

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL #8
Transition Center-Women's Annex
1019 15th St. N. - Great Falls
Thursday, May 16, 2019

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Karen Grove. We began with the pledge to the flag. Other council members present were: Steve Grout, Donna Williams and Barbara Going. Excused council member: Mike Brainard. Community members in attendance: Lanni Klasner, Jim Rearden, Dan Palagi, Sandra Rice, Doug Mahlum, Savannah Duke, Jaden DeRosa, Colton Menvor, Majessa Nelson, Jackie Denegar, Eric Boyd, Morgan Denegar, Ryan Villines, Samantha Shinaberger, Zale Kaupish and Xavier Mercado Sr. Many in attendance were high school students. Xavier Mercado was attending for the first time having seen information about neighborhood councils printed on his last utility bill.

Minutes: MSC to approve the April 2019 minutes.

Old Business:

Steve Grout distributed a summary of his report to the City Commissioners on May 7, 2019 regarding the dog and USPS issue discussed at our April meeting. Five people were present to speak to the issue including the landlord and the dog owner/tenant. Steve reported that mail service has been resumed. Steve prepared a list of nine suggestions for actions that could be taken into consideration by the city regarding similar issues. This list was given to the city clerk. Mayor Kelly suggested that Steve return if the issue wasn't completely resolved. **MSC** that Steve Grout stay on top of the dog issue until July and report to the City Commissioners if there are unresolved issues.

New Business:

Community Policing Report was given by Lt. Doug Mahlum. He shared printed graphs showing statistics for our neighborhood for the first quarter of the year. Our neighborhood scores high on 'suspicious calls' which means people are watching their property and contact police if they see strangers lurking. He stated that although they are short two staff members the department would be fully staffed by September. He distributed sheets on Code Red and encouraged us to be a participant in the program as it could be helpful to the police department in time-sensitive emergencies. Register at: GREATFALLSMT.NET/EM/CODE-RED. The issue of abandoned vehicles came up again. To report a troublesome issue, the number to call is 727-7688 plus #5.

Street and Alley Maintenance Report was given by Dan Palagi. At this time the 31 man crew is filling pot holes, sweeping streets and grading alleys. During the heavy snow season from Jan 29 to Mar 28 they removed 5000 truck loads of snow. Snow and ice control is 20 % of their budget. There are priority routes for snow removal and if the ruts on side streets become problematic to drive, the city will blade them so they are smoother. Other facts that were shared: Two times a year alleys are bladed. Sixty blocks are repaved per year. To leave a message for consideration by this department call 771-1401.

Sandra Rice a member of NC #7 spoke on several issues:

Downtown Safety Alliance meets at 9 AM, the first Tuesday of every month at Neighbor Works. They have been in existence for seven years. They have a TV ad that stresses not to give to pan-handlers but give to Coins for a Cause. A new brighter ad will soon replace the current one. The funds collected support local organizations who provide direct services and resources to people in need.

NC #7 has done a visioning program, asking its members, "Where Do We See Our Neighborhood In Five Years?" They committed themselves to outreach, meeting five new people a month and inviting them to their Neighborhood Council meeting. One of their issues is problem property. Being in a historic area their theme is: Walk for the history, stay for the future. She shared printed copies of their questionnaire and their common concerns and goals.

Seasonal Volunteer Program of the GFPD. This program operates from April to October each year. To be

involved call 455-8556. The work is done in teams of two with a commitment of three hours per week.

Sandra wrote an article for the Chamber of Commerce magazine describing the activities of Neighborhood Council #7 which covers the downtown area. The chamber is receptive to articles from other councils.

Neighborhood Concerns:

Lanni Klasner shared the following information:

Council of Councils will meet at 7 PM, May 28 in The Gibson Room at the Civic Center.

Deadline for filing for city elections is June 17. There is no charge to file for the position of a neighborhood council member.

The statement regarding neighborhood council meetings in the city utility bill was free and could be added to every monthly bill. Inserting a flier is being considered.

Council Comments:

Steve Grout mentioned that Carl Puckett, a Tribune reporter, suggested that he write a story on the dog/USPS issue.

Donna Williams is preparing a report on recycling for the June meeting. This topic is also on the agenda for the next Council of Councils meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Next meeting: June 20, 2019.

Barbara Going, Secretary
