

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL #8
Transition Center-Women's Annex
1019 15th St. N. - Great Falls
Thursday, September 20, 2018

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM by Karen Grove as we joined in the pledge to the flag. Council members present: Karen Grove, Barbara Going, Donna Williams and Steven Grout. Mike Brainard arrived at 7 PM. Community members present were: Corky Grove, Patty Cadwell, Diane Heikkila, Monica and John Hasner, and Jane Weber. Total attendance was 11.

Minutes: MSC to approve the June 2018 minutes.

Old Business:

Karen asked the new members of the council, Steve and Donna, to comment on the Ice Cream Social held in August. They agreed that having it on the same night as the school visiting library was in the park was an asset to the number of children. The banner indicating it was a Neighborhood event was positive as well as the new “sandwich board” for publicity. Contact with a neighbor expressing a concern was a beneficial aspect of having a neighborhood event. Good turn out for a hot night.

New Business:

One Way Streets-- Steven Grout prepared a detailed written analysis of concerns he has with the parking and traffic concerns on First and Second Avenue North between 15th and 38th streets. He compared these streets with the traffic patterns on 25th and 26th Streets North, which also are “one way traffic” roads and are much wider. The issues of cars parked on these two avenues make them hazardous for drivers. His question was what is the course of action to resolve this problem. It was shared that we have to get the involvement of the members of our council area before we can take the issue to the City Commissioners to deliberate the issue. **MSC: That on the next month's agenda a public hearing on the 1st and 2nd Avenue North traffic and parking issue be held and that it be well publicized.** Patty Cadwell will print the flier on colored paper., Donna will compose the flier that will be reviewed by the council members. Various council members will distribute it between 15th and 38th Street on 1st and 2nd Avenue.

Animal/USPS issue--Steven Grout explained that he had followed up on the concern that a citizen had brought to our attention at the ice cream social. This issue was resolved for the people concerned. Patty stated that as elected members of the council our obligation is simply to direct people who have a concern to bring it to the neighborhood council meeting as we have no authority as individuals to take any action.

Other Business:

Candidates:

Diane Heikkila is a candidate for County Treasurer and Superintendent of Schools (in Cascade County other than Great Falls). She shared that she is seeking the position to improve the efficiency, having worked in the office for many years.

Jane Weber is seeking another term as a county commissioner. She explained many of the programs that were of concern to council members and others that she was interested in seeing to completion.

Neighborhood and Council Members Concerns:

A community member, Monica Harasser, asked if we still had “safe houses” like the old Neighborhood Watch. Since this program is no longer in effect, the neighbors themselves have to take charge of such a program.

Donna Williams mentioned that the Natatorium was closing effective December 2018. This produced discussion on the fact that a Recreation Center would be a good addition to Great Falls.

Donna also brought a citizen's concern about a commercial vehicle being stored illegally across from Memorial Park. The citizen has contacted the police several times and in 2017 wrote to the mayor. Corky Grove stated that Montana off-street parking laws are vague. It is best if more than one person contact the police.

Steve Grout asked what he should present at the October work session of the City Commission. The issue with the traffic and parking on the one way streets and our recent ice cream social were suggested.

Steve Grout also suggested that it would be appropriate to thank Meadow Gold for the donation of ice cream for the social and suggested that our chairman, Karen Grove should take the responsibility. Karen accepted the responsibility.

Barbara Going declared that she would not be at the October meeting.

MSC to adjourn at 7:50 PM.

Next meeting: October 18, 2018.

Barbara Going, Secretary
