

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL #7  
August 9, 2021  
GIBSON ROOM, CIVIC CENTER  
7:00 p.m.

The meeting was brought to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Lisa Meyers, who led the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Council members Andy Blewett, Troy Lane, Lisa Meyers, Trevor Mikkelsen, and Sandy Rice; City Liaison Lanni Krasner. Guests are listed on a separate page.

The Minutes of the July 12 meeting were approved as submitted.

Committee Reports: Downtown Development Partnership: DDP has approved the 2021 Safety Plan submitted by the Downtown Safety Alliance. The Crime Task Force has a copy of the Plan and is moving forward with recommendations to the City Commission.

Brownfield Committee: Alluvion Health is moving forward with a request for TIF funds to help with the reclamation of the Rocky Mountain Building.

Downtown Safety Committee: The DSA will begin to implement the tasks outlined in the 2021 Downtown Safety Plan in the September meeting.

Council of Councils (Citizens' Council) will meet on September 28. Control of nuisance properties is the main agenda item.

Strategic Planning: Troy gave Sandy additional names to include in the e-mail roster. Each member of the Council is committed to outreach of at least five neighbors a month.

Neighborhood Watch Program: continuing to explore possibilities, including a phone-tree.

Gibson Park transients and graffiti at the Skate Park produced an extensive conversation with Capt. Schaffer, GFD, and Steve Herrig, Park & Rec Director. There was a meeting of the church pastors on August 9 regarding the homeless being allowed to stay on Church properties. Chief Schaeffer noted that as long as people had permission from the church to stay on the property and no crime was being committed, the citizens were not trespassing. A neighbor who had attended that meeting suggested that neighbors contact Pastor Jeff Wakeley of First Methodist Church with their concerns and handed out Pastor Jeff's business cards. Sandy suggested that NC 7 request Pastor Jeff to present his long-range plan at a future Council meeting. Park & Rec did an extensive clean-up of overgrowth behind the Farmers Insurance Building and the property now looks very nice. GFD and Park & Rec have a hands-off procedure regarding graffiti at the Skate Park unless the graffiti was an obscene or hate message. There was some vandalizing of the Gibson Park outbuildings and this crime is being investigated. A neighbor brought up speeding on Park Drive: Capt. Schaeffer said this seems to be a new problem. It was suggested that speed strips be laid on Park Drive to monitor the situation. A draft letter in support of the Baatz Building (400 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South) project by NeighborWorks Great Falls and Homeword was submitted for approval. Four members voted approval of the letter as written, Troy Lane abstained because he is on the NWGF Board.

Alluvion Health presented an overview of their services and plans for the Rocky Mountain Building. Lillian Sunwall of the Great Falls Development Authority reported on the revolving loan GFDA is allocating to Alluvion on the Rocky Mountain reclamation.

Molen's Physical Therapy is looking at relocating to the former Eklund's Furniture building on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North, with a B&B rental on the second floor and a possible gym in the basement. GFDA is working with Chad Molen on asbestos abatement and ground water sampling for this project.

Ice Cream Social: Sandy reported that she has hand-delivered flyers to 21 front door agencies inviting the staff and cliental to the Ice Cream Social. Ten flyers have been mailed to NC 7 area churches as well. The Frosty truck has mechanical problems: if it is not fixed by August 15, Frosty or Brain Freeze Ice Cream will supply ice cream.

Chief Schaeffer outlined the steps to access the crime mapping website and requested that outdoor cameras be registered with the SCRAM (Security Camera Registry And Mapping) program.

Future Agenda suggestions: Pastor Jeff Wakelye, First Methodist Church; Heather Rolfe, of the City Code Enforcement

Adjournment at 8:30 p.m. Submitted, Sandy Rice, Secretary