

JOURNAL OF COMMISSION WORK SESSION
February 5, 2008

City Commission Work Session

Mayor Dona Stebbins presiding

CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 p.m.

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

1. UNDERAGE DRINKING PROGRAM AND THE 0013 CAMPAIGN

Lt. Bryan Lockerby and Officer Steve Pre'tat of the Great Falls Police Department presented a power point slide show regarding alcohol enforcement. Great Falls and Malmstrom Air Force Base were recipients of a three year federal grant. The Great Falls Police Department works with a community coalition consisting of 13 other entities to provide alcohol compliance training, alcohol compliance checks, and alcohol prevention inspections. Officer Pre'tat discussed the youth participation programs and MAFB training. He stated that the alcohol statistics are better at MAFB. He further stated that every establishment with a liquor license is visited yearly. In 2006, there was a 74% pass rate, and in 2007 – 83% pass rate. Additionally, there has been a 33% drop in MIP and DUI citations, as well as a 28% drop in DUI's and a 42% drop in MIP citations at MAFB. Lt. Lockerby explained the 0-0-1-3 marketing program means zero drinks if you are under 21, zero DUI's, one drink per hour, and three drinks maximum. He discussed the marketing plan that included advertising on billboards and television commercials and stated that the marketing program is going national.

Commissioner Beecher inquired if there was a renewal option after the three years. Officer Pre'tat answered that there is a renewal option to make this program Airforce-wide and that the grant would be \$50,000 - \$60,000 from the Montana Board of Crime Control.

Commissioner Bronson inquired if the pass/failure rate was higher for business versus convenience stores. Officer Pre'tat responded that it was about the same. He works with the Cascade County Tavern Association and the DUI Task Force.

Mayor Stebbins asked if there was training for bartenders to determine fake ID's. Officer Pre'tat answered that there is a free 90 minute class.

2. CALEA

Lt. Steffens provided an overview of CALEA – Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. CALEA sets forth policy and procedure standards. Lt. Steffens stated that the GFPD has put together a comprehensive updated manual. GFPD is in compliance with 410 out of 459 CALEA standards. Lt. Steffens added that some standards are not applicable to this Department and that Great Falls is well above the minimum benchmark. The Great Falls Police Department's policies and procedures are in place and operational. The official assessment has been scheduled for October 25 – 29, 2008. Since October 1, 2007, Lt. Steffens stated that CALEA has create a huge change in the Department. Every bureau prepares a monthly report and has set forth goals and objectives that are provided to the Police Chief. Lt. Steffens discussed lawsuits that involved police departments. He concluded that CALEA accreditation will reduce the Department's risk of exposure and liability.

3. SKATE PARK GRAFFITI ISSUE

Park and Recreation Director Marty Basta presented a power point slide show update of the graffiti issue at the Riverside Railyard. Mr. Basta stated that a Town Hall meeting took place on October 23, 2007, to discuss the vandalism and potential solutions. Approximately 40 people attended with 90% being young people and skating enthusiasts. They made 38 suggestions. Mr. Basta stated that staff is recommending that the outside face of the Skate Park be kept free of graffiti at all times, open the restroom during the summer months, purchase lockable garbage containers, light the tunnel between Skate and Gibson Parks, leave the overhead lights on at night, and move the soft drink machines. The City Commission concurred with the recommendation.

Weed and Seed Coordinator Patty Cadwell stated that she attended the Town Hall meeting also. The skaters expressed to her that they love the Skate Park, they do not want it fenced and they do not want to have to pay a fee to use the park. Ms. Cadwell explained a grant that will fund 200 helmets. She added that Benefis also provides 500 helmets during Riverfest. Ms. Cadwell explained the consequences if a youth is cited for not wearing a helmet.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Mayor Stebbins adjourned the work session of February 5, 2008, at 6:50 p.m.