

**Neighborhood Council #8
Transition Center – Women’s Annex
1019 15th Street North, Great Falls
Thursday, October 18, 2018**

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Karen Grove with the Pledge of Allegiance. Council members present were Karen Grove, Donna Williams, Steve Grout. Mike Brainard entered a few minutes past six. Barbara Going and Patty Cadwell were absent due to vacations. Total attendance was 18 (see sign-in sheet).

Due to time constraints for the GFFR presenting guests, the order of agenda items was modified to allow GFFR members make their presentation at the front of the meeting.

New Business:

Great Falls Fire and Rescue members from Fire Station #3 (Jeremy Virts, Nolan Taylor, Eric Fowell) gave a brief summary of the types of calls and protections they provide, their area covered, changes in fire protection and personnel over the years. They are attending several council meetings to increase communication and awareness in the community. The big truck is usually called out on EMS because the big tool box holds most of what they need on EMS calls. GFFR opened to floor to questions, some of which included Community Para-Medicine (such as in Cut Bank), nurse practitioners in the FD, condition of the current fire department buildings, staffing, readiness/cooperative response for Calumet refinery (in scope of recent expansion), new subdivisions and effect on GFFR. Karen thanked the GFFR for their time and meeting with us, and then they exited the meeting.

Old Business:

MSC to approve the minutes of the September 20 meeting.

Steve gave a brief report on his NC#8 report to the City Commission working session on October 5.

More New Business:

One-way streets--Steve gave a brief summary of what the discussion entails by showing a short series of photographs of cars on 2nd Ave North that had been plowed into recently, and some photos of cars parked illegally partially on the boulevard, presumably to avoid being plowed into. The question for the night was do residents think a change should be made to the traffic patterns on 1st and 2nd Avenues North for safety's sake (and if so, what changes), or should the current pattern stay the way it is. Steve stated that a widening of the avenues was not really an option for a number of reasons. *[Note: council members Grove, Williams, Going, and Grout had previously hand-delivered notices of this meeting to all residents on the two avenues between 15th and 37th streets.]* A good discussion ensued, and one resident even brought a letter to the council (see attached). Suggestions for change included installing speed bumps, eliminating one-way traffic, modeling traffic as on 25th and 26th Streets, and reducing the speed limit. Suggestions for leaving current traffic as is included: which side to park on, inconvenience to residents having to cross the street to park, possible reduction in business (Peres Food Basket), danger in crossing street, unfair to residents if cannot park in front of house, enjoyment of one-way streets, and it's not really much worse than other streets. No consensus was evident, and the relatively few people who came to speak were fairly evenly divided in opinion.

So, no future NC#8 discussion was viewed as warranted on this topic. However, people did express an interest in somehow reducing the 'racing' of cars to and from the military base up and down 1st and 2nd Avenues North. The speeding of cars seemed to many to be mostly military folks on their way to and from work at Malmstrom. People suggested installing "Your Speed Is: ____" signs (such as in front of Lincoln Elementary School) to slow things down. Two citizens said they did not think speeding was an issue, as they drive 32 mph and nobody seems to be passing them. Others said speed was definitely an issue. Speed bumps were again mentioned. Increased police patrols were also suggested. People wondered how the accident rate on these avenues (40-54 in the last two years) compared to other city streets. Steve said he didn't know, but would attempt to find out. There was concern that the traffic should be made safer, and Karen agreed to ask Patty Cadwell to check into / invite city personnel to address these items at the next council meeting.

Other Business:

Candidate Introduction--Jasmine Krotkov, candidate for Montana House District 25, made a brief statement on her own behalf and welcomed citizen questions, now or anytime.

Petitions and Communications:

A resident asked about the legality of fire pits within the city limits. He said the smoke has been a health problem for his family, and wondered what rules apply, if any, as to fire pits or the materials burned therein. Karen said she would ask Patty Cadwell to look into it and report at next council meeting.

Neighborhood Council:

Karen said she would be attending the Council of Councils on October 30.

Donna Williams reminded everyone that election day is Tuesday, Nov 6, prior to our next meeting, and that everyone should vote. She also reminded everyone that the Boulevard District leaf removal begins on Monday, October 22, and made the pick-up schedule available.

Someone asked about the status of the Natatorium, and Donna reported that the Natatorium is closing finally and for good on December 31.

Adjournment:

MSC to adjourn at 7:05 p.m.

Next meeting: November 15, 2018

Minutes taken by Steve Grout