

Minutes Neighborhood Council 3 (NC3) Special Meeting
October 8, 2020, 4 p.m.
Great Falls Civic Center - Gibson Room

CALL TO ORDER: at 4 p.m. by Sue Dickenson, Chair.

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

Council members excused: Joanne Thompson.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Skyline Heights Apartments annexation traffic and road concerns:** Sue Dickenson said Neighborhood Council 3 is supportive of the project and Great Falls needs affordable housing. City Transportation Department Planner Andrew Finch said upper 6th Street N.W. is an old county road that was paved. Sections of the road has been rebuilt are called "urban sections." When road is improved, developers do pay their fair share of the cost of construction. Traffic has been growing on 6th Street. There is a concern about the road carrying a large volume of traffic. 6th Street can see 1700 cars per day, which is low volume for a roadway classification. Local roadways feed into collector roadways, which feed into arterials (using the creek and stream analogy). 6th Street is the only through street that takes traffic in the city from north to south. At some point, the road needs to be upgraded. There are projections to 3000 vehicles per day for the future. The apartment project is a small development and 6th Street has the capacity to handle it. Interim City Engineer Jesse Patton said the property owner will be responsible for the curb, gutter and roadway costs in front of his property. He said the road issue is on the radar. Issues include the steepness of the hill, retaining walls, and water mains needing lowering. Portions of the road from James Street to Skyline Avenue are still in the county. Funding is an issue, it may cost \$4-5 million to complete. he said it would take several years of dedicated street department work to get this completed and it is hard to justify. As more portions are annexed, more road is developed. The east side of 6th Street from James Street to Skyline Avenue are in the city limits. Two properties are not. The properties on the west side of the road from Smelter Avenue to Skyline Avenue are in the county. Development on the west side of 6th Street would help the process. Sue Dickenson asked if there was money available through the CARES Act. Andrew Finch said there is money available to mitigate a loss in transit revenue, but it is hard to make a tie-in with this project. There is federal money available to help with major street networks, but it stops on 6th Street at Smelter Avenue N.W. Kathy Gessaman asked what would happen if a bypass was built north of the city. The character of the road would change and improvements would have to be made. Kathy Gessaman suggested placing a roundabout at the intersection of Smelter Avenue and 6th Street N.W. Vehicle parking in the proposed subdivision is at 1 1/2 parking spots per unit, and there will be 48 units in the project.
- **Neighborhood concern on boulevard encroachment:** Mr. John Mizelle of 1020 Valley View Drive has gone through the process to apply for a permit. There is a 12 1/2 foot right-of-way existing in homeowner's yards. The space gives contractors room to access and repair utilities. The permit has a yearly fee which is revocable, should the area be deemed needing to be used for the public good. Sue Dickenson asked Eric Peterson to contact Mr. Mizelle inviting him to our next meeting. She would like Peterson to write a letter to him stating that it appears the city has not acted in an improper way. Andrew Finch said an official board of appeals will hear his case, and the neighborhood council has no part in the process, as it is a judicial process. NC3 voted in favor of Eric Peterson sending a letter to Mr. Mizelle.

- **Vision and goal setting follow-up:** Neighborhood Council 3 representatives will work on two or three objectives during the next 12-18 months. We should hand out copies of our NC3 brochures to all attending our meetings. During the next year we need to schedule two opportunities to meet with residents and hand out materials. Great Falls Communications Specialist Lanni Klasner said we could ask if neighborhood schools would be willing to share our video on their Facebook pages. Sue Dickenson said we shouldn't judge our success by the number of people attending our meetings. Mark Willmarth said to focus our education events at businesses that attract local residents. He also suggested members commit to handing out brochures to five neighbors each month. Lanni Klasner said she has a vinyl banner available. Sue Dickenson suggested attending local school open houses and setting up information tables at local businesses in the spring. Mark Willmarth said we could add a piece to our agenda each meeting to brainstorm ideas on future meeting topics or guest speakers. Sue Dickenson said we should hold our public comment to five minutes per speaker during our meetings, as per our bylaw guidance.

NEW BUSINESS

Eric Peterson suggested using "Neighborhood Council 3: A View and a Vision" for our council motto or catchphrase. NC3 voted in favor of using the phrase.

ADJOURN

The next regular NC3 meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, November 5, 2020. Due to COVID-19 restrictions with Riverview Elementary School the meeting place is to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Eric Peterson, secretary.