

Captain John Mullan
Neighborhood Council Meeting
March 22, 2011 7 pm to 9 pm
Hellgate Middle School Commons Room
- Refreshments Provided -

Randy introduced the board members who were present (Randy, Kathie, Heather, Rod & Nathan – Josiah was unable to attend) and briefly went over the agenda.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment on subjects not on the agenda.

Comments from City Council:

Pam Walzer introduced **Cynthia Wolken**, who was appointed to replace Roy Houseman on the City Council.

The design for the Reserve and Mullan intersection has been finalized. The new configuration, which will be implemented this coming summer, will reduce T-bone accidents and relieve the cuing on northbound Reserve for left/west turns onto Mullan. The islands will be removed to make room for two northbound left/west turn lanes from Reserve onto Mullan, but the timers for pedestrian “walk” signals will be lengthened. They will try to get a trail under the Clark Fork bridge for pedestrians and bicycles to use instead of crossing Reserve at Mullan in the future if funding can be found. The bike lanes will remain on Reserve.

A neighbor raised an issue in Pleasant View where a variance was requested and inquired about whether neighbors could influence whether or not a zoning change or variance request was granted. Pam explained how to make a good case to the Board of Adjustments during hearings by sending letters, appearing at the hearing, and working with City Council members.

Mullan Bike Trail:

Deb Hall said that the Safe Routes to School grant proposal was submitted in December and she will find out in April whether it is successful. So far, she's heard only encouraging words. The plan is that the path will parallel Flynn Lane on the west side because the City owns that easement already and the route will be a thousand feet shorter and should cost only about \$67,000. There will be a separation between the road and the path. The path will be maintained by the City. If this is successful, it was generally agreed that the next biggest issue that should be addressed is the Mullan Road crossing at the Trading Post. Improvements to the crossing have already been designed, but there wasn't enough money to implement pedestrian crossing lights and a raised median “island”.

County Parks:

Lisa Moisey showed a map of the County parks in and near the Captain John Mullan Neighborhood, including New Meadows (8 acres at the New Meadows subdivision), Council Hill, and Golden West. They are just a few of the 87 County Parks totaling 575 acres. The parks are funded by \$200,000 of property taxes each year, which is a pretty lean budget. The 11-member park board meets monthly. Since the budget is lean, they work with neighborhoods and service organizations on maintenance and management. County Parks has a capital improvement and maintenance matching grant process

somewhat similar to the City's neighborhood grant program. Grants can be made for up to \$4,000, but they require a one-to-one funding match. The County is updating the parks plan this year for all parks outside incorporated cities. Our neighborhood is mostly covered under the joint City/County parks plan that was completed in 2004, though. New County Park features in our area include a new boat launch across the river at the upcoming Silver Park along the river edge at the old Champion Sawmill site that will be constructed after spring runoff this year. A neighbor asked whether it would be possible to combine City and County grant money for park improvements. Lisa said that probably wouldn't be possible unless the park or trail was on both city and county land. If anybody is interested in submitting a grant proposal, please contact Lisa.

Active Transportation Plan:

Ann Cundy explained that the city and county are working together since 2009 on an update of the active transportation plan. Active transportation is basically human powered transportation such as bicycling and walking. The plan identifies routes that accommodate active transportation and routes that should be improved to accommodate or promote active transportation and establishes priorities for improvements, both on-street and off-street. The plan shows general connector needs, specific sidewalk priority projects, bike lands and needs, intersections that need to be improved, and so on. An advisory committee has been working with government staff to develop the plan, and there have been many public meetings and workshops for input and presentation of ideas. The final workshop will be May 4 at the Missoula Library. The intent is that the plan will be adopted as an amendment to the City/County growth policy this summer. The active transportation plan meshes with the long range transportation plan that is updated every four years. There are some transportation funds available for active transportation.

Adding some sort of pedestrian/bicycle route from Reserve to Flynn Lane is already on the list. The Mullan intersection and the Mullan to Reserve stretch is very important for our neighborhood. The group expressed interest in adding more bike-friendly transportation on West Broadway from Reserve to the airport. Most of the route improvements in our neighborhood will be accomplished as new developments are completed.

Neighbor Day/Sunday Streets:

Marty Rehbein reminded the neighborhood that Neighbor Day/ Sunday Streets will be the first Friday in June (the 5th). Neighborhood photos for the celebration of neighborhoods exhibit at the Missoula Art Museum are due before 5 p.m., Monday April 18.

The meeting adjourned at about 9:15 pm.