

**Great Falls Citizens' Council  
Council of Councils Meeting Minutes  
May 23, 2017**

Scott Miranti, Neighborhood Council #9, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Gibson Room in the Civic Center with the roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Delegates present:** Shyla Patera & Sue Ann Strickland, Neighborhood Council #2; Terry Thompson, Neighborhood Council #3; Sandra Guynn, Neighborhood Council #4; Gloria Bedker, Neighborhood Council #5; Lisa Meyer, Council #7; Karen Grove, Neighborhood Council #8; Scott Miranti, Neighborhood Council #9; and City Mayor/Commissioner Bob Kelly.

**Visitors present:** City Manager Greg Doyon, Deputy City Manager Chuck Anderson, Park and Recreation Interim Director Patty Rearden, City Emergency Manager Dave Nordel, Corky Grove, Casey Furr, Joe Furr, and Donald Bedker.

**Delegates and Commissioners not present:** Neighborhood Councils #1 and #6 Delegates and Commissioner Bob Jones were not present.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Minutes** from the October 25, 2016 meeting were presented. Sandra Guynn made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Terry Thompson seconded. Scott Miranti called for a vote and after much discussion about the reference to the park behind the Roberts Apartments, there was a motion and second to add the words “non-city park.” The vote to accept as corrected was unanimous
2. Sue Strickland thanked all the other Councils for their help and actions that resulted in the clean-up/refurbishment of the Holman Building.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Emergency Planning** –City Emergency Manager Dave Nordel distributed booklets on “family preparedness.” He hopes the booklets can be distributed to all Great Falls families. He reminded the Councils that “sheltering in place” would be important for everyone when emergency responders would be at a premium in the event of a big disaster. He also suggested that all the Councils consider having an event that would illuminate problems pertinent to their Councils and pass out the booklets at the same time. Neighborhood Council Coordinator Patty Cadwell offered her assistant in notification of open meeting requirements for the Councils who will not meet again until September.
2. **New Deputy City Manager Chuck Anderson** – Chuck Anderson introduced himself and offered some personal background information, i.e. family, origin and reason for wanting to be in Great Falls. City Manager Greg Doyon shared a background story about Chuck’s applying for the job, and his new duties as Deputy City Manager.
3. **Park Districting**—Park and Recreation Interim Director Patty Rearden gave a brief Powerpoint presentation regarding the background and planning for the currently proposed Park District assessments

that would go toward replacing park amenities (capital improvements), maintenance (including increased staffing), and City tree upkeep. There would be one “park district,” which would be the entire city and its park properties. The City is able to designate a special district by past legislative action. The timeline for this proposal would be: a public hearing for the intent to create a park district on June 6, 2017; if the Commission votes in favor of creating a park district, a mailer survey will go to all property owners on June 9, giving residents 60 days to protest or support the park district; if there is 50% or more protest, the proposal will be tabled for a year; if there is 10 to 50% protest, the Commission will decide to do nothing or go to a public referendum; if there is less than 10% protest, the Commission, on August 15, will conduct a public hearing to create the park district or not. If approved, it would be in effect for 20 years, but could be dissolved in any given year. For a \$100,000 property, the assessment could be \$43.00. Patty listed the proposed park/recreation/tree updates for the next 3 years that would be funded by the proposed assessment. Council members asked several questions of Patty regarding tree replacements, public opinion on this issue, whether the assessment will be based on market or assessed value, and whether new developments will pay for parks in addition to the assesement. Council #5 offered its support of the park district assessment.

4. **Rocky Mountain Building Status** – Mark Cappis was not present. City Manager Greg Doyon shared that City staff was in support of the current owners moving forward in their efforts to rebuild the property rather than condemn and demolish the building. He suggested patience.
5. **24/7 Child Care Facility** – Janet Thayer, Alliance for Youth Director, gave the mission of the organization which revolves around healthy families. She explained how her non-profit organization could operate a for-profit business as long as the profit went back to support the non-profit. The proposed 24/7 Child Care facility would have paying customers (some would be eligible for a state child care subsidy) and would fill the gap in times not available for child care in our community. In addition, it is hoped the plan would help to eliminate or lower the amount of child abuse in our area through child care accessibility to marginal families. Janet asked for comments. Questions from the delegates included whether there was a proposed business plan; was it more a program like Boys and Girls Club and how did that affect staffing requirements; where was the proposed building (Janet offered it was the current Victory Christian Church); who would be eligible for the subsidies; and was this project the same as the child crisis center. Janet asked if the Council delegates would be willing to answer 3 questions regarding this proposal.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

1. **Individual Council Sharing**
  1. Casey Furr, resident of Council #1, reported on her efforts to raise funds for park improvements in Grande Vista Park.
  2. Sue Strickland reported her Council had been involved in the Russell School/neighbor dispute over the GFPS update plans. The Council had had two vacancies; one had been replaced, but one was still open.
  3. Terry Thompson reported 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE was under construction, new development was progressing in a couple of areas, abandoned vehicles were being taken care of by the police volunteers, Community Policing Officer Donny Gerhart had visited and encouraged residents to lock their cars, and several retail businesses had opened recently.

4. Sandra Guynn reported her Council had recently had some traffic concerns from residents. Sgt. Beecroft was scheduled to give a gang presentation in May.
5. Gloria Bedker reported her Council had great attendance; had done spring cleanup in Russell Park; and wanted it noted in the minutes they felt Patty Rearden should be the official Park and Recreation Director. She also reported there would be new development on 47<sup>th</sup> Street and 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South.
6. Julie Parker sent a report as she was recovering from surgery: Neighborhood Watch efforts were going good; upper/lower River Road construction had left some areas of concerns; car thefts were up in the area due to keys being left in the cars; the NeighborWorks proposed apartments had increased concerns about area traffic; a lack of parking in the new Teriaki Madness business; the annual Ice Cream Social will be June 7 in Sunnyside Park.
7. Lisa reported they had had filed three vacancies (all were currently filled), and DDACTS was making a Difference in the Council 7 area.
8. Karen Grove reported the closure of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue North for construction was causing problems and was hoping for increased police presence to help.
9. Scott reported that the Council was busy attempting to develop Kranz Park: looking for funding and hoping for CDBG grant money for a play structure.

#### **PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

1. Resident Joe Furr offered his grave concerns about traffic problems that currently exist at the intersection of Fox Farm Road and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South and was even more concerned about traffic problems that might increase due to the new hotel. Mayor Kelly offered that there was a concerted effort already in place to study and alleviate the problems at that intersection, and assured him residents and Council #1 would be involved.
2. Scott asked if the City was vulnerable to hacking. Both Greg Doyon and Chuck Anderson offered the City was aware of the threat and doing a good job attempting to avoid cyber terrorism.

A motion and second were made to close the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

The next Council of Councils meeting will be held Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Cadwell, Neighborhood Council Coordinator