

**JOURNAL OF COMMISSION WORK SESSION**  
**April 15, 2008**

City Commission Work Session

Mayor Dona Stebbins presiding

**CALL TO ORDER:** 5:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** City Commissioners present: Mayor Stebbins, John Rosenbaum, Bill Bronson, Bill Beecher and Mary Jolley. Also present were the City Manager, Assistant City Manager, Directors of Community Development, Fiscal Services, Library, Park and Recreation and Public Works, Acting Director of Planning, the City Attorney, Fire Chief, Police Chief, and the City Clerk.

**1. WORKSITE WELLNESS PLAN**

Jim Edwards and Mary Kay Puckett of Mountain West Benefits provided a PowerPoint worksite wellness presentation. Mr. Edwards stated that he and Ms. Puckett both have 20 years experience. He explained that the wellness programs are key to managing claims and overall employee health and well being. If the program is utilized, it will keep claim costs down and lower premiums. Mr. Edwards outlined several health risks and health related costs. He stated that commitment must come from the top and that he would work with Linda Williams to develop a mission statement for the City of Great Falls.

Ms. Puckett explained the keys to success and incentives for participation. Proposed components of the program are access to electronic information and an on-line health risk assessment, health coaching, self-care guides and a 24 hour nurse line. On-line information at [www.wellwithblue.com](http://www.wellwithblue.com) is designed to help participants and their families stay healthy and it offers information on disease and conditions, symptom checker, drugs and supplements, and healthy living center. There is also access to the Mayo Clinic website that offers a free health risk assessment with immediate feedback. Health coaching through the Mayo Clinic is at a cost of \$100-\$200/6 months. Ms. Puckett advised that the [www.wellwithblue.com](http://www.wellwithblue.com) site is free to the City of Great Falls and she urged everyone to take advantage of those programs in place. She stated that the Wellness Assistance Program is underutilized and aggregated data is required before the program can move forward. She described the success of a Nevada School District wellness plan and explained that higher participation results in lower premiums.

**2. GREAT FALLS REGION DEFENSE DIVERSIFICATION PROJECT AND JOINT LAND USE STUDY (JLUS) PROGRAM**

Kim Thiel-Schaaf, Grant Writer for the Great Falls Development Authority, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Great Falls Region – Defense Diversification Project. Ms. Thiel-Schaaf explained that in January 2007 the Department of Defense

proposed deactivation of the 564<sup>th</sup>. This deactivation will have an economic impact on Cascade, Glacier, Pondera, Teton and Toole Counties, known as the “Sweetgrass Region.” It will also impact federal aid to schools. The Great Falls region defense diversification project was designed to reduce dependency on Department of Defense spending in the region. The project is funded by the Office of Economic Adjustment and Montana Department of Commerce. A grant was awarded to Cascade County on behalf of the Sweetgrass Region and is administered by the Great Falls Development Authority. Specific tasks of the project consisting of impact measurement, regional business inventory, competitive analysis – energy and agriculture, entrepreneur strategy and work force strategy, are expected to take 12 to 18 months. Ms. Thiel-Schaaf played a DVD that explained encroachment issues and what a JLUS is – a cooperative land use planning effort between military installations and the surrounding communities, and promotes compatible community growth that support military training and operational missions. A typical JLUS will identify actions that could and should be taken by the community and installation to solve existing encroachment issues and prevent future ones. A JLUS helps a community to understand the economic and physical impact of the installation operations as well as evaluate impacts of development decisions on the viability of the mission present and future. The end project hopefully will guide local government in the application of planning and development controls in support of an ongoing military mission. The JLUS is 90% funded by the Office of Economic Adjustment and 10% community funded.

### **3. BID ANNUAL REPORT**

Tonya Jorgensen provided the BID’s 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Newsletter. Ms. Jorgensen discussed short/long term goals of the BID and what has been accomplished. She explained the software program for inventorying downtown properties was not successful in that the program listed only properties not listed with a realtor. They will be restructuring the site. Ms. Jorgensen stated that the BID worked with the neighborhood councils to evaluate traffic on 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Streets and 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Avenues. She stated that the BID will be working on enhancing signage downtown. She further reported that the BID was not too successful in increasing residential housing development and is hoping to do a workshop with developers. Ms. Jorgensen stated that she is close to getting a program together to clean windows and sidewalks. She announced that Sue Ferrin is the new Marketing Director of DGFA. Ms. Jorgensen concluded with a listing of new businesses to the downtown area in the past six months.

### **ADJOURN**

There being no further discussion, Mayor Stebbins adjourned the work session of April 15, 2008, at 6:50 p.m.