office. She worked as a Montana Environmental Policy Act planner before becoming the Trustlands Program Manager a year ago. Her husband, Dave works for the Missoula Fire Department.

No quorum, Minutes for March 10, 2022 was not approved.

Updates:

- North Reserve Traffic Signal Box Beautification—The \$4,500 Missoula Neighborhoods large project grant to rebeautify four traffic signal boxes on North Reserve was completed this summer. Thanks to the Missoula Public Art Committee, which has worked to beautify so many of Missoula's otherwise industrial steel traffic signal boxes. Leadership team member John Langstaff played a key role on the local committee that assisted the Public Art committee.
- The new Bluebird Trailhead is scheduled to open in a few weeks. The trailhead, north of the Town Pump at the mouth of Grant Creek, accesses trails that will be open to hikers year-round on the city's 120-acre parcel and from April 1 to September 30 on the adjoining Republic Services parcel. Signage, some jackleg fencing, and construction of the trailhead kiosk are the final tasks to be completed before the trail opens. The Grant Creek Trails Association has been asking the Parks and Recreation Department and the Public Works Department to put a pedestrian crossing in place on Grant Creek Road at Stonebridge Road when or shortly after the Bluebird Trail opens. The developer of Grant Creek Village is obligated to install crosswalk signs on each side of the road at

Stonebridge Road and at Expo Parkway, but only after 193 units have been permitted.

- Two interpretive signs with content prepared by the Salish-Pend d'Oreille Culture Committee of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes are now installed on the Grant Creek Trail. The Missoula Office of Neighborhoods helped fund these signs with a large project grant. The Grant Creek Trails Association paid to have a designer prepare the signs for printing, for the sign's fabrication, and for a frame to mount the sign. The Parks and Recreation Department installed concrete pads for the signs and mounted the signs. Also new on the trail are two benches carved by Grant Creek residents who are Pony Carvers, volunteering to carve horses and dragons for The Carousel for Missoula.
- Lots happening at the mouth of Grant Creek and too few lanes for all of it to happen safely for northbound motorists. The challenge of providing lanes for vehicles turning left into Expo Parkway, going straight, or turning right into Starbucks, McKenzie River Pizza, the Grant Creek Inn, or Town Pump will become more difficult as new apartments are built at Grant Creek Village, particularly if Town Pump expands as has been rumored. The Friends of Grant Creek has asked the city to conduct a traffic study to better determine what needs to be done here.

Continuing Development in Grant Creek: Two parcels totaling 27 acres along Grant Creek Road across from Creekside have been listed for \$1 million. One of the parcels has agricultural covenants that prevent development. Elk wintering on the National Wildlife Federation conservation lands often use the southernmost parcel when crossing Grant Creek Road to the Grant Creek Ranch. If the National Wildlife Federation were to allow seasonal public recreation on its conservation lands in the future, a trailhead would be needed. Full development of both parcels would probably eliminate that possibility.

Office of Neighborhoods Report: Kalina Wickham said that a grant application workshop for the neighborhood project grant applications will be Nov. 7, 2022: <https://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/304/Neighborhood-Grants>

The deadline for getting comments from City departments is Nov. 23. The grant deadline is Dec. 16, 2022.

No General Meeting Planned for the Grant Creek/North Reserve Neighborhood Council—Because only two members of the leadership team were in attendance, no plans were made to hold a general meeting of the Grant Creek/North Reserve Neighborhood Council in December as had been considered.

City Council Member Mirtha Becerra—Becerra asked City police to answer a question raised by Leadership Team member Kevin Davis. Davis submitted his

questions by email because he was unable to attend the scheduled meeting. He wanted to know more about questions raised by Eli and Associates, 5475 Alloy South, about someone living in a vehicle on a public street near the civil engineering firm. Mirtha said police told her that living in a vehicle on city streets is not illegal until the vehicle has been parked in one place a long time. Health and safety issues are a concern that could be addressed, she said. Mirtha said she had no further information about walking audits, another concern Davis raised.

Davis is organizing a walking audit at 4 p.m. Nov. 22, 2022 from the courtyard in front of Big Sky Commerce, 2809 Connery Way, to the new Chick-fil-A, 2880 North Reserve. Here's info on Kevin's planned audit:

<https://fb.me/e/3LFCyzGa> .

Here's info on walking audits:

<https://www.resilience.org/stories/2019-05-08/seeing-your-community-with-new-eyes-through-a-walking-audit/>