

GRANT CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING

March 21, 2013– 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Grant Creek Inn

About two dozen persons attended with 16 persons signing the sign-in sheets.

(1). **Grant Creek Road/I-90 Interchange:** Shane Stack from the Montana Department of Transportation explained that the department and city had applied for a Federal Lands Access Program grant to improve the Grant Creek Road/I-90 intersection. Right now, Grant Creek Road has only a single southbound lane. The \$300,000 grant, matched by \$50,000 of city and state funds, would allow a second through lane and a short right-turn lane to be constructed. Stack said he would know by late summer whether the application was approved or not. If the application is approved, work would be scheduled for 2015.

During questions after his presentation, Stack said that the controller for the traffic lights at the intersection does not use the latest technology. He said that funds to replace the controller should be available during the next year or so. Once the controller has been replaced, traffic flow should be improved, he said.

(2). **Trail Update:** Work being completed during 2013 will allow the Grant Creek Trail to be built during 2014, said Dave Shaw, trail designer for the Missoula Parks and Recreation Department.

Construction of the trail will take five months, said Nathan Lucke, of Territorial Landworks, the engineering firm contracted by the city.

Tasks being undertaken now include borings at footings for the trail bridge crossing Grant Creek, utility location, surveying, and floodplain analysis.

Wetlands will be delineated once plants start growing this spring. No more than 0.1 acre of wetlands can be disturbed during the project without mitigation. One way to avoid disturbing wetlands is to use bridges or boardwalks to cross them, but doing so is expensive.

In the next few months, the city will meet with each of the landowners who have donated trail easements to discuss cost-to-cure items, such as fences that will need to be moved.

Engineering design should be complete by early fall, when Territorial Landworks will apply for the permits needed to build the trail from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Missoula County Floodplain Administration Program, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

The project should be put out to bid in early 2014 with the contract being awarded and work beginning by late March or early April, Lucke said.

Responding to questions, Lucke said that although the trail is planned to end at Snowbowl Road, temporarily it will end at Starwood Drive across from the Grant Creek Hills subdivision. Construction isn't planned now for the short section of trail between Starwood Drive and the Missoula County line because of topographical problems, Lucke said. That section of trail is not included in the present engineering study, but could be added later if funds permit.

When asked about parking for trail users, Dave Shaw said that there is no dedicated parking. He questioned whether many trail users would be carrying bicycles in cars to use the trail, suggesting that the trail was more likely to be used by persons living in the neighborhoods. Streets in Grant Creek neighborhoods are public, so the city is not inclined to sign them for no parking, he said.

Shaw said the trail would be plowed in winter, but only after trails had been plowed in the city core.

(3). **Accessory Dwelling Units:** Bert Lindler said that the Missoula County Planning Board did not recommend approval of the city ordinance that would allow accessory dwelling units to be constructed in

areas of the city zoned Single Family Residential. He advised Grant Creek residents interested in this issue to consider attending the Missoula City Council's public hearing on the ordinance at 7 p.m. April 22 in City Council Chambers.

No public comment was offered for non-agenda items.

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

DRAFT