

Minutes Neighborhood Council District 3 (NC3)

Thursday, February 2, 2017 at 7 PM

Music Room at Riverview School

Call to Order: Cyndi Baker, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Jana Cooper, Andrea Dean, and Kathleen (Kathy) Gessaman; a quorum was present.

Unfinished Business:

• **Minutes from January Meeting:** Kathy G. moved to accept the minutes of the January 5, 2017 NC3; Andrea D. seconded. The motion passed.

• **Committee Reports:** Kathy reported on the January 17th City Commission meeting and highlighted some issues that affected NC3 residents: Shelia Rice, NeighborWorks, said ten homeowners moved into their new homes in the Thaniel Addition; Greg Doyon, City Manager, reported Joe Petrella, Director of Park and Recreation, had resigned for another job opportunity in Arizona; the first reading of Ordinances 3148, 3149, and 3153 took place, and Kathy suggested the Council of Councils review these three Ordinances but the Commissioners said they had heard the January Council of Councils meeting was canceled. Kathy said she would go into more detail about the ordinances and her comments to the Commissioners later in the meeting.

Jana said, at the December 13th Planning Board meeting, the Board discussed the West Ridge Addition Phases VII – XI's plan to change the zoning from R3 to PUD and resize/replat 12 lots into 16 lots. Jana noted the West Ridge Addition plan should receive final approval in a month or two.

Cyndi said the January Police Advisory Board was cancelled and the next meeting will be in March.

Cyndi asked if there had been any communication with NC3 residents; no one reported receiving any.

Cyndi said she attended the School Board meeting where the Board said the district would need at least \$1.1 million more for salary increases, etc. Cyndi said people were upset when they learned the Little Russell School Park would be lost when changes to the property were completed.

Cyndi noted no one was present from Calumet to give an update.

Patty C. said NC3 is scheduled to meet with the City Commissioners at the March 21, 2017 Work Session - not Feb. 21st as shown on the Agenda. The Council discussed some possible points for Terry to talk about at the meeting: transportation issues like getting an update on a northern bypass; update on the plan for 36th Ave NE and drainage issues in that area; Skyline Park update; thanks for the crosswalks at 36th Ave & 2nd Street NE, and the city-wide park maintenance assessment issue. Jana agreed to ask Patty Reardon, Acting Director of Parks & Recreation, to speak to NC3 at a later date because there was confusion on how the city is supposed to be a whole park district but the Thaniel Addition property owners might have to pay a different park assessment fee. Andrea suggested we get more parks in new development areas since the developers don't seem to pay much to get out of the obligation to provide for parkland in new developments. Patty said the park maintenance fee was based on Billings' three-year park maintenance plan. Jana said about \$50 million was needed to make all the proposed changes to the Great Falls Park system but only \$3 million would be assessed on property owners for the first assessment.

New Business: Kathy reviewed proposed Ordinances 3148, 3149, and 3153, which had their first reading at the Jan. 17th City Commission meeting. Kathy passed out a handout with a summary of the areas that she thought could affect NC3. After discussion on the three ordinances, the Council decided that they supported asking the Commission to add “other Chair approved excuse” to Ordinance 3149 - Section 2.56.020 (A), which currently reads “Section 2.56.020 (A) The member misses more than one-third (1/3) of the regular meetings in a calendar year without a health or medical excuse.” Kathy said she would ask the Commissioners to consider the addition of “other Chair approved excuse” to Section 2.56.020 (A).

Neighborhood Concerns: Cyndi brought up the dispute over local job numbers. Recently, Brett Doney announced that the GFDA would ask for a \$450,000 per year voted tax levy to fund economic development - the levy would amount to about \$6/year per home owner. The County would collect the money and decide how to spend the money on economic development. Cyndi reported Brett earlier said that the Great Falls area lost 707 jobs in 2016 and he was quoted as saying, “Frankly these numbers scare the hell out of me.” Patty said the state reported that Great Falls lost only 300 jobs in 2016; she also said the refinery lost 300 construction jobs when the expansion work ended. Andrea said 45 jobs were lost from Faster Bassett. Cyndi said they drove up 10th Ave S and noticed there are many empty buildings. Brett’s recent comments are surprising because he consistently had previously said growth was “solid.” There was some discussion about which numbers were accurate. Ron G. (1006 36th Ave NE) said about six weeks before Brett’s latest comments; Brad Livingston said at a Commission meeting that the City has 900 job openings that are begging for people. Ron suggested the City work on training people who lost jobs so they are qualified for some of these other jobs. Cyndi floated the idea of asking Brett to one of NC3 meetings. Kathy suggested Brett Doney might want to address the next Council of Councils meeting too.

Other Business: Mapril Cleanup – scheduled for May 6 and 13. Patty suggested people think about ways to organizing teams to help clean our parks in May.

Andrea D. moved to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.; Kathy G. seconded. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Gessaman