

MEETINGS MINUTES
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL #2
Wednesday, April 14th, 2021
Great Falls Civic Center Gibson Room
7:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A quorum was established with Chair Shyla Patera, Vice Chair Tim Croft, and Secretary Frank Speidel as presented. Member Elizabeth McBride was not present. Visitors include Kay Silk, Wayne Olson, Carol Bronson (Director of Community Initiatives Neighborhood Works), Paul Skubinna (Director Public Works), Jesse Patton (Interim City Engineer), Steve Herring (Director Parks & Rec), Anna Whittlesey, Kenny Jorgensen (Streets & Traffic Manager), Rick Johnson (Civil Engineer), Jackie Woyth, Matthew Raymond, Hayden Silk, Andy Bohl, Kris Bohl, Stephen L'Hereux, Branch Brady, Kelly Silk, and Debbie Pickering.

OLD BUSINESS

- Approval of February 2021 minutes – Vice Chair Tim Croft motioned to approve the minutes. Secretary Frank Speidel 2nd the motion. The Council unanimously approved the minutes.
- No old business was discussed due to the presentations by Neighborhood Works and Great Falls Public Works with Parks and Recreation.

NEW BUSINESS

- Neighborhood Works: Presented several flyers. One on the Shred Day at Montana Credit Union (14th Street location) May 6th 10 am – 2 pm. Another on Community cleanup May 7-8, times vary. And one on the DEA National TAKEBACK April 24th 10 am – 2 pm 1001 River Dr. N. (Montana Highway Patrol behind the Missouri River Diner).
- Great Falls Public Works: Presented the Southwest Side Water Main Replacement and Road Reconstruction. Decision to make – replace the water main and rebuild the road, or just replace the water main. Paul Skubinna (Director Public Works) stated that the different options in rebuilding the road itself they will get into a situation where many of the absolutely gorgeous trees in our neighborhood would be needed to be taken out. Public Works wants community input. When Public Works brings this project to the commission for their approval the Neighborhood Council will choose to make a recommendation or not make a recommendation and what they want to know and achieve here this evening is to understand where we all stand on this particular issue because it is a big decision and they would like to be able to scope and tailor their project accordingly so that when they bring the project to the commission hopefully the Neighborhood Council and neighborhood can support the project because they are taking the best option that most people wanted.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Neighborhood Concerns: Neighborhood Works

- A member of the community suggested Neighborhood Works create a “run for trash event”.
- Neighborhood Concerns: Southwest Side Water Main Replacement and Road Reconstruction
 - Most of the members of the community present, express concerns about the removal, replacement, as well as the type, maturity, size and number of trees to be planted in replacement of the trees removed. The possible effects on their property values, cooling, neighborhood character, loss of noise buffer, biodiversity and canopy of the trees. Some members of the community expressed concerns about off street parking and access to their property during the road reconstruction project. Chair Patera expressed her concern about the lack of advance notice and timeline of the project. Public Works expressed the watermain project is going forward and they would like to do both projects, the watermain and road reconstruction, together. Public Works will gather the concerns of the community and reply to the Council and residents by the end of the month. This will allow the community and Council to digest the information before the next Council meeting. Public Works will attempt to get a couple of staff members to attend the next Council meeting to field any additional questions from the community and Council. Council will continue the discussion at the May meeting, then draft a letter to the Commission, either positively, negatively, or whatever the option the community decides, regarding the road reconstruction project.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Neighborhood Council 2 Facebook Page will be started. Neighborhood Council 2 needs two more members the openings for those will be April 22nd – June 21st. New Rec Center public hearing date April 20th. The final public hearing on the Rec Center up at Lions Park will be May 18th.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

- Agenda Item: Chair Patera Neighborhood Council 2 and neighborhood can decide if we want a spot in our neighborhood worked on this year. Chair Patera put it out to Council and community to briefly discuss. We need to let Neighborhood Works know sooner than later. Vice Chair Croft concern is the underpass on Central West. A lot of transits live down under there. There is a lot of stuff down there by the Jack Club sign. Chair Patera suggests we put it out in an email suggestion, and we can register as a team or a community.

ADJOURNMENT

- Chair Shyla Patera made a motion to adjourn. Vice Chair Tim Croft seconded the motion to adjourn. The Council unanimously approved the motion to adjourn at 8:29 pm. The next Neighborhood Council #2 meeting will be at 7:00 pm on May 12th, 2021 in the Great Falls Civic Center Gibson Room.