

Neighborhood Council #7
Monday, June 10, 2019
Gibson Room, Civic Center

June 2019 Minutes

Present: Council Members, Andy Blewett, Troy Lane, Gudren Linden, Lisa Meyers, Sandy Rice
Lannie Klasner, Neighborhood Council City Liaison
Char Bunker, Whittier Elementary School, Steven Bolstad, Great Falls Municipal Court, Teri Waldenberg, 1201 7th Avenue North, Jim Kirk, 1201 7th Avenue North, Kris Whitaker, Great Falls Fire Rescue, Bert Hustle, Great Falls Fire Rescue, Tyler Osweiler, Great Falls Fire Rescue, Linda Daggett, 415 6th Avenue South, Lisa Frank, 1020 5th Avenue North, Jeffry Barnard, 601 3rd Avenue North, Doug Otto, Great Falls Police Department, Jenn Rowell, TheElectric

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

Great Falls Fire Rescue members attended as part of the GFFR outreach. The department calls have greatly increased as the area of GF has increased. The goal is to have a Paramedic on every truck, so personnel are being trained. Some of the public classes being offered are CPR and child car seat installation. The city code for fireworks will be researched by Lanni.

Committee Reports: Downtown Development / Brownfield Committees: Andy reported that Tracy's has been sold and new owners hope to continue a family restaurant with an updated restaurant that keeps the historical value. The Greek restaurant in the old Bert & Ernie's is in the process of being remodeled. The 5th Street Diner has closed.

Downtown Safety Alliance: Sandy reported that the new Coins for a Cause video is in play and that the Seasonal Volunteer force is up to 16 volunteers.

Council of Councils: Lisa reported that filing for the city offices, including Neighborhood Councils, ends on June 17. A candidate can file as a write in candidate up until August 1. The C of C would like recycling ideas from each NC by the next meeting. The Department of Natural Resources has two parcels of land for sale. Walmart has committed to cleaning up the lots every two weeks.

Strategic Planning: Troy spoke to the City Commission on June 4, reporting on NC #7's continuing neighborhood outreach. He also spoke on problem properties. There is a "Disorderly House" ordinance in effect in Portland, Maine, that Lisa will bring up at the next C of C meeting. Sandy will send Lisa the material she has on this program.

Judge Bolstead spoke about Municipal Court problems including understaffing and that the Court can't send property crime offenders to the jail which is at maximum capacity. There is a 24/7 alcohol monitoring program run by the Sheriff's office and a Mental Health treatment court. The same offenders appear in the Court regularly. There is an ongoing effort for the police to get crisis response training so that a person with mental health problems doesn't end up being arrested, but gets to treatment. Sheriff Slaughter is trying to put together a coalition of judges, police, and other city departments to present a coordinated effort to combat drug, alcohol, and mental health problems in the City.

Lt. Doug Otto spoke on the GFPD trying to create a list of all security cameras in GF so that when an incident occurs, the GFPD can try for video. Billings uses a Crime Mapping program that GFPD is trying to get funding for. He mentioned two websites: NNW.org for Neighborhood Watch and usaonwatch.org for the crime mapping example. Abandoned vehicles are tagged by volunteers. There are about 6,000 abandoned vehicles in Great Falls and the GFPD is working as best it can to get them off the streets. The Neighborhood Watch signs are available from the GFPD for replacing existing signs. Department of Public Works charges \$40.00 for a new pole for a new sign.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted and approved, as amended, July 8.
Sandy Rice, Secretary