

MEETINGS MINUTES

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL #2

Wednesday, October 13th, 2021

Great Falls West Elementary School Cafeteria

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 Vice Chair Tim Croft, Secretary Frank Speidel and Member Aron Krischel as present. Chair Shyla Patera and Member Elizabeth McBride were not present. Visitors were students Jordan Belote, Olivia Walsh, Samuel Hanson and one other from CMR High School. Lanni Klasner (Communications Specialist) was also present.

OLD BUSINESS

- Approval of September Minutes
 - Vice Chair Croft made a motion to approve the September meeting minutes. Secretary Speidel seconded the motion. The Council unanimously approved the September 2021 meeting minutes.
 - NeighborWorks Grants for Neighborhood Councils will be good until the spring. Neighborhood Council 2 was going to use the grant for an Ice Cream Social, which was cancelled due to West Elementary School COVID restrictions.

NEW BUSINESS

- Neighborhood Crime Concerns
 - Crime Task Force – Lanni Klasner reports that the Crime Task Force recommendations have been submitted to the Great Falls City Commission. The Great Falls City Commission will probably take the recommendations up in the November meeting
 - Neighborhood Watch- Vice Chair Croft was in contact with GFPD Doug Otto who recommended to take baby steps and get small groups with the watch program. Vice Chair Croft talked with all his neighbors who have cameras on their property and are leery about joining the group. They all have exchanged phone numbers, so they are basically a defacto neighborhood watch. It costs funds to join the official Neighborhood Watch program.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS (Public comment on any matter that is not on the agenda of the meeting and that is within the jurisdiction of the Neighborhood Council. In the interest that all parties can be heard, please limit your comments. When addressing the Council, state your name and address for the record).

- Neighborhood Concerns:
 - Vice Chair Tim Croft reports a resident's concern about graffiti in the neighborhood. Vice Chair Croft went to various stores in the area that are selling spray paint and related the problem we are having in the neighborhood with graffiti.
 - A student voiced a concern about a special education teacher's treatment of special education students at CMR High School.
 - Vice Chair Tim Croft reports he talked with a neighbor where the RV fire was located, where homeless people were living., and the wheels are turning to get them out of there. Lanni Klasner reports that there have been complaints filed by other citizens in the neighborhood. The city code enforcement officer has been made aware of the situation.
 - Vice Chair Tim Croft asked Secretary Speidel about the letter he received from an employee of the First Baptist Church concerned about the downtown area of Great Falls turning into a haven for street people and a dangerous place for the general public. Both Vice Chair Croft and Member Aron Krischel received the same letter. Lanni Klasner reports that several members of different councils in the area, along with organizations received the same letter. Lanni Klasner reports that the police and city manager are aware of the situation and are in communication with the concerned churches involved.
 - Member Aron Krischel reports that sometime last week he let his dogs out at about 3:30am and he spotted a man checking out his neighbor's vehicles in the alley. He let the dogs bark and they scared the man away. He was unable to get a license plate, but he notified his neighbor the next day.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Visioning & Goals
 - Ongoing
- Council of Councils recap
 - Lanni Klasner gave a brief recap of the meeting. Council meeting was over chronic nuisance properties. They revamped the code in 2017. They are creating a communication system within the departments to better understand and track the data before the nuisance gets to be a problem. They are not making any changes to the ordinances currently.
- Council Facebook Page
 - Secretary Frank Speidel reports it is going well and he has a couple of more likes and followers. Lanni Klasner suggested adding more neighborhood pictures.
- Good Neighbor Award
 - Lanni Klasner stated it is sponsored by Neighborhood Council 4 and the form is located on the Neighborhood Councils web site. If you wish to nominate a neighbor, you can do so at <https://greatfallsmt.net/neighborhoodcouncils/good-neighbor-award>

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

- Miscellaneous reports, announcements, and agenda suggestions from Neighborhood Council 2 members
 - Secretary Frank Speidel suggested Neighborhood Watch. Lanni Klasner suggested Vice Chair and other members attend the Council of Councils meeting. GFPD will be there to discuss the Neighborhood Watch program. The meeting will be on Oct 26th.

NEXT MEETING AGENDA SUGGESTIONS

- Flood District
- Neighborhood Watch

ADJOURNMENT

- Vice Chair Tim Croft made a motion to adjourn at 7:31 pm. Secretary Frank Speidel seconded the motion. The next Neighborhood Council 2 meeting will be at 7:00 pm on November 10th, 2021