

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL #7

Monday, December 9, 2019

Gibson Room, Civic Center

December 9, 2019, Minutes

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

Lanni Klasner, Community Liaison, Linda Daggett 415 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Char Bunker, Whittier Elementary School, Rev.

Jeff Wakely, 824 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Barb Warden, 703 Park Drive North, Karen Flater, 523 45<sup>h</sup> Avenue North, Erin

Tropila, 811 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Brenda Rubino, 621 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North

Eric Ray, 3401 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Neighborhood Council #5

Lisa Meyers brought the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The October minutes were approved as written.

Downtown Development Committee/Brownfield Committee: Andy reported on the Great Falls Development Authority projects concerning the three-block improvement plan. The architects' plan is not feasible according to the City Manager. There will be continuing discussions about these projects.

Downtown Safety Committee: Sandy reported on the Great Falls Public Library showing of "The Public" on November 20 and gave a short synopsis of the film. The forum after the film consisted of Chief Dave Bowen, Carly Tuss of St. Vincent de Paul, Therese Martinez from The Cameron Center, and Head Librarian Susie McIntyre. Jane Weber confirmed that the county jail overcrowding will be a continuing problem requiring a long-range solution. The renovation bids for the Rocky Mountain Building came back much higher than Alluvion anticipated, so the project will be split into smaller pieces and new bids requested. Athens Greek restaurant will not occupy the old Bert & Ernie's site until 2021 due to lease requirements at Holiday Village Mall.

Council of Councils met on October 29 and Lisa will report at the January meeting. The next Council of Councils meeting is January 28.

Strategic Planning/Outreach / Neighborhood Watch: Troy is still working on recruiting a neighbor to head up the Neighborhood Watch in his neighborhood. Troy also attended a Community Leadership Institute sponsored by Neighborworks Great Falls. His team has chosen MApril Cleanup expansion and involvement for its project. Troy will report more at the January meeting.

New Business: Eric Ray of Neighborhood Council #5 explained the background and reasoning behind the Madison Food Park Resolution created by NC#5. He is hoping to have all nine Councils vote to add their names to the Resolution. All the Resolution asks is that the City give input into the County decision and be transparent in its dealing with the County's decisions. Sandy made the motion that NC#7 include our Council as a backer of the Resolution. Troy seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Sandy will amend the Resolution template to include Neighborhood Council #7.

Lanni announced that swearing in ceremonies will be held in the Commission Chambers on Tuesday, December 17 with a reception following in the Gibson Room. Mandatory Board Leadership Training will be held on Tuesday, January 25 or Wednesday, January 26. Council members can choose which Training they would like to attend. RSVP Krista Artis 455-8450 or [kartis@greatfallsmt.net](mailto:kartis@greatfallsmt.net) by Friday, February 14.

Neighborhood Concerns: Barb Warden asked if anything could be done about the trains at night. The consensus was that trains have been a part of Great Falls since the 1800's, so not much could be done.

Sandy distributed a copy of the Great Falls Police Facebook page congratulating Lisa Meyers on 2500 volunteer hours. Sandy asked that a discussion of a letter to Planning Officer Andrew Finch be drafted at the January meeting, asking that the roundabout at the intersection of Park Drive, 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue North and 6<sup>th</sup> Street North be considered. The project is already on the Transportation list, but we would like it to be moved up.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m. Submitted, Sandy Rice, Secretary