

Minutes Neighborhood Council 3 (NC3)
April 6, 2023, 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, Eric Peterson, Sue Steichen.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Minutes from the March meeting** - Sue Steichen made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Kathleen Gessaman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Committee Reports** - Kathleen Gessaman attended the Cascade County Clerk and Recorder's meeting at the Four Seasons Arena. She said there were issues with the state computer system that tracks voters. She said the Clerk and Recorder Sandra Merchant wanted individuals to go to the polling places but there are still 80 percent of people voting with absentee ballots. She said the county would print the ballots in-house and are looking at options on mailing them. Sandra Rice suggested reading newsbreak.com or The Electric to get good recaps on the meeting.
- **Calumet Updates** - Calumet Environmental Manager Joe Dauner said he was planning on attending the Neighborhood Council 3 meeting twice each year. He provided the Health and Safety plant update. He said there were several injuries, but didn't expect any long-term impacts. He said Calumet successfully implemented their flare and flare header project. The plant also successfully started up several large, new renewable fuel-related business process units without incident. He said the final expansion related activities planned for this year are on track to wrap up later this month. He said there have been several requests on flare noise, and said if they receive a complaint they can measure the sound at the nearest cross street. He said there were four minor releases on site of renewable materials with no off-site impacts. He said they have completed the upgrade to the truck rack recovery system that recovers oil and combusts it. The operational efficiency has increased from 70 percent to 95 percent. Sue Dickenson asked if the refinery was able to emit more hazardous material as a result of the updated air quality permits. Joe Dauner said some sources have gone up and some sources have gone down, so it is approximately level. Sue Dickenson asked about the levels of mercury and benzene. Joe Dauner said that they are processing less materials with benzene, and he was unable to answer the mercury question as they haven't yet completed the initial testing that's required by the renewable rules they are subject to. Sue Dickenson asked about the difference in number of flares burning at the refinery. Joe Dauner said normally, there is only one primary flare burning during normal business days. During startup, there were two flares burning for the new units. A resident asked if the sound of a hum was normal for their operations. Joe Dauner said if there is flaring and you see the flame more significantly, he would expect there to be more noise. He said if there is an unusual noise you could call the plant and they will have someone investigate it and address the concerns.
- **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 March. He said the Facebook page currently has 522 likes and 612 followers. In the past 28 days our posts have reached 1,550 people. During the past 28 days there was a post engagement of 354, there were 21 comments posted to the page, and 20 post shares and 76 photograph views. There were 27 posts made during the month. The post with the highest reach and reaction was a post of Skyline-Optimist Park with fundraising information. This post reached 661 people and had an engagement of 60. The second highest reaching post was a photograph of wild turkeys. That post reached 450 people and had an engagement of 33. The March Facebook Live broadcast reached 70 people.
- **Crimemapping report for March 1-31:** there were no robberies, no burglaries, 46 theft/larcenies, three vandalisms, one DUI, seven disturbing the peace reports, six assaults, no fraud reports, one motor vehicle theft, and two drug/alcohol violations.
- **Fundraising for Skyline-Optimist and Valley View Parks:** Sue Steichen visited Kelly Signs and asked if a sign could be made describing the fundraising effort. They quoted a price of \$180 to produce the sign. This sign would temporarily cover the park sign in Skyline-Optimist Park. Lanni Klasner reminded NC3 to work with the Park and Recreation Department prior to producing any signs. Eric Peterson said he

thought we should hold a special meeting to discuss the fundraising effort. Sue Dickenson said we may be able to get donations for a Summer Celebration to help raise awareness of the fundraiser. Carol Bronson said she would research the possibility of grants available to park improvements, and we may want to look at local corporations for sponsorships. She suggested first putting together a fundraising plan. Eric Peterson said he would contact Garri Mauch to discuss a date and time for holding a special meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Downtown Safety Alliance efforts and Great Falls Public Library levy: Sandra Rice said the Downtown Safety Alliance is working on education features to be held at the library. She said the "No More Violence Week" will be observed April 10-14. She encouraged people to register home security cameras with the SCRAM (Security Camera Registering And Mapping Program). It is a voluntary program to allow the police department to review camera footage. Sue Dickenson asked about the possibility of constructing a homeless shelter for the homeless persons downtown. Sandra Rice said a task force from the Methodist Community Church and First English Lutheran Church are working that issue, but financing will be a challenge. Carol Bronson said we should ask NeighborWorks Great Falls to attend a meeting to discuss the Baatz Building project that will assist 24 people to get out of the homeless situation. Sandra Rice discussed what could be expanded if the Great Falls Public Library levy passes or what could be cut if the levy fails. She said the annual Friends of the Library book collections will take place every Saturday through May 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and books can be dropped off at the loading dock in the back of the library.

Urban Wildlife Management: No representative from Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks attended. City Communications Specialist Lanni Klasner said the city will be producing a webpage with resources for residents that addresses urban deer and turkeys. It will be placed under community resources section of the official Great Falls webpage.

CommUnity Cleanup: Carol Bronson said due to scheduling issues the NeighborWorks CommUnity Cleanup will take place on April 28-29. Sue Dickenson made a motion for Neighborhood Council 3 to clean up Skyline-Optimist Park and Valley View Park starting at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 29 and publicize the event on our Facebook page. Sue Steichen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Eric Peterson will pick up gloves and bags from NeighborWorks before noon on Friday, April 28.

OTHER BUSINESS

Report to the City Commission: The NC3 report to the Great Falls City Commission has been scheduled for 7 p.m. on April 18, 2023.

Rodney Meyers, a candidate for the Great Falls Public Schools Board, discussed his candidacy for the board.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERNS

Resident Julie Essex expressed her thoughts about the upcoming Great Falls Public Library mill levy. She said the library contributes quite a bit to the community. She read from a publication she said was full of insight on the LGBTQA community. She said she thought it was important that people understand what they're voting for when voting for the library levy and the public safety levy.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

- **Neighborhood Council Elections:** Eric Peterson said the time period for filing for neighborhood council elections is approaching, and asked all members to consider making their intention to not run known to the council members.
- **May agenda items:** Eric Peterson mentioned inviting the Calumet plant manager to our May meeting. Sue Dickenson suggested having someone from NeighborWorks discuss their Baatz Building project. She also suggested limiting our summer meeting agendas to fundraising efforts.

ADJOURN

Sue Steichen made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Sue Dickenson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned by Kathleen Gessaman at 8:05 p.m.

The next regular NC3 meeting will be held Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Eric Peterson, secretary.