

Upper Rattlesnake Neighborhood Council
Leadership Team Meeting, 11/29/2016

URNC members: Robin Carey, Bill Ruediger, Hans Hoffman, Bev Young

Others: Tom Blunn, President, Lincoln Hills Homeowners' Association; Morgan Valliant, City Parks and Rec Conservation Lands Manager; Jane Kelly, Neighborhood Coordinator

1. Approval of minutes – Minutes from prior meeting were approved as posted online

2. Small grant application – Robin Carey asked the leadership team to support a small grant (\$500) application for trails work to be done in the upper Rattlesnake. This could be combined with unspent URNC budget funds which will likely amount to \$700 after our spring general meeting. Jane indicated that we could apply for additional funds for the general meeting if needed. The grant money would fund rough grading and gravel resurfacing of a portion of the existing Powerline Corridor Trail, west of Rattlesnake Drive, between Fox Hollow and Rattlesnake Creek trail. See the [Missoula Conservation Lands Management Plan](#). Morgan Valliant was in attendance and discussed work that Parks and Rec may do to develop a short section of trail between Fox Hollow and Rattlesnake Drive. Bill Ruediger objected to this short section since it will affect wildlife habitat. His comments should also be voiced at the Conservation Lands Committee which meets 1st Monday of month at the Headwaters meeting room at McCormick Park Currents. The next full meeting of that committee will be in February though there will be a short meeting in December.

The proposed grant work would be done in conjunction with Parks and Rec, using some volunteer labor. The cost estimate is \$1200. **Robin moved and Bill seconded a motion to give URNC support to this grant application for trail work between Fox Hollow and Rattlesnake creek trail. The motion was unanimously approved.** The grant application will be considered in January by the Neighborhood Council Community Forum. It will be helpful to show the support of surrounding neighbors and there was indication by Bill and Hans that they would contact neighbors.

The trail work would need to be done in spring or early summer as the URNC budget funds need to be spent by the end of the fiscal year, which is June 30. Grant funds can carry over. Meg Whicher is the volunteer coordinator for Parks and Rec and could gather volunteers to haul and spread gravel. Also there are typically 60 Hellgate High School students who need community work in May to fulfill their graduation requirements.

Robin moved and Hans seconded a motion to use \$700 of the URNC budget towards this trail work should the grant be approved. Discussion: If the URNC budget runs low for the spring general meeting, then we can apply for additional meeting funds, so there should be \$700 in the budget for the trail work. **This motion was unanimously approved.**

3. Future grant applications: Robin suggested applying for a \$3000 grant next fiscal year for some trail work along Rattlesnake Creek above the Duncan St Bridge, east side of the Creek. The City currently has an easement on Mountain Water property up to the end of the reservoir; then the trail is on Forest Service property. When the City takes ownership of Mountain Water it also will get the 40 acres surrounding the reservoir and the trail can be rerouted to make it safer.

Hans suggested that we discuss large and small grant applications at the spring URNC general meeting to let residents know that these grant monies are available; perhaps solicit ideas.

4. **Community Forum Report** – skipped due to lack of time
5. **Office of Neighborhoods Report** – skipped due to lack of time
6. **New Business** – none

7. **Public comments on non-agenda items:** Tom Blunn questioned how the increase in pedestrian traffic will be addressed with the new Syringa bicycle skills park on Lincoln Hills Drive. There is a proposed sidewalk and he thinks this should go in first as a safety measure.

Bill Ruediger mentioned the need for a US Postal Service mail drop box in the Upper Rattlesnake. The closest one is in the Lower Rattlesnake in an inconvenient location. He suggested the bus pullout just north of Lincoln Hills drive as a possible location. A mail drop box between Lincoln Hills Rd and Lolo Street would be ideal. Rattlesnake Market & Café doesn't want it at their store since the parking lot is already crowded.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Bev Young, Secretary