

Present: Council Members Andy Blewett, Troy Lane, Lisa Meyers, Sandy Rice. Trevor Mikkelsen. Lanni Klasner, Community Liaison.  
List of other attendees attached.

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

### **Old Business**

The **November** minutes were approved as submitted. Council did not meet in December.

**Downtown Committee Development, Brownfield Committee** did not meet

**Downtown Safety Alliance** is editing and prioritizing the task matrix. The Downtown Safety Plan was created in 2013 and will be amended and rewritten to reflect current conditions. The Seasonal Volunteers program was very successful last summer with the new, shorter training and fewer time commitment from volunteers. The Crisis Response Team, sponsored by Benefit, Alluvion, and the Center for Mental Health has been successful. The CRT is called in by the GFPD when a situation is less a crime scene and more of a social services need. A major emphasis by the Alliance is to counteract the perception that downtown Great Falls is unsafe. There are some people who may make one feel uncomfortable, but they are not dangerous.

Great Falls Citizens Council, (Council of Councils) may have a special meeting called in March to ask the GFPD to update the Councils regarding police statistics and programs. The regularly scheduled meeting will be in May. The January meeting was cancelled due to coronavirus.

**Strategic Planning** and **Neighborhood Watch** Programs are trying to ramp back up. Hopefully by spring the coronavirus restrictions will ease and the Council can reconnect with our neighbors.

### **New Business**

Brad Eatherly of the City Planning Department presented the application of a Conditional Use Permit from the Potters House Church at 511 Central Avenue. The Church has been in place for almost a year under a temporary permit but needs to complete the process for a CUP. The request will be before the Planning Board on January 26, so Brad wanted NC7 input on the proposal. After some discussion, Troy moved that we recommend approval by the Planning Board with Trevor seconding. The motion passed 4-1.

The election of officers for the 2021 year was completed. Each current officer agreed to remain in their position. Trevor moved that the slate of officers be re-elected. Troy seconded and the motion passed 5-0: Lisa Meyers, Chair and Citizens Council Representative. Sandy Rice, Secretary, Troy Lane, Vice Chair and Official Delegate

### **Other Business**

Suggestions were made for Troy to present to the City Commission Work Session on January 19. NC7 is working with the Whittier School Radio Readers Program; the Nuisance Property Ordinance, which has been adopted by all the Councils and the Citizens Council; Sandy will present to each Neighborhood Council on the Downtown Safety Alliance when the Councils begin to meet regularly in person; we are concerned about trying recycling efforts.

### **Neighborhood Concerns**

Barb Walden thanked the Council for its work and misses meeting in person. She asked if we knew how COVID-19 had affected people in Great Falls. Carol Bronson from NeighborWorks Great Falls said that rental assistance under the CARES act had expired at the end of 2020, but she expected a new program to be enacted. The library has expanded its WiFi and created hotspots to help people when the Library is closed. Toby's Crisis Nursery is open and operating in the NC7 area. There are several "front door" agencies to help with referrals to all available help.

### **Neighborhood Council**

Trevor suggested that NC7 meet in person in the Gibson Room for the February meeting. After discussion, it was decided to meet in the Gibson Room unless the COVID-19 situation worsens. Sandy reported that the Carter Park Little Library is being replenished with books from Set Free and the little library is in good condition.

**February agenda suggestions:** Work session feedback, VISTA volunteer presentation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Sandy Rice, Secretary