

GREAT FALLS CITIZENS COUNCIL
Council of Councils Meeting
MINUTES

Tuesday, October 25, 2022

Gibson Room – Civic Center – 7:00 p.m.

Chair Sandra Guynn opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

- NC representatives in attendance: NC1 Pat Goodover, NC2 Ashley Benefiet, NC3 Garri Mauch, NC4 Sandra Guynn, NC5 Eric Ray, NC6 Carl Donovan, NC7 Lisa Meyers, NC8 Travis Grove, NC9 Barney Danishefsky
- City Commissioners in attendance: Susan Wolff and Eric Hinebauch

Old Business:

- **May 24, 2022 minutes:** Sandra explained that the delegate from NC6 who volunteered to take the May 24th minutes moved from the neighborhood and therefore had to resign from the council. Neighborhood Council Coordinator Lanni Klasner tried several times to contact her for the minutes as did Sandra, but to no avail, which is why there were no minutes to approve.
- **Secretary vacancy:** Ashley Benefiet from NC2 volunteered to be acting secretary.

New Business:

- **Police Department update:** Capt. Doug Otto and Lt. Rich LeBard provided several details concerning staffing and hiring demographics, including the difficulty in hiring dispatch personnel; the ongoing situation at the First United Methodist Church, and continued efforts to address the homeless and transient populations in the city. They also discussed 2021 year-end numbers; the department's volunteer program; the increase of violence in our schools, which corresponds to an increase in violent crimes in general within the past five years, and the growing number of narcotic arrests and overdoses. Efforts are also underway to increase storage space for evidence.
- **Nuisance Animal Ordinance:** Barney Danishefsky from NC9 explained his frustrations with the animal ordinance after trying to help a neighbor with a barking dog complaint. Capt. Otto clarified some misunderstandings with the ordinance and also reported that there were actions that Animal Control Officers were taking that needed to be corrected internally. Interim City Attorney David Dennis suggested the ordinance wording could be improved upon. Sandra made a motion that the Council recommends that GFPD and the legal department began revising the ordinance so it can be better understood by the residents. Motion was seconded by Lisa and passed unanimously. Lisa suggested that an informational video could also be done to clarify the ordinance, which Capt. Otto thought was a good idea.
- **Public Safety Levy** – Cascade County Attorney Josh Racki and Detective Jacob Tri from the Sheriff's Office were available to answer questions about the levy.

Council Sharing:

- NC1 - Pat discussed speeding issues and that they contacted GFPD.
- NC2 – Ashley invited the councils to their social event on May 13, 2023.
- NC3 – Garri reported that their Facebook page has reached 747 likes, and that they nominated Tawny Cale for the Good Neighbor Award. 100 people were in attendance at their summer social. There are traffic concerns at the corner of Smelter and 3rd Street, and 6th Street is very icy during the winter. They would like to see an increase in police presence in both areas.
- NC4 – Sandra reported that there is a large housing development being proposed at 38th Street and 2nd Avenue North, and that speeding on 57th Street is a concern. Because of the holidays, they do not meet in November and December.
- NC5 – Eric reported that they will not meet in December, and that they had a good turnout for their ice cream social in August. Eric also asked for city assistance regarding a carnival that was held in September in the lot next to Super 1. It came as a surprise that a permit had not been issued. GFPD responded to complaints regarding the event. Commissioner Wolff indicated she would bring this matter to the attention of the City Commission. The council is also concerned with dust created by new construction and suggested the city work with the contractors to prevent dust.
- NC6 – Carl reported that they have a vacancy, and that they are concerned with speeding on 13th Street. Lanni indicated that the city has ordered a new “cop-in-a-box” for them. They are also working on hoarding issues.
- NC7 – Lisa reported that a speed survey was completed for Park Drive and was found to be “ok”. The encampment situation downtown is still not totally resolved, and construction work continues at the Rocky Mountain building.
- NC8 – Travis reported that they held their ice cream social in July. They are also working on transient issues.
- NC9 - Barney reported that construction is going well at the Indoor Aquatic and Recreation Center and that they are hoping to receive some grant funding to begin developing Kranz Park.

Agenda Suggestions:

- Nuisance properties
- Animal Control

Petitions & Communications:

- Rick Cornellier, a member of NC6, but representing himself, briefly explained his thoughts and ideas about a Low Barrier Shelter in Great Falls.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Acting Secretary Ashley Benefiet with Chair Sandra Guynn