

Great Falls Citizens' Council  
Council of Councils Meeting Minutes  
January 27, 2015

The meeting was opened by Rich Calsetta, Neighborhood Council #3, at 7:05 p.m. in the Gibson Room in the Civic Center with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Delegates present:** Rich Calsetta, Neighborhood Council #3; Sandra Guynn, Neighborhood Council #4; Eric Ray, Neighborhood Council #5; Lisa Meyers, Neighborhood Council #7; Karen Grove, Neighborhood Council #8; Scott Miranti, Neighborhood Council #9; Commissioner Bill Bronson; and Commissioner Fred Burow.

**Councils not represented:** Neighborhood Council #1 and Neighborhood Council #2.

**Guests:** City Manager Greg Doyon, Park and Recreation Director Joe Petrella, Corky Grove, Patty Cadwell and 3 unidentified students.

#### OLD BUSINESS

1. **Minutes** from the October 28, 2014 meeting were presented and the vote to accept the minutes as corrected (add Commissioner Burow to "those present") was unanimous.
2. **Update of Holman Building**—Council #2 Delegate not present to report. Patty offered that Council #2 members had not started the petition process but had asked Mr. Holman to attend their February meeting. The Holman building is located at the southwest end of the Central West Bridge and has been noted by Council #2 members and others as an eyesore and a possible public nuisance.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. **City of Great Falls update – City Manager Greg Doyon**  
Mr. Doyon began his presentation by stating one of the greatest challenges of his time as City Manager has been filling eleven department head positions, mostly due to retirements. The City is currently searching for a new Fire Chief. In response to Scott Miranti's question, Mr. Doyon stated department head salaries were slightly less than other Montana cities. He also reported that the City's general fund balance and other fund balances were very close to where they were supposed to be. Labor contracts would continue to impact fund balances as would maintenance issues, such as the exterior deterioration of the Civic Center.
2. **Introduction to New Director of GF Park and Recreation – Joe Petrella**  
Mr. Petrella offered information on his background experience in Recreation beginning with his early employment as a camp counselor to his most recent employment in the Washington, DC area. He is working to completely assess the current Park and Rec operations and to strategize how best to provide the core functions of his department. He stated he believes the community must be a part of the process.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

##### **Individual Council Sharing**

1. Council #1 Delegate not present.

2. Council #2 Delegate not present.
3. Rich Calsetta reported there has been quite a bit commercial and industrial development in the Council #3 area. He also reported Planning/Community Development was on the agenda to talk about a proposed large residential development. The Council members' concerns included traffic patterns, infrastructure and adequate services.
4. Sandra Guynn reported her Council had recently been presented with information on a conditional use permit request from the Helena Chemical Company, which plans to locate soon in the AgriTech Park. Other proposed industrial businesses slated to locate in the same Park are Pacific Steel and Montana Specialty Mills. Council #4, in partnership with Council #5, still plans to hold an open forum meeting where residents can voice their preferences for businesses in the four out lots in the proposed East Retail Development, which may break ground in the fall of 2015. Sandra reported the Crisis Nursery is progressing forward with preparations for a business plan and possible location.
5. Eric Ray reported his Council intends to touch base with the developers of the additional units planned for Cascade Ridge regarding dust control, in an attempt to avoid the problems that occurred in the first phase. He also reported he had made contact with the PTA at Mountainview School to partner and participate in his area's Neighborhood Watch.
6. Julie Parker reported her Council had held an Ice Cream Social in June at Verde Park to celebrate the installation of the new, safe playground equipment. Her Council is also early in their actions to create functional Neighborhood Watches in their area and have received a grant from NeighborWorks to help with the effort. Member Cherry Loney had organized a successful Mapril Cleanup in her neighborhood.
7. Lisa Meyers introduced herself as a new member and reported her Council now had a full slate of members. Officer Kimmet had recently visited the Council and reported that crime stats had not increased from one year ago.
8. Karen Grove stated that Officer Kimmet reported the crime reports/statistics had gone down in the Council 8 area. The neighborhood is generally quiet.
9. Scott Miranti reported his Council has plans to support the Neighborhood Watch program in the Council 9 area. The Council will partner with the 1<sup>st</sup> Church of the Nazarene to hold an ice cream social in July. The Council has been hearing parking and loitering complaints from the neighbors around GFHS.

**Note:** Several members commended the Board, Commission and Council Training session offered in December. Most enjoyed Dan Clark's, MSU Local Government Center, presentation and wished it had been longer.

#### PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. **Neighborhood Concerns:** Scott Miranti of Council #9 offered his concerns for snow removal on side streets and asked if anyone knew when GFHS planned to build a parking garage.

The next Council of Councils meeting will be held Tuesday, May 26, 2015.

A motion and second were made to close the meeting at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patty Cadwell, Neighborhood Council Coordinator