

## Minutes Neighborhood Council District 3 (NC3)

Thursday, September 7, 2017 at 7 PM

*Music Room at Riverview School*

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

### Unfinished Business:

• **Minutes from May meeting: Kathy G. moved to accept the minutes of the May 11, 2017 NC3 meeting; Andrea D. seconded. The motion passed.**

• **Committee Reports:** Kathy discussed the July 5, 2017 City Commission meeting since that was the last one she attended over the summer; Kathy noted the Commissioners voted to put the backyard hens issue on the Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> ballot.

Terry asked Patty Cadwell about the zoning of churches issue; Patty thought the change would allow churches to be built in an area zoned commercial.

Jana said there wasn't anything that affected NC3 in the summer Planning and Zoning Board meetings from the period of June 27<sup>th</sup> to August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Jana noted the Planning and Zoning Board is looking for more people to join the Board.

Cyndi said the Police Chief discussed how many police officers are needed in a City the size of Great Falls (1.43 per 1000) and discussed different models of operating the department at the Police Advisory Board meeting on May 18th. Chief Bowen implied a more proactive way of keeping crime down would be to hire six more patrol officers but he wasn't sure a levy would pass because of the recently passed school levy. Cyndi said the next meeting was September 21<sup>st</sup>. The Police Dept. hired three more officers to replace three that left the department.

Terry said Facebook is the preferred method for neighbors to get together to discuss concerns. The group discussed the Nextdoor App where a national company provides a free, private social network for you, your neighbors, and your community. Patty C. said she would check into who is behind Nextdoor app.

Terry read the minutes of the May 23, 2017 Council of Councils meeting. Terry said the improvements on 36<sup>th</sup> Ave NE were well done and completed ahead of schedule.

• **Calumet Update:** Marlena Halko, a representative of Calumet Refinery – Human Resources and Media Relations, introduced two new Calumet employees. Joe Dauner is the new Environmental Manager who took Hadley Bedbury's position and Marlena noted Hadley is safe in Houston. Elisa Rockholt is a Senior Air Compliance Coordinator, she and Joe started at the end of June. Joe gave an update of some of the events that occurred at Calumet over the summer; June 6<sup>th</sup> there was a release that caused a sheen on the river – the sheen was from a containment failure and was noticed when it rained – Calumet has a temporary recovery operation in place; July 27<sup>th</sup> a City employee noticed an oil sheen associated with the waste water treatment facility and the storm water/sewer system, Calumet deployed an absorbent to contain the sheen and they are still investigating where the hydrocarbons

came from; August 8<sup>th</sup> the EPA conducted a government initiated unannounced exercise to test Calumet's response to releases and spills and Calumet met the requirements and did a great job responding; the week of August 14<sup>th</sup> Calumet practiced spill training and deployed on four different rivers in central Montana to practice booming and response capabilities; on August 15<sup>th</sup> the refinery had an unexpected shutdown of the FCC Unit – there was a blower shutdown and the community noticed some emissions but it was a successful safe shutdown and there was no risk to health or safety and the refinery quickly returned to normal operations. Board members asked if there still was oil leaking into the river and Joe said there was a recovery trench dug to contain any leaks when it rains to keep any oil out of the river and Calumet is working with the DEQ on locating the leaks. Council members wondered if access to West Bank Park across Calumet's rail lines would remain open. Joe said the City owns the crossing at 4<sup>th</sup> St across the rail lines – this was news to the Council who thought Calumet owned the crossing. Marlena said the additional rail line is on hold. A question was asked about the bank erosion problem near 9<sup>th</sup> St Bridge and if the City was able to get a FEMA grant to help fix the problem - no one knew the status of the bank erosion problem or when the City planned to meet with Calumet about the problem.

**New Business:** Gary Knudson, 220 32nd Ave NE, represented his daughters who are the developers of West Ridge and were unable to attend the NC3 meeting. Gary discussed Phase 8 through 12 of West Ridge Development. Gary explained the expansion and said it is a continuation of the Master Plan. The group asked if the developer had done a traffic study on the area and asked to see the study if it was done. Gary said the developer paid the City to do a traffic study. The Council agreed to recommend the Phase go forward but expressed concern about traffic flow in the area and would like to see the traffic study done by the City since traffic safety is a major concern in the neighborhood.

- Brett Doney, President and CEO of the Great Falls Development Authority, discussed the proposed Economic Development levy. The GFDA is asking the County Commission to levy a permanent 3-mil/year tax to fund economic development. The County Commissioners would control the funds, which would be earmarked for economic development.

- Planning/notification for Sheltering in Place Training: Terry discussed the planned training session. Terry said Dave Nordel, Emergency Manager for the City, would lead the joint training session with NC2. Terry said the training would take place Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at Harvest Springs Church from 6 to 8 p.m. Marlena noted it is important to teach people what it means to Shelter in Place and how you actually shelter in place. Terry passed out a Family Preparedness booklet that Dave would discuss at the training session.

**Other Business:** Terry invited Rick Tryon, candidate for City Commissioner, to speak to the group. Rick said four generations of his family live in Great Falls. Rick outlined his platform and concerns for Great Falls and he answered questions from the people present.

- Suggestions for Council of Councils – let Terry or Patty know about any topics to discuss at the October Council of Councils meeting.

- Auto Zone – the new store is going to be where Roger's Yogo Jewelry store was.

Next NC3 meeting will be October 5, 2017.

**The meeting adjourned around 8:40 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Gessaman