

Neighborhood Council #7
June Meeting
June 11, 2018
Gibson Room, Civic Center, 7:00 pm

Present: Andy Blewett, Troy Lane, Gudren Linden, Lisa Meyers, Sandy Rice

Jasmine Krotkov, Candidate for House District 26, PO Box 6811, Great Falls
Mark Willmarth, Strategic Visioning Facilitator, 2 Park Drive, Great Falls

Chair Lisa Meyers brought the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The April Minutes were approved as submitted. Sandy noted that the Special Session that was held on May 1 Minutes needed to be approved. This item will be added to the July Agenda.

Old Business:

Committee Reports:

Downtown Development Committee and Brownfield Committee did not meet. Gudren asked to resign from these Committees as she has conflicts and cannot attend meetings. The Downtown Development Committee meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at 9:00 am. Andy said she could possibly attend this meeting but would have to check her calendar. This Committee assignment will be added to the July Agenda.

Police Advisory Board: Lisa reported that the meeting covered the budget, with Chief Bowen requesting six additional officers and replacement radios for all officers. Under Capital Improvements, Chief Bowen reported that a new water line has been installed, part of the parking lot has been resurfaced, and Headquarters now has a working fire alarm system, with the old system repaired and replaced. Chief Bowen also asked that research and exploration of abolishing the Police Advisory Board be started, as he thinks the Board is duplicating other venues. This action would require City Commission approval, as the Police Advisory Board was created by City Commission action.

Downtown Safety Alliance: Sandy reported that the Coins for a Cause temporary permit will expire at the end of June, as the original test period was for six months starting in January. The Alliance is asking the City Council to extend the program through the entire year to better evaluate the efficacy of the program. The Volunteer Patrol and the Bike Patrol are in action for the summer months. Sandy noted that there seems to be a problem with the alleyway behind the vape shop Holy Smokes. Lisa said she would request additional patrols there.

Council of Councils: The Park District Plan approved by voters in the election will be worked on. No money will be distributed until December, after the master plan has been approved. The CDBG grants that have been approved will be distributed as 50% to infrastructure (20% of that 50% will be spent on ADA improvements), 45% on residential improvements, and 5% on public services. These percentages can change in future years of the grants. There is a new policy that requests for the CDGB grants can be applied for year around instead of by certain dates, as in the past. Long range transportation plans are in the works and are available at: greatfallstransplan.com.

New Business

Andy reported that the apartment house east across 3rd Street from the Blackstone is being renovated. Sandy reported that the Jensen Apartment renovation has included very nice landscaping.

Sandy brought two articles from The Electric online news source: The Rocky Mountain Building is being purchased and renovated by Neighborworks Great Falls with the help of the Great Falls Business Improvement District. NWGF is applying for a Federal Home Loan Bank affordable housing grant. Opportunity Zone designations by Governor Bullock's office include an area from the northside of 1st Avenue South to the river and east to 10th Street. This area is within the Neighborhood Council 7 boundaries. The Electric can be viewed at theelectricgf.com.

Other Business

As the June 19th work session of the City Commission has only Neighborhood Council #7 on its agenda, it was moved, seconded and passed to change the #7 work session date to July 17, 2018

There being no Neighborhood Concerns presented, the meeting was turned over to Mark Willmarth.

Strategic Planning, Mark Willmarth

Some minor tweaks to the Vision for the Future document were presented by Sandy and approved.

Mark led us in creating a task matrix for implementing the Goals for 2018 – 2021, the five year plan. He suggested that we find specific tasks to move forward in the next 12 months. Each of our five year goals will have at least one task, who is responsible for that task, and a completion date for the task. These one year tasks will keep us focused on completion of the long range goals. We have committed to reaching out to five neighbors per month, starting in August, to ask neighbors what their concerns are and to tell neighbors about the Council and its objectives. The objective of this outreach is mostly an awareness campaign. As a task for July, Troy agreed to create a message dialogue for this outreach. Sandy agreed to contact Neighborworks Great Falls to get the outdated list of "whom to call" and to work on updating it for handouts. Mark will email the task matrix for discussion in July.

Lisa said she could serve as facilitator of a Neighborhood Council #7 Facebook page if one is created.

July Agenda Additions:

Discussion of creation of a Facebook page,
Troy's report on awareness campaign message,
Sandy's report on the "whom to call" list,
Approval of the May 1 Special Meeting minutes,
Approval of June 11 Meeting minutes,
Election of new Downtown Development Committee representative,
Review and update Visioning Task Matrix,
City Commission Work Session Presentation: what to say and who will present.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 pm

Submitted, Sandy Rice, Secretary