

**Grant Creek/North Reserve Neighborhood Council  
Leadership Team Meeting  
11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Feb. 20, 2019 Montana Club, North Reserve**

**Attending:** Kevin Davis, Bert Lindler, Mirtha Becerra (City Council, Ward 2), Wendell Beardsley, John Langstaff, Lee Clemmensen, Brian Walter, Ron Larsen

**Approval of October 18, 2018 Leadership Team Minutes:** Kevin Davis moved to approve the minutes. Wendell Beardsley seconded the motion. Minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

**Wildfire Preparedness:** Wendell Beardsley asked the Grant Creek Neighborhood Council to support a meeting being organized by MELT (Montana Elders for a Livable Tomorrow). The meeting will be a presentation by Jack Cohen, an international expert in fire research based at the Missoula Fire Sciences Laboratory. Cohen's particular expertise is in demonstrating how and why homes catch fire during wildfires. That knowledge is critical when preparing a neighborhood for wildfire. The MELT group is prepared to have an evening meeting April 17 at the Grant Creek Inn and would like to have the Grant Creek Neighborhood Council to schedule a general meeting for that time, picking up the expenses of the meeting and the mailing announcing the meeting. Bert Lindler said that the council has \$608 remaining in its 2018 budget (fiscal year ends June 30). Lee Clemmensen moved that the leadership team approve spending up to \$600 for the meeting. John Langstaff seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

**Grant Creek Neighborhood Council Boundaries**—Mirtha Becerra explained that the city's annexation process includes consideration of where newly annexed neighborhoods might fit in the neighborhood council structure. In the case of the recent annexation of lands near the airport, the decision was made to add the area north of Broadway to the Grant Creek Neighborhood Council and the area south of Broadway to the Captain John Mullan Neighborhood Council. She said she wished to apologize for the surprise that represented to the neighborhood councils, who were not consulted beforehand. She would like to work with others on the city council and in city government to develop procedures ensuring that neighborhood councils are consulted when the city annexes additional lands. Kevin Davis expressed his surprise and alarm at learning that the boundary of the Grant Creek Neighborhood Council had been enlarged to include lands north of Broadway all the way to Butler Creek. He has not heard anything positive about this change and thinks that the Grant Creek Neighborhood Council will be inheriting many headaches and challenges given that the newly annexed residents are disenchanting. He thought that the needs of neighborhoods were an unnatural fit with the needs in Grant Creek, such as wildfire preparedness, the Grant Creek Trail, and the planned addition of southbound lanes to Grant Creek Road at the I-90 interchange. Becerra said that she and her Ward 2 colleague, Jordan Hess, had arranged the March 13 meeting at the Hub to welcome the Canyon Creek neighborhood to the city and to learn of issues the residents might have. Lee Clemmensen suggested that perhaps another neighborhood council should be considered for the newly annexed growth area. She said that the Grant Creek and Upper Rattlesnake Neighborhood Councils could be merged because they have a common concern about wildfire preparedness and would both benefit from another road to leave their neighborhoods in an emergency. Brian Walter said that the most important consideration was to make sure that the county residents continued to be a part of the Grant Creek Neighborhood Council given the common problems city and county residents face. Kevin Davis asked Mirtha Becerra how the councils could move forward to address concerns such as those he expressed. Mirtha said she hoped to meet with Development Services and the Office of Neighborhoods to discuss the way forward.