

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL #7

Gibson Room, Civic Center

October 12, 2020

Meeting Minutes

Present: Council Members Andy Blewett, Troy Lane, Lisa Meyers, Sandy Rice. Trevor Mikkelsen was absent.

Lanni Klasner, Community Liaison.

Michelia Rivera-Scosta, 1424 36th Ave North Apt 6; Sherrie Arey, 2700 3rd Ave North; Steffani Baldevia, 1300 Madera Drive; Ayde Baldevia, 1300 Madera Drive; Chelsey Hutmacher, 1123 1st Ave South; Myrl Nardinger, 812 13th Street North; Carol Bronson, 733 32nd Ave NE; Clifford Oliver, 1216 4th Ave South; Shahana Ragan, 1216 4th Ave South; Char Bunker, Whittier Elementary School; Linda Daggett, 415 6th Ave South

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

Old Business

The September minutes were approved as submitted.

Downtown Development Committee, Brownfield Committee, and Downtown Safety Alliance did not meet due to coronavirus.

Council of Councils will meet on October 27: main agenda item will be the Nuisance Property Ordinance proposed by Neighborhood Council #7 and supported by other Councils.

Strategic Planning and Neighborhood Watch Programs are on hold due to coronavirus.

New Business

Sherrie Arey, Executive Director of NeighborWorks Great Falls presented an overview of the history and accomplishments of NWGF, now celebrating 40 years of neighborhood improvement in Great Falls. CommUNITY Cleanup project will replace MApril Cleanup.

Other Business

Consideration of the proposal to establish a FaceBook Page for NC #7 was discussed. The project was tabled permanently because of the time and effort needed for a separate page. NC #7 will use the general Neighborhood Councils FaceBook page if something comes up that we want to publicize. We need to send our items to Lanni and she will post them to the general page.

NC#7 will present an overview of our work to the City Commission at the Work Session scheduled on January 19, 2021.

Members of the Council will bring ideas to be presented by Troy Lane at that Work Session to the November and December Council meetings.

Lisa and Lanni asked for questions to be presented to the Nuisance Property Panel at the Council of Councils meeting on October 27, 7:00 p.m., Gibson Room, Civic Center. If NC#7 members think of any questions, email them to Lanni by October 20.

Neighborhood Concerns

Michelia Rivera-Acosta presented a proposal to honor Mary "Stagecoach" Fields, an early resident of Great Falls. Mary Fields was born into slavery, relocated to Montana with the Ursuline Sisters, and was the first African-American woman to have a transfer mail route in the United States. Her mail route included from Cascade to Belt by stagecoach. Carol Bronson referred Michelia to organizations that may be of help to get either 2nd Street North by the main post office additionally named "Mary Fields Street," similar to the University Street signs on 20th Street South, or a plaque similar to the plaques placed by the Historic North Side homes. She was assured that NC#7 will support either proposal.

Myrl Nardinger expressed his concern about the location of the new aquatic center being placed in the northeast area of town instead of being more centrally located like the Morony Natatorium. He was referred to the special City Commission on this project scheduled for Tuesday, October 13.

Char Bunker reported that the Whittier Radio Readers have completed their first recording. She will send Lanni the schedule of air time so Lanni can post the information.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Sandy Rice, Secretary