

Grant Creek-North Reserve Neighborhood Council General Meeting Minutes

May 25, 2021 7 p.m. Virtual Zoom Meeting

Participants: 26.

Approval of Minutes: Kevin Davis moved and Tim Hunt seconded approval of the minutes of the last general meeting, August 18, 2020. Approval was unanimous, based on observation of participants raising their physical hands on the Zoom screen.

Friends of Grant Creek Wildfire Risk Task Force: Mike Cole shared a PowerPoint presentation discussing the work of the Wildfire Risk Task Force over the past year. The task force's origins were the Wildfire Preparedness Subcommittee of the Grant Creek-North Reserve Neighborhood Council. Task Force members include Mike Cole, Rich Lasko, John Langstaff, Tim Hunt, and RT Cox, all of Grant Creek. Cole and Lasko have wildland firefighting experience (U.S. Forest Service). John Langstaff has primarily structural firefighting experience (City of Missoula).

Rich Lasko showed several maps the task force has prepared using historical data and modeling software developed by the Missoula Fire Sciences Laboratory. One map shows large fires in the Missoula area since 1985. None of those fires was in Grant Creek (which has had a number of small fires) and half-a-dozen of those fires are about as large as the entire Grant Creek drainage. Another map models what would happen if a fire was ignited along Grant Creek Road near the Charlotte Reed Marbut Nature Reserve during extreme conditions without effective suppression. By the end of the first day, the modeled fire had burned into the Rattlesnake drainage.

The Task Force has three primary goals: preparing a Grant Creek Community Wildfire Protection Plan based on the Missoula Community Wildfire Protection Plan, hazardous fuels mitigation, and preparing and sandboxing (testing) an evacuation plan for Grant Creek that will become part of the Grant Creek Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The task force has begun gathering data and meeting with the various fire and governmental agencies that have to be consulted during preparation of the Grant Creek Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Meetings will continue with the goal of having a draft plan available sometime in 2022.

Reverse 911 and Home Inspections: Max Rebholz, Missoula County's Wildfire Preparedness Coordinator, spoke about the importance of getting residences in Grant Creek prepared for wildfire and on the benefits of Smart911 if Grant Creek has to be evacuated. To sign up for a wildfire risk assessment for your home or property, go to the Wildlife Adapted Missoula County Web Site: <https://www.wildfirepartnersmissoula.org/reduceyourwildfirerisk> or call Max Rebholz, 406-258-3633. Max or another fire official will identify steps you can take to increase the chance your home survives during Grant Creek's next wildfire. "Opt in" to receive emergency alerts on Smart911. Doing so will enable notifications to be sent to your landline, cell phone and/or email when a wildfire evacuation order/warning is in effect. Also, "opt in" to share your information with local emergency managers, so that we can plan ahead for people that may need extra help for when disaster strikes. With Smart 911, anytime you dial Smart911 from a phone registered with your Safety Profile, the Smart 911 system recognizes your phone and

automatically displays your safety profile to the call taker receiving the call. At a time when you may be panicked, or unable to communicate, or it could be unsafe to communicate, Smart911 ensures that the details you would need to tell 9-1-1 are immediately available in the event you cannot verbally provide them. Smart911 is free, private and secure. If you call 911 asking for an ambulance, your most critical medical information (diabetic, for instance) would be available to the 911 call taker and responder, even if you became unconscious. To sign up for Smart911 or to update your Safety Profile, go to the Web site:

<https://www.missoulacounty.us/government/public-safety/office-of-emergency-management/smart911>

Update on Development at 2920 Expo Parkway—Bert Lindler said that Ken Ault, who is developing apartment buildings at 2920 Expo Parkway, has not yet submitted an anticipated request for rezoning the two parcels he owns.

Beautifying Traffic Signal Boxes North Reserve—Bert Lindler said that a number of Grant Creek residents had submitted a large neighborhood grant request to rebeautify four traffic signal boxes along North Reserve that had been replaced during last fall's maintenance of North Reserve. In addition, the grant would fund beautification of one new traffic signal box, installed at the southwestern corner of the I-90/Grant Creek Road intersection. The Missoula Public Art Committee would use the grant to issue an art call, select art, and pay artists for the beautification. The selection of the successful large neighborhood grant applications is expected to be announced in late May.

Community Forum and Office of Neighborhoods Reports—Kelly Elam from the Office of Neighborhoods was unable to log onto the virtual Zoom meeting. No reports.

Comments by City Council Members—Jordan Hess and Mirtha Becerra applauded the planned improvements at the I-90/Grant Creek Road interchange, explaining that further work can be planned as needed. They also discussed plans for a second water tank serving lower Grant Creek. That tank is planned to be installed near the existing tank at the top of Pinnacle Place in the Prospect Meadows neighborhood.

Public Comments on Nonagenda Items—None.

Adjournment—8:05 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Bert Lindler