

**Minutes Grant Creek Neighborhood Council Leadership Team
6:30 p.m. May 2 1380 Starwood (Brian Walter's home)**

Attending:

Brian Walter Chairman
John Paoli Community Forum Representative
Bert Lindler Open Space Committee
Anna Greer
Patrick Beatty
Kelly Karmel
Ken Justus
Jane Kelly Neighborhood Council Liaison

Brian began by explaining that under the bylaws of the Grant Creek Neighborhood Council, the two-year terms of the leadership team, elected April 15, 2008, had expired.

The council includes both city and county residents, but only city residents can vote on matters that involve spending by the city.

The council has a number of committees, including committees for services (roads, primarily), trails, and emergency services.

The Trails Committee has 22 members, including the chairman, John Beighle. The Grant Creek Trail Association was an outgrowth of the council's Trails Committee. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, the Grant Creek Trail Association can collect and spend money. The association's president is John Beighle.

Walter said that he called the Leadership Team meeting to plan a general meeting for May 25.

The three Leadership Team members attending included Brian Walter, John Paoli, and Bert Lindler.

Comments were invited from non-membership team members in attendance.

Kelly said that this wasn't the first time that a Neighborhood Council has had terms expire before a new election. She said that the folks attending the Leadership Team meeting could organize a general meeting where elections could be held.

There was a discussion about the leadership team positions and which ones were eligible for city residents, which were eligible for county residents, and which were eligible for persons who weren't in an association. These matters are set forth in the bylaws.

Beatty suggested the bylaws could be changed after the meeting to address any concerns about eligibility. Kelly said that changing the bylaws is not trivial and requires approval by the city council.

There was a motion by Bert Lindler, seconded by Patrick Beatty, to have a general membership meeting at 7 p.m. May 25 in the Grant Creek Inn.

Beatty said the traffic backup at the I-90 intersection was a good place to for the council to push for improvement.

Walter said that it has been difficult to get such problems resolved. The Grant Creek Neighborhood Council wanted the Missoula City Council to say there would be no casinos north of I-90, but the outcome was that any commercial area in the city can have a casino.

Walter discussed the need to invite the Forest Service or its environmental consultant (PBS&J) to comment on the increased traffic that can be expected on Grant Creek Road with the proposed expansion of Snowbowl.

Beatty suggested that Brad Morris (owner of Snowbowl) might want to speak on the topic.

Walter said that the key issue being addressed by the Grant Creek Trail is the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians who would like to travel near Grant Creek Road. Skiers are coming off the hill during the late afternoon or early evening, the most dangerous time for pedestrians and cyclists. Walter said the trail should be completed before the Snowbowl expansion.

Beatty said that the trail should not be an issue during the winter. Brian said that other Missoula trails are plowed for winter use.

Bert Lindler excused himself to attend another meeting. Brian Walter supplied the information for the remainder of the minutes.

Walter gave an update on the status of the trail as he understands it from the City and County. The City plans to construct their 2 mile section next year (2012). Final engineering will be done this year. The 1.3 mile County section has been deferred to 2015 due to priority for their CTEP funds. All easements and wavers have signed for the west side routing except for the NWF and Greer parcels.

Beatty discussed the east side option which was studied by the City last year. Walter believes this east side option was ruled out by the City for safety, cost, and aesthetic reasons as well as difficulty in dealing with the steep embankments along the east side.

Anna Greer said her objection to the west side routing is that for some stretches, including along their pasture, it takes up agricultural land.

Karmel stated that the NWF easements did not include the wildlife friendly pole fence nor state the City rules and regulations for trail use, including dog restrictions, that must be enforced along sensitive bird refuges. Karmel also said that Parks and Recreation representatives had told her that the leash law would not be enforced.

Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by:

Bert Lindler
Acting Secretary