

**Minutes Neighborhood Council 3 (NC3)**  
**June 2, 2022, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Riverview Elementary School - Music Room**

**CALL TO ORDER:** at 6:30 p.m. by Kathleen Gessaman, Chair.

Council members present: Sue Dickenson, Kathleen Gessaman, Garri Mauch, Eric Peterson.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **Minutes from the May meeting** - Kathleen Gessaman made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Garri Mauch seconded the motion. The motion to accept the minutes as written passed unanimously.
- **Committee Reports** - Kathleen Gessaman provided a summary of the Council of Council meeting which was held on May 24, 2022. She said during the meeting Sandra Guynn of Neighborhood Council 4 was elected chair, Lisa Meyers of Neighborhood Council 7 was elected vice-chair. The council received a briefing on CERT, the Community Emergency Response Team, by Laura Hodges. Mark Juras provided a presentation on the City Composition of Lead Service Line Inventory. She said there are 7,000 unknown service lines in Great Falls that may be made of lead pipe. There will be letters going out to residences and businesses that contain service lines made of unknown materials. A map showing the status of known and unknown service lines will be sent to members of the Great Falls neighborhood councils. Eric Peterson said residents are responsible for the lines leading from their homes to the main line. Kathleen Gessaman said Fire Marshal Mike McIntosh covered the annual report for the GFFR. He said individuals making repeated false alarm calls will be fined. He said 49 new businesses were inspected during the latest period. Training will continue in schools with a new "Tiny Town" interactive display for fire prevention programs. She said they are now charging individuals for transporting them to the hospitals. The insurance rating for Great Falls has now dropped to a class 3 from a class 2 and may impact insurance rates for homeowners and businesses in the city. She said to get back to class 2 the city would need two more fire stations and 24 more firefighters. Eric Peterson added that the fire marshal said there was one home in Valley View that was vacated by the fire department due to drug activity. He also said during the meeting the fire marshal said the department is currently down four fire fighters but will be hiring four or five more by August 1. Kathleen Gessaman said the Great Falls Police Department Chief of Police Jeff Newton said the department currently has 136 employees with 92 sworn officers, and 44 civilian support staff. There will be eight vacancies in the department and five vacancies in the dispatch center after June 30. The department is looking to recruit individuals to fill these jobs. She said in 2021 there were 155,351 911 calls to dispatch with 110,699 non-emergency calls and 44,600 emergency calls. She said there were 44 pounds of meth seized this year, but the meth problem is being replaced by the fentanyl drug, which is very dangerous. She said there were 58 overdoses and six deaths and Narcan has been administered by emergency personnel 18 times. She said that during the council sharing portion of the meeting several councils reported having their Little Free Libraries stolen from parks.
- **NC3 Facebook Page Update** - Eric Peterson said from May 5 through June 1 the Neighborhood Council 3 Facebook page has reached 4,694 people during the last 28 days which is up 109 percent. There were nine new page likes and 23 new page followers. There are now 464 total likes and 527 page followers. He said the peak viewing time for people is at 7 p.m. each evening. There were 27 posts during the month. The most popular posts during the month were the Facebook Live broadcast of NC3 spreading wood chips in Jaycee Park and the new Skyline Little Free Library. Eric Peterson shared Neighborhood Council 3 Crimemapping information

from the past month. Garri Mauch encouraged citizens to report to the Great Falls Police Department any burglaries or vandalisms they may witness.

- **Letter to the City Commission** - Eric Peterson read the letter to the Great Falls City Commission. There was concern that the language didn't comply with the First Amendment to the Constitution. The letter will be rewritten and reviewed during the council's September meeting.
- **Recognition of Tawny Cale** - Garri Mauch read the Neighborhood Council 3 Certificate of Appreciation to Tawny Cale. Tawny was not able to attend the meeting so the certificate will be presented during a fall meeting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Downtown Safety Alliance** - Sandy Rice provided a presentation on the Downtown Safety Alliance. The program was created in 2013 to help make downtown safer and more inviting. They came up with a safety plan to determine if they make progress with their program. They recently put together a new safety plan with new goals to help educate the public. The next talk will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 14 at the Great Falls Public Library and it will cover the topic of online fraud. She shared a list of accomplishments and the Neighborhood Guide to the Official Code of the City of Great Falls with members of the council. She said there are prescription drop off locations at Walgreens or CVS to drop off outdated drugs. The only place that will take used syringes is at Alluvion Health at 6th Street and 1st Avenue North. She encouraged everyone to clean out their medicine cabinet of old outdated medicine, to include pet medicine. National Night Out will be on August 2 this year. Neighbors can get together during the event and have block parties. She said they call it "Take Back the Night."
- **Summer Social and Little Free Library installation** - Sue Dickenson suggested waiting until fall to have the Little Free Library ribbon-cutting ceremony. Garri Mauch volunteered to seek grants from local businesses and chair the event planning subcommittee. Sue Dickenson said we would need to do the event planning during the summer months. Garri Mauch asked if we could make posters and flyers to help promote the event. City of Great Falls Communications Specialist Lanni Klasner said she could print the materials. Sue Dickenson suggested holding the event on September 10 or 11 and finish our planning during the September 1 meeting. Sue Dickenson made a motion to hold the social event on Saturday, September 10 with final planning occurring during our regular meeting held on September 1. Eric Peterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Summer Meeting Schedule** - Kathleen Gessaman said we will reconvene for meetings during the summer if an issue needing our attention arises.

#### **PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

- **Neighborhood Concerns** - In response to the NC3 letter to the city commission resident Cameron Swathwood said the council should be careful not to say certain language is not protected under freedom of speech. Eric Peterson said he would restructure the paragraph in question and would bring it to the September meeting for council review.

#### **ADJOURN**

Garri Mauch made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Sue Dickenson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned by Kathleen Gessaman at 7:25 p.m.

The next regular NC3 meeting will be held Thursday, September 1, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Eric Peterson, secretary.