

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

CALL TO ORDER: at 6:31 p.m. by Kathleen Gessaman, Chair.

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

OLD BUSINESS

- **Minutes from the February meeting** - Sue Steichen made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Garri Mauch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Committee Reports** - Sue Steichen reported on the meeting of the City-County Health Department. She said the department is short of personnel. She said fentanyl overdoses are prevalent in the county, with emergency responders having to administer up to three doses of Narcan. The department is planning on providing education and training to the public on this issue. She said a speaker might be available to visit an NC3 meeting to share information.
- **Claumet Updates** - Garri Mauch provided information on Claumet. She says Calumet representative Joe Dauner contacted her and said he was going to try to attend the next NC3 meeting. She said in response to her question of two flames burning at the plant, he said the company has been safely adjusting the new process units since startup late last year and are actively working to minimize the size of the flame. To her questions of the soft hum heard and vibrations felt at the plant, he said the plant is in normal operations, but they are still optimizing their new equipment. He said they are still working on construction on the plant, and they expect it to slow down in the spring and pick back up in the fall.
- **Vision and Goal Setting** - Vision and goal setting will be held for a future meeting.
- **NC3 Facebook Page Update** - Eric Peterson provided the Facebook page update for the month of February. He said the Facebook page currently has 518 likes and 607 followers, which is up three likes and eight followers from the past month. During the last 28 days, posts have reached 2001 people. There was one message from a resident concerning the wild turkeys. There were 17 posts made during the month, and the post with the most reach was on February 6 showing a photograph of the Great Falls Overlook Park flag. That post reached 1,606 accounts and received 144 reactions. The previous Facebook Live broadcast reached 87 people and had 10 engagements.
- **Crimemapping Report:** There were no robberies, six burglaries, 43 theft/larceny reports, four vandalisms, no DUIs, five disturbing the peace reports, seven assaults, no fraud reports, no car thefts, and no drug/alcohol reports in our district during the past 28 days.

NEW BUSINESS

Skyline and Valley View Park pavilions: Eric Peterson provided an organization chart for the park pavilion fundraiser. Garri Mauch said she will serve as the chair of the campaign and as the head of the fundraising subcommittee. Sue Steichen said she would serve on the fundraising subcommittee. Brad Riehl will serve as the head of the construction subcommittee. Eric Peterson will serve as head of the promotion subcommittee. The duties of the chair and the subcommittee heads are as follows: Campaign Chair: Set goals, attend meetings, track the overall fundraising campaign, serves as liaison to Great Falls Park and Recreation Department, and Park and Recreation Board, provides a monthly report on program progress; Subcommittee Heads: Recruit specialists to serve on committees, set meeting times, reports to council on program progress. He said he would begin posting regular Facebook messages to help recruit assistance among neighborhood residents. Garri Mauch said she and Eric Peterson would attend a future Park and Recreation Board meeting and report back to the council what materials and assistance could be donated to build the pavilions. Sue Steichen said she was waiting for a representative from the Park

and Recreation Department to call her back regarding grants for playground equipment. Garri Mauch said the Park and Recreation Foundation transferred the balance of money raised by Sue Steichen's group that was earmarked for park equipment to park maintenance. A total of \$2,446.06 in the account was voted by the foundation to go to general park upkeep. Kathleen Gessaman asked that we ask what the cost would be to install a tree and a bench in a city park during a future meeting with Steve Herring.

Animal Shelter Presentation: Laramie Smovir explained that the animal shelter provided shelter for stray, domesticated animals in Great Falls. She also provided contact information for other organizations that provide services to animals. She said when an animal comes to the shelter, they are held for 72 to 96 hours to give the owner time to claim the animal. If an owner does not claim the animal, then it becomes the property of the shelter, and they will prep it and get it ready for adoption. If there is a known owner, they will attempt to contact them. She said if a person has an animal with a microchip to update any information that may have changed. She said it is the responsibility of the Great Falls Police Department Animal Control Officers to pick up animals and bring them to their facility. She said that for any animal issues occurring outside the city boundaries individuals need to contact the Cascade County Sheriff's Office. She said the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks can only deal with emergent safety concerns with wild animals within the city limits. Eric Peterson asked what a homeowner could do to keep the turkeys away from their property. She said the wild turkey issue is outside of the realm of what the animal shelter works with. She said she contacted FWP, animal control officers, and the Cascade County Sheriff's Office for information. She said Jake Doggett from FWP said he'd be available to speak on how to safely haze a wild turkey from someone's property. She said the City of Great Falls currently does not have a wildlife management plan that would address wild animal issues. Eric Peterson said he would contact Jake Doggett from FWP and ask if he would come and give a presentation to NC3. Laramie said there were volunteer opportunities at the animal shelter. Interested individuals should contact the shelter through their website: greatfallsmt.net/animalshelter, and they can fill out an application. She also said the shelter has a food pantry that individuals can donate to. The shelter will make this food available to members of the community that may need help feeding their animals.

OTHER BUSINESS

Report to the City Commission: The report to the Great Falls City Commission has been rescheduled to 7 p.m. on April 18, 2023.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

- Sue Steichen said there is a bill before the legislature to modify the Montana Indoor Clean Air Act. She also asked to have a letterhead available to make our correspondence official. She thought having a photo of the pavilion would be helpful when we seek donations for our fundraising campaign.
- Garri Mauch said HB 562 and HB 549 are two bills discussing charter and public schools. She suggested interested individuals concerned about school taxes research these bills.
- Garri Mauch said she would contact representatives from the county to discuss the safety levy.

ADJOURN

Sue Steichen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Garri Mauch seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned by Kathleen Gessaman at 7:55 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted, Eric Peterson, secretary.