

The next meeting of Growing Friends will be:

7:00 p.m., Thursday, March 1, 2018 in

Room 309, City-County Building, 326 N. Park Avenue

Remember us? Your friendly, neighborhood tree-planting group?

It's true we've been dormant, but now it's time to wake up and get back to work. Unless there is a big chinook in the next week or two, the snow cover is likely to be with us for a while. You may be ready for Spring, but it may not be ready for you.

Now, however, is a good time to start planning for the upcoming planting season. And that is one of the things that your Board of Directors intends to do at this meeting.

The first order of business, however, is to set the organization's budget for the year. While running the organization takes a little bit of money, we are very successful at keeping overhead to an absolute minimum. As you know, we are an all-volunteer organization and we rely entirely on volunteers to do the organization's work time. So, as we are fond of saying, practically all your dues money goes "into the ground."

This year there may be somewhat of a shift in our priorities. Don't worry – we'll still be involved in planting trees all over the Helena area. But we may take a more active role in the planning of projects, and in making sure current and past plantings are properly cared for, as opposed to being the group that does most of the actual planting.

Let's hope that this Winter's impressive snow fall (don't you just "love" the shoveling?) will translate into full reservoirs and plenty of water available this Summer to water our trees. If last Summer is any indication, the plentiful snow of Winter can too quickly melt, leaving us potentially to face a long dry spell. Soon, and I know you are looking forward to this, I may have to start haranguing you about watering your trees. One of the constants you can count on is Growing Friends advocating for the trees in Helena.

There are two important ways this year that you can help Growing Friends continue its successes. Surprise: one of them is not money. First, we need ideas for planting projects. You can reach us via our web site, www.growingfriends.org. Second, we need offers from volunteers to help us plant trees. Don't be shy; there are no prerequisites (well, perhaps some degree of physical fitness) or tests. And, of course, money is somewhere on the list.

Bob Throssell, President