

## **Grant Creek Neighborhood Council General Meeting -November 5, 2014 Grant Creek Inn, 7 to 9 p.m.**

Bert Linder opened the meeting.

Minutes from the November 12, 2013 general meeting were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Bert Lindler recognized Brian Walter for his long-term advocacy for the Grant Creek Trail and his personal donation that made it possible for the final engineering to be completed for the section of trail opposite Starwood Drive to the Missoula city/county line.

David Selvage, Missoula Department of Parks and Recreation Parks Services and Systems Manager, provided an overview of the construction status of the Grant Creek Trail. He is the project manager for construction of the Grant Creek Trail and can be reached at 552-6252.

- The trail construction contract was awarded for \$973,000 with a contract period 152 days (days when weather prevents work do not count against the total). The likely actual completion date is 12/2 or 12/4 depending on the weather. Trail is not open and will probably be opened this fall with a grand opening next spring or early summer. Please stay off the trail until it is officially opened by the city.
- The trail bridge across Grant Creek has been installed. The concrete deck will be poured this week.
- Water problems at the city's Charlotte Reed Marbut Nature Reserve required additional work and contract time and cost—water issues continue to be reviewed.
- Work is being completed on the steep hillside where the trail switchbacks between old Grant Creek Road and Grant Creek Road.
- Work north of Starwood Drive is continuing—delays have occurred because of buried fiber-optic cables and a damaged culvert that had to be replaced.
- A short wooden post and rail fence will be installed soon between the trail and the Charlotte Reed Marbut Nature Reserve.
- The trail's engineering design and the construction contract call for a guardrail to be installed alongside Grant Creek Road by the Charlotte Reed Marbut Nature Reserve where the trail is below the road in places and the meadow is below the trail. The city Department of Public Works is studying speed and terrain in that area to determine what sort of safety system is needed. In the meantime, the Parks and Recreation Department plans to install a curb and delineators. It's possible that the speed limit might be reduced from 45 to 35 miles per hour for the section of Grant Creek Road alongside the Charlotte Reed Marbut Nature Reserve or for the section of Grant Creek Road from the

I-90 interchange to the north end of the Charlotte Reed Marbut Nature Reserve.

- Trail maintenance was discussed. The city did not budget to plow the trail this winter.

Kevin Davis, board member of the Grant Creek Trails Association, discussed the association's role in raising private donations to match federal grant funds used for construction of the trail and to serve as a liaison between city and county governments and the neighborhood as the trail is built and maintained. More information is available on the association's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/gctrail> and Web site: <http://www.grantcreektrails.org/>. Davis can be reached at 327- 0611.

General questions about the trail followed. Tony Boote made a motion that was seconded expressing the paramount need for the safety of motorists and trail users on the section of trail alongside the city's Charlotte Reed Marbut Nature Reserve. Spirited discussion and several amendments later, the city residents attending the meeting unanimously supported sending the following resolution to the city council:

**“The Grant Creek Neighborhood Council resolves that the safety of the Grant Creek Trail is paramount. Trail design and the city ’s construction contract both provide for a guardrail along the section of trail alongside the city ’s Charlotte Reed Marbut Nature Reserve. Whatever safety measures are provided by the city ’s Public Works Department as a result of the department ’s current study should provide at least as much safety for trails users and motorists as the envisioned guardrail.**

The topics of (1) speed limit on Grant Creek Road and (2) additional southbound lanes on Grant Creek Road at the I-90 interchange were to have been discussed by Kevin Slovarp, City Engineer. He sent an email message on the day of the meeting saying he would be unable to attend. His message said that “The City is working with MDT on a plan for improvements for the Grant Creek / I-90 intersection. The City needs to plan for funds to pay for a portion of the improvements.”

Laval Means and Casey Wilson of the Planning Division of Development Services provided an overview of the city's current review of its growth policy. The process includes public workshops, neighborhood meetings and listening sessions. Focus groups have been formed for livability, safety and wellness, economic health, housing, community design, and environmental quality. Check out their activities at the website <http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/1748/Our-Missoula> or contact Means at 552-6630 or [lmeans@ci.missoula.mt.us](mailto:lmeans@ci.missoula.mt.us). On November 12, 2014, from 12 noon until 8 pm, the Asset Mapping project's results will be shown in the Jack Reidy Conference room in the City Council Chambers, 140 W. Pine.

Open agenda items: Brian Walter strongly suggested that the various homeowners associations bring their covenants up-to-date so that the covenants provide protection for the neighborhoods, particularly if city policies change.

Meeting was adjourned by Bert Linder.

Minutes recorded by Ron Larsen.