

Minutes Neighborhood Council 3 (NC3)
Thursday, November 5, 2020, 7 p.m.
Redeemer Lutheran Church - Fellowship Room

CALL TO ORDER: at 7 p.m. by Sue Dickenson, Chair.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Minutes from the October NC3 meeting:** The minutes were approved by the council members as written.
- **Committee reports:** Joanne Thompson attended the October 28 Cascade City-County Health Department meeting via Zoom web conferencing. She said there is a surge of COVID-19 in Cascade County. The number of people allowed to gather at public places has been reduced to 50 from 250 people. There is a reduced cap on occupancy in bars to 50 percent of normal capacity. She said Benefis Healthcare has declared it an emergency. These restrictions do not include schools and will go into effect November 1. Sue Dickenson said Superintendent Tom Moore said the health board's job is to protect the public's health. There will be stricter requirements until numbers drop to 25 cases per 100,000 for four straight weeks. Kathy Gessaman discussed the Council of Council meeting held on October 28. The meeting included a nuisance property panel discussion. Nuisance properties in the city are identified and driven by citizen complaints. City Communications Specialist Lanni Klasner said the city may look at levying service fees on repeat visits to nuisance properties, using the precedence of false alarm fees. It may take a six to eight month timeline to build the process. Sue Dickenson attended the planning board meeting. She talked to County Commissioner Jane Weber about improving 6th Street N.W. It may be three years until the project is completed, giving us time to work on the street improvement issue.
- **Calumet Update:** Joe Dauner provided a third-quarter update. Calumet personnel are still social distancing at work and keeping everyone safe is their priority. No injuries reported at work has resulted in a good safety record for the company. They are very happy with the result of 18 monitoring sites operating for controlling emissions. Sharron Mashburn asked about a strong smell occurring on October 17 at 11:30 p.m. Joe Dauner said the refinery vents small gasses to the flare according to EPA management rules.
- **Vision and goal setting follow-up:** Sue Dickenson said she will send NC3 informational brochures out to her neighbors in the mail as Sharron Mashburn has done.
- **NC3 Facebook page update:** Eric Peterson said the Neighborhood Council 3 Facebook page insights include: total page views for the past 28 days: 110, up 139%; page likes for this period: 55, up 323% (with total page likes at 207); post reach: 17,774, up 185%; post engagement for the past 28 days: 5,102, up 706%; and page followers: up 314% (with total Facebook page followers currently totaling 217).

NEW BUSINESS

- **Great Falls Public Library - Susie McIntyre Library Director:** The library basement meeting rooms have been completely remodeled and will include a new sound system. The mission of the Great Falls Public Library is to serve as a connection for people, to

empower the community, and to enhance the quality of life. The library offers free Wi-Fi for the public's use. There are 19 people who currently work at the Great Falls Public Library and it is the most underfunded of the big six libraries in the state. The next lowest employed number is Lewis and Clark with 28 full time equivalent personnel on staff. Building communities and building connections is what the Great Falls Public Library is all about. McIntyre discussed the homeless issue and said they are welcome at the library. She said we are all in this together and it is not a library problem, it is a community problem. The library wants everyone to feel safe. The library required masks before the mandate and will offer an alternative service to people who cannot wear masks. A new pick-up window funded by a CARES grant is being developed and will be a completely touch-free way of service. The library also offers practical support by providing computers, printers, Wi-Fi, and notary services to the public. Their staff can also assist people with filling out forms. The library did away with late fees when a donor paid off \$85,000 worth of fees. The library works with the Montana Shared Catalog, where libraries work together. A person can place a hold on a book and have it shipped within three days. The library will be getting a new \$200,000 bookmobile, which is built on a robust truck chassis with Wi-Fi built into the truck. The library will begin checking out 52 hotspots to individuals to use at home.

OTHER BUSINESS

N/A.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- **Neighborhood Concerns:** Eric Peterson said there was a neighborhood problem posted on the Valley View and Riverview Crime Watch Facebook page. The resident said that an address on 10th Avenue N.W. had more than 30 cars parked in front of an apartment building, with fighting, drinking, and screaming going on into the early morning hours. Peterson posted a link to the Citizen's Complaint Form on the site and also a link to the Montana Cadastral site for the residents to help identify the owner of the property.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

- NC3 members planned to test the electronic meeting Zoom software on November 6 at 2 p.m. Future council meetings may be conducted electronically during the COVID-19 crisis.

ADJOURN

The next NC3 meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, December 3, 2020. Due to COVID-19 restrictions with Riverview Elementary School the meeting place is to be determined and may take place via the Zoom web conferencing application.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Eric Peterson, secretary.