From: Gwen Jones
To: Jim Conkle; Grp. City Council and City Web Site; Bcc; JaJonkel@mt.gov
Subject: Re: Grizzly Bear Alert System
Date: Saturday, May 14, 2022 10:45:03 AM

Hi Jim, good morning and thank you for your email. You raise many good issues, and I agree that we need to do more as a community to address this issue.

To that end, several months ago a meeting was convened to discuss these issues; a working group was formed at that meeting, consisting of local government, Republic Services, local bear experts (Missoula has incredible resources in that department!) and others, to create a solid, thoughtful plan to holistically address bear wildlife in the Missoula Valley, to protect bears and people.

That working group is in the last stages of finalizing the plan, and then it is my understanding it will come to the City and County for next steps. I anticipate we will be discussing how to educate residents about bear proofing their yards and houses, bear proof trash containers, and more.

I appreciate the comments about the notification system...I see that Jamie Jonkel has responded regarding that issue.

So a lot is in the works right now. Stay tuned, it should be a topic of discussion in the community in the near future.

Regards,

-Gwen Jones
City Councilor for Ward 3

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From: Jim Conkle <jimconkle@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 14, 2022 10:19:44 AM
To: Grp. City Council and City Web Site <Council@ci.missoula.mt.us>; Bcc <bcc@missoulacounty.us>; Jim Conkle <jimconkle@yahoo.com>; JaJonkel@mt.gov <JaJonkel@mt.gov>
Subject: Re: Grizzly Bear Alert System

Hi again,
Found James Jonkel Email.
Forwarded earlier email.

Missoulian article today also talks about U of M alert system.

Thanks
Jim Conkle

On Saturday, May 14, 2022, 09:37:00 AM MDT, Jim Conkle <jimconkle@yahoo.com> wrote:

Thank you for your service.

May 13th article in the Missoula Current.
Missoula for Bears meeting disclosed that:
" About four weeks ago, a lone grizzly came off Waterworks Hill, ambled through the Rattlesnake, and climbed up on to Mount Jumbo"
Although that quote paints a romantic scene, as a Rattlesnake resident 2 blocks from Mt Jumbo, whose children walk our dog in the dark in late Fall, I imagined a more dangerous situation.

Missoula County Public Schools sends out text notices of animal activity near bus stops.
I sure appreciate the "bear activity postings" in Glacier Park.

I assume this was a collared grizzly bear they were tracking through the Rattlesnake.
I'm not sure if the North Hills Grizzly family is collared, but their existence was not publicized for about 2 years.
I assert that notice is not only sensible, but without notice after knowledge of a danger, legal liability is probably created if an incident happens.

1) If neither council nor the board have any role in initiating a required notice advisory system, if possible, please provide me with a referral.

2) Possibly consider tax money going to the Garbage Disposal companies to offset extra expense of bear resistant garbage containers.
Our neighborhood bear activity (less sightings, less scat) seems to have been reduced only after vast majority of residents purchased the service.
Only after increased enforcement of ordinance did people really sign up.
It also was challenging as Republic Services was backordered by months to receive one.

3) As to dog food, bird feeders, fruit trees etc,, possibly more education to all.
I believe Including the word Grizzly would get more response.
If needed, maybe future new ordinances to address these concerns.

Available information suggests that this issue will occur more and more frequently in the future.

Thanls
Jim Conkle