

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL #8
Transition Center-Women's Annex
1019 15th St. N. - Great Falls
Thursday, March 15, 2018

Meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM by Chairman Karen Grove as we joined in the pledge to the flag. Council members present: Karen Grove, Barbara Going, Donna Williams and Steven Grout. Absent was Mike Brainard. Community members in attendance were Patty Cadwell, Sara Sexe, George Geise, Mayor Bob Kelly, Patty Rearden, Michael Cooper, and GF High students: Andrew Davidson, Isabel Spinti and Hunter Peres.

Minutes: MSC to approve the February 2018 minutes.

MSC to elect Donna Williams to the position of Police Advisory Committee delegate. There is a meeting this evening immediately following our council meeting. Due to Barbara Going stepping down from this position at the February meeting, Donna's security clearance had already been done, in preparation, and she will attend the meeting this evening.

New Business:

Great Falls City Transit: Since Buses 2 and 3 travel through our neighborhood council area she asked to share insights gained after riding all the routes for \$4.00 and spending an afternoon asking questions of Jim Helgeson the general manager. Donna rated the transit system as very good. The number of passengers vary on any given day and season. The 18 buses are used more during the summer, in the afternoons and by students. There is a shortage of bus drivers as they can earn more driving elsewhere.

City—Legal: Sara Sexe, City Attorney, gave a power point review of portions of the training we attended in January. Open Meetings and The Right To Know were the two topics covered. Portions for us to remember: Do not close a meeting to the public; encourage public participation; emails and phone meetings do not allow for public participation therefore cannot be a meeting; emails and minutes are public records; any meeting can be recorded and the secretary is to keep the original 'notes' of the minutes.

In light of open meeting laws Donna Williams stated she had been searching for an agenda and the minutes of the previous Police Advisory Committee meeting but had been unable to locate hem. The reason was not available and will be pursued for clarification.

Park Maintenance District: Patty Rearden the assistant deputy for the Park District explained the issues facing the City Parks and the plans for the special assessment that will be on the ballot, May 8, 2018. She explained the needs and plans for the 1.5 million for each of the next three years, based on the master plan developed in 2016. She also shared the alternatives if it doesn't pass. There will be two community presentations regarding the Great Falls Park District 1 on March 27 and April 26.

Other Business:

May-April Clean Up: At our February meeting it was suggested that we contact NC #9 about having a joint meeting with the idea of cleaning up the neighborhood around GFHS. Patty Cadwell stated that NC #9 did not respond affirmatively to the idea. Since GF high school youth were present they shared that some groups in the school had occasionally taken on the clean-up responsibility. Mayor Kelly then asked how the students at GFHS responded to the recent 17 minute walk-out in response to the shooting at a high school in Florida. Hunter Peres said it was supported by the faculty and went well. He also shared that Mr. Uecker supported the event at the Alternative High School gathering the students in the Hub to talk about school safety.

Neighborhood Concerns:

Karen Grove brought up the problem of ruts and holes in the alley from the garbage trucks due to the heavy snow. She was directed to share her concerns with Public Works.

Neighborhood Council - Miscellaneous:

The laminated map of Neighborhood Council #8 is now hanging on the north wall of our meeting room at the Women's Transition Center.

The subject of attendance by council members at monthly meetings was brought up. The ordinance will be on the April agenda so we are all aware of the rules and the recommended procedures.

MSC to adjourn at 7:30 PM.

Next meeting: April 19, 2018.

Barbara Going, Secretary
