

Great Falls Citizens' Council
Council of Councils Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2014

The meeting was opened by Karen Grove, Neighborhood Council #8, at 7:03 p.m.

Delegates present: Neal DuBois, Neighborhood Council #1; Sue Ann Strickland, Neighborhood Council #2; Terry Thompson, Neighborhood Council #3; Sandra Guynn, Neighborhood Council #4; Eric Ray, Neighborhood Council #5; Carl Donovan, Neighborhood Council #6; Karen Grove, Neighborhood Council #8; Scott Miranti, Neighborhood Council #9; Commissioner Bill Bronson and Commissioner Fred Burow.

Councils not represented: Neighborhood Council #7.

Guests: City County Health Director Alicia Thompson and County Commissioner Jane Weber.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Minutes** from the October 30, 2013 meeting were presented and the vote to accept the minutes as presented was unanimous to approve. Sue Ann Strickland, Council #2, was concerned about a reference made by past Delegate Phyllis Hemstad that Viaduct Park had been changed from a park designation to an open space designation. She asked Patty Cadwell to verify.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Community Enhancement Grant Survey – City/County Health Department Director Alicia Thompson:** Ms. Thompson gave a PowerPoint presentation explaining the survey, its purpose, and the results gathered. Although participation in the survey was not as active as had been hoped, some ideas of what the people of Great Falls, Cascade County and the state as a whole preferred in different treatments were obtained. Council #8 was the winner among the Neighborhood Councils for the most participation with 24 completed surveys.
2. **Local Government Study – Commissioner Bill Bronson:** Commissioner Bronson explained the purpose and the procedure for a Local Government Study: voters of Great Falls and also Cascade County will decide in the June election if they want a study of their respective governments. Both the City and County staff have determined a study would cost \$125,000. If a majority of the voters decide to go ahead with either or both of the studies, mill(s) will be levied to fund the study. Then 5 Study Commissioners will be elected in the November election. The newly-elected Commissioners will study the current form/structure of government thoroughly over the next two years and can make recommendations that will go before the voters. From the last study done 10 years ago, no recommendations were suggested. The formation of Neighborhood Councils was a recommendation favorably voted in at the 1996 election.

OTHER BUSINESS

Individual Council Sharing

1. Neal DuBois reported his Council had received updated information on the airport sound attenuation project. In addition to a new sound contour map, another phase of the home sound renovations was being planned. His council was concerned about deer entering residential areas and the upcoming sign code conformance issues. Commissioner Burow made comments on the sign code.
2. Sue Ann Strickland reported her council had also heard about the new sound attenuation activities. She mentioned that new council member Michael McCoy was very concerned about the appearance and lack of code enforcement on the deteriorating Holman building located across Central Avenue West from the new Federal court house.
3. Terry Thompson reported her council had been concerned with development in their area, disaster planning especially with Calumet being in their neighborhood, an update from ADF, and finding ways to communicate effectively with the neighbors in their area. She went on to talk about an upcoming event sponsored by the Realtor Association to address the lack of work force housing in Great Falls.
4. Sandra Guynn reported that Easter Seals was beginning renovations on their properties in the area, her council would be voting on a park for the Little Free Library, and the Council members are still waiting for a joint meeting with Council #5 regarding the proposed east retail project.
5. Eric Ray reported his council's activities recruiting Neighborhood Watch had been very successful. He also reported the council's efforts to raise funds to resurface the Russell Park walking path had been fruitful and a private donor had come forth to fund the entire paving project. His council had a new police volunteer liaison who would be attending all the council meetings. And his council had recently heard from the coordinator of CERT—Citizens Emergency Response Training.
6. Carl Donovan reported his Council had concerns about east/west traffic movement and increased development in the area. He said his council would be holding a Neighborhood Watch recruitment event in March.
7. No delegate present.
8. Karen Grove reported her council had voted to support the Little Free Library but she was having second thoughts because of the potential for vandalism in the parks, especially if in poorly lighted areas.
9. Scott Miranti reported his council had received information on fundraising for a climbing rock in Lions Park sponsored by the Lions Club; massive renovation at Parkdale that would add a through street and additional on-site parking for tenants; and complaints about abandoned vehicles. Additionally, member Peggy Scheschy was concerned with disaster planning and emergency responders.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. **Neighborhood Concerns:** there were no concerns.

The next Council of Councils meeting will be held Tuesday, May 27, 2014.

A motion and second were made to close the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Cadwell
Neighborhood Council Coordinator