

**Minutes Neighborhood Council 3 (NC3)**  
**February 2, 2023, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Riverview Elementary School - Lunch Room**

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

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **Minutes from the January meeting** - Sue Steichen made the motion to accept the minutes as written. Eric Peterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Calumet Update** - Garri Mauch said she reached out to Joe Dauner of Calumet and he said they are working on a short response to our questions, but will not have it ready by the meeting time. She said her questions sent to him were on the soft hum heard from the refinery, the twin flames seen burning, vibrations felt from the plant, if the construction was completed and if there was more construction planned, and if Calumet had purchased the hotel where Perkins was located.
- **NC3 Facebook Page Update** - Eric Peterson said that for the month of January 1-31 our NC3 Facebook page has 519 total likes, and 608 page followers. During the past 28 days our page reached 948 people. There were 15 posts to the page since the last meeting. The top post was on January 24 which was a photograph of the Council of Councils meeting held at the Civic Center that reached 207 people. The second highest-reaching post was on January 22 of the weekly Crimemapping data that reached 153 people. He said the Facebook Live post during the January meeting reached 137 people.
- **Crimemapping Report** - Eric Peterson presented the Crimemapping report for January. There were no robberies, 5 burglaries, 34 theft/larcenies, 5 vandalisms, 2 DUIs, 7 disturbing the peace violations, 9 assaults, 0 fraud reports, 1 car theft, and 0 drug and alcohol violations in the district.
- **Fundraising for Skyline Park and Valley View Park** - Kathleen Gessaman said she was contacted by the Optimist organization's lawyer regarding Skyline-Optimist Park improvements. Sue Steichen said she thought the organization was interested in installing playground equipment for disabled children in the park. Eric Peterson filled out an application to be submitted to the Park and Recreation Foundation and read the information listed on the form. He set the deadline to complete the \$50,000 fundraising for September 21, 2025. Garri Mauch suggested that we attend the foundation's board meeting to speak about the application request. Sue Steichen said she would be able to attend the meeting. Kathleen Gessaman said additional parking on the north side of Skyline-Optimist Park would be a good addition. Eric Peterson made a motion to accept the application with additional information that construction would be contingent upon the Park and Recreation Department's schedule to receive and build the pavilions. Sue Steichen seconded the motion. Eric Peterson said he would submit the application to Park and Recreation Director Steve Herrig. Neighborhood Resident Brad Riehl said he had spoken with Park and Recreation staff members. They discussed the possibility of purchasing a kit for the pavilions or having materials and labor donated. He agreed to serve on the construction subcommittee. Eric Peterson made a motion to establish subcommittees to assist with advertising, fundraising and construction of pavilions for Skyline-Optimist Park and Valley View Park. Sue Steichen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The subcommittees would consist of one council member and residents who have experience or knowledge in the subcommittee functions. Garri Mauch said she would be visiting with a representative of First Interstate Bank to investigate an account, how we would withdraw from the account, and if funds could be used for promotional activity. Any fundraising checks would be made out to the foundation. Garri Mauch suggested our first meeting with Steve Herrig should include all members of the council and we would have to make a public meeting notice.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- No new business was presented.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Eric Peterson reviewed the information in the report to the Great Falls City Commission. The report included a list of NC3 members, what makes the district unique to the city, the council beliefs, communication tools we use, recent council activity, NC3 concerns, and goals for 2023-24. City of Great Falls Communications Specialist Lanni Klasner said to send the PowerPoint slides to the city by February 9 to get on the Great Falls City Commission agenda for their February 21 meeting.

## **PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

- **Council of Councils Recap** - Kathleen Gessaman and Eric Peterson attended the Council of Councils meeting held on January 24 at the Civic Center. Kathleen Gessaman the Great Falls Police Department provided a update and covered animal ordinances. Eric Peterson said Chief Jeff Newton said there is a large amount of colored fentanyl being smuggled into the city and to be cautious not to touch it if it is found. Kathleen Gessaman said city planning officials discussed traffic issues in the city and agencies responsible for maintaining the roadways.
- **Guest Speaker** - Kathleen Gessaman said Katherine Finch is a an MSU extension service agent that may be available to attend our meetings to share information on things such as wills and trusts, lawn care, and pest control.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

- Garri Mauch asked if we could invite Cascade County officials to discuss their plans for the money they will receive from the public safety levy that recently passed. City of Great Falls Communications Specialist Lanni Klasner said a member of the council would have to reach out to the county to set up a visit. Garri Mauch said she would reach out to Sheriff Jesse Slaughter to set up a time.
- Sue Steichen suggested using our official Facebook page to help attract experienced people to serve on our subcommittees.
- Garri Mauch said the school district is now holding forums for the public to attend and learn about topics such as mental health and children in the community. Future forums will be promoted on our official Facebook page.

## **ADJOURN**

Sue Steichen made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Garri Mauch seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned by Kathleen Gessaman at 7:45 p.m.

The next regular NC3 meeting will be held Thursday, March 2, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Eric Peterson, secretary.