

Special Meeting Minutes Neighborhood Council 3 (NC3)
June 19, 2020, 1 p.m.
Great Falls Civic Center Gibson Room

CALL TO ORDER: at 1:03 p.m. by Sue Dickenson, Chair.

Council members present: Sue Dickenson, Kathleen Gessaman, Sharron Mashburn, Joanne Thompson, Eric Peterson.

NEW BUSINESS

-Vision & Goal Setting with Mark Willmarth, training and development coordinator for the City of Great Falls

-We'll spend the day opening a broader conversation. Can work 12 to 18 months on goals, what are the things we want to put effort into?

-Need to be careful not to take on more than we can handle. NC2 came up with two things to work on. Goal setting is a living, breathing process.

-We need to work collectively on the process and decide what we what we all want to put our energy into.

-One year later, we'll look back at our accomplishments, then look forward to accomplishing something more.

-Organizations change over time, neighborhood councils are unique to our community.

-The process is about creating clarity and alignment, there's a natural tension when you bring people together. "What collectively are we willing to work on?" We need to find two or three things to invest our energy into. Need to have open, honest dialogue when there is division.

-Neighborhood councils became part of the City Charter in 1996.

-What makes Neighborhood Council 3 unique? Built during the 50's and 60's of the Baby Boom by World War II generation. CMR High School vs. Great Falls High School, modern vs. traditional. We mostly all have good views. Mostly, we do not have alleys. We have retail and industry in our neighborhoods. We are the only council to have a high school, middle school and elementary schools in our area.

-Good organizations move from the inside out answering the Why, then the How and then the What questions of the organization.

-"People don't buy what you do, they buy why you do it." Why do we do what we do? "We care about our neighborhoods and its residents."

-Mark asked, "Why would you as a neighborhood council get behind a dog park?" Because it was an underutilized park, we have dog walkers and the dog owners can build community.

-We are problem solvers and addressing issues is something we want to do. It helps create community and creates a perspective that helps drive other issues, it strengthens our community.

-What we say and what we do makes a difference. Example of the dog park shows this is why we work on this project, when residents see this they know what we are doing and see we are trying to make their neighborhood better.

-This is what we do, but it connects to something much bigger.

-Ideas from other neighborhoods: Neighborhood Council 7 created a distribution list from email contacts and walk their neighborhoods. Neighborhood Council 5 attracts up to 23 people to their meetings.

-Sue-Neighborhood Watch used to bring people together, driven by fear and mistrust, but a benefit for watching out for our neighbors.

-Mark-Neighborhood Council 7: "Create a neighborhood where people walk through history and stay for the future." "We believe we can make an impact in our neighborhood."

-Outreach and communication-each member of the council would talk with five neighbors each month.

-People don't participate in what you do, they participate in why you do it. Explain the bigger reason why we do things. What we're trying to create as a neighborhood council.

-Every neighborhood is different. It's critical that we have nine different councils and four different areas to include retail areas. There is a diversity of neighborhoods in NC3. Many different needs.

-Written on board by Mark at the front of room (what makes NC3 unique?)

--Parks and schools, three elementary, one middle school, one high school.

--Are we the largest of the nine councils? In population? In size?

--More modern structures.

--Continued growth and growing from the '60s. From the track houses in lower Riverview.

--Opportunity for more growth.

--Issues with drainage and infrastructure.

--We have the only roundabout in the city.

--Refinery, industry.

--Racetrack.

--Most homes have a view.

--There is retail in our neighborhood.

--Crime located near Walmart area.

--No alleys.

--Mailboxes located in front of homes near street.

--Animal shelter, city shops, public works, no fire station.

-These unique things of Neighborhood Council 3 can create opportunities or challenges.

Question 2: What is one accomplishment of Neighborhood Council 3 in the past year of which you can be proud?

- NC3 Facebook page.
- We are the go-to for potholes.
- Kept the speed limit at 25 mph on a street when it was proposed to increase it to 30 mph.
- We have a good relationship with an ongoing conversation with the refinery.

Question 3: As members of Neighborhood Council 3 we believe:

- We must treat others as we would like to be treated.
- We are grateful for our neighborhoods.
- We can provide answers, understanding, solutions and directions on how the city's government process works.
- We follow up with our neighbors when they have problems or issues.
- An increasing sense of community makes for a better neighborhood.

-Ask the question of our beliefs, "Does it fit with our "why?"

-Sue said, "Citizen engagement enhances democracy."

-How do we communicate to our residents better? Lanni said there is a 500 character memo that would be free and mailed out in bills that may be available for us to place messages to our residents. We could highlight the Neighborhood Council 3 Facebook page.

-NC3 Facebook page will be added to the city social media pages listing.

-Before the next meeting, send Lanni five questions that we would like to answer in the next one to three years. Questions need to be sent to Lanni by Friday, June 26, 2020.

-The next special meeting for vision and goal setting is set for 1 p.m. Thursday, July 16, 2020. It should take 1 1/2 hours.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Eric Peterson, secretary.