

Minutes Neighborhood Council 3 (NC3)
May 4, 2023, 6:30 p.m.
Riverview Elementary School - Music Room

CALL TO ORDER: at 6:35 p.m. by Kathleen Gessaman, Chair.

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

OLD BUSINESS

- **Minutes from the April meeting** - Kathleen Gessaman made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Garri Mauch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Committee Reports** - There were no committee reports presented.
- **Calumet Updates** - Calumet Refinery General Manager Carlos Centurion provided the Calumet update. He said one year ago they planned for a plant-wide outage to provide scheduled maintenance. At the same time, they converted half of the plant to renewable fuels production, including renewable diesel, renewable hydrogen, and renewable gasoline. Last month the plant finished the renewable jet fuel production. He said half of the plant continues to produce traditional gasoline, diesel, and asphalt for paving. He said during the peak of construction there were approximately 2,000 people working at the plant. They started producing renewable diesel in November 2022. He said a steam vent in one of the renewable diesel units was making the screaming noise that was reported by residents. He said they replaced the steam vent in April and the noise has stopped. He also said that the control for a new flare at the plant was not tuned correctly and it was causing noise. They have since fixed that problem. He said one of the flares has a bit more flame than needed, and they will be fixing it during the next few months. He said they are nearly done for the expansion for the year, but there will be more maintenance activities in September and October. He said they have hired 60 employees during the past year and a half and 80 percent of those hires were from Great Falls or were people who returned to Great Falls. After this year there will be another large project that will expand the renewable fuels side of the plant. He said it may take a few years for them to finish it. The company employs between 230 and 240 permanent personnel and there are 50 to 60 contract personnel that support them. Eric Peterson asked if Calumet would be the largest producer of biofuel jet fuel in the country. Carlos Centurion said they would be the largest in North America. Garri Mauch asked if the process would produce a different smell. Carlos Centurion said they haven't noticed anything unusual. Garri Mauch asked him if he could anticipate anything unusual occurring at the plant during the upcoming year. Carlos Centurion said that they would expect that the size of the flare will come down. He said that if something were to pop up, they would fix it. Kathy Gessaman asked if the feedstock was all coming in by rail transportation. Carlos Centurion said it comes in by rail from Canada and the midwest. Garri Mauch asked if Calumet collaborates with BNSF on safety issues. Carlos Centurion said the FRA (Federal Railroad Administration) comes to Calumet to do audits each quarter. Eric Peterson said that the Greater Riverview Neighbors Facebook page had posts from people discussing a smell travelling throughout the neighborhood. Carlos Centurion said he didn't know of any calls from the community, but they weren't able to detect anything. He said there was some tank maintenance going on at the time, but didn't see anything from a community impact coming from that activity.
- **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 April. He said the Facebook page currently has 525 likes and 617 followers. He said in the past 28 days our posts have reached 1,763 people. There was a post interaction of 576 during the past 28 days. There were 22 posts made to the page during the month, with the top post of the month being the photograph of Garri Mauch presenting the NC3 report to the Great Falls City Commission. That post generated 526 reactions, reached 520 people, and had an engagement of 135. He said the April Facebook Live broadcast reached 58 people.
- **Crimemapping report for April 1-30:** There were no robberies, two burglaries, 45 theft/larceny reports, three vandalisms, two DUIs, one disturbing the peace reports, 10 assaults, no fraud reports, one motor vehicle theft, and one drug/alcohol violations.

- **Fundraising for Skyline-Optimist and Valley View Parks:** The special meeting for planning the fundraising effort to provide pavilions for Skyline-Optimist and Valley View Parks will be held at 4 p.m. on May 17th at the Corpus Christie Catholic Church. There will be no Facebook Live coverage of the special meeting. The council will also discuss the summer celebration. Council members should bring calendars to plan future meeting dates during the summer. Eric Peterson contacted Steve Herrig with the Great Falls Park and Recreation Department and asked if he knew of the status of our Park and Recreation Foundation request. Steve Herrig responded that he would look into it.

NEW BUSINESS

Animal Control: Animal Control Officer Jessica Becker provided a presentation on the Great Falls Police Department Animal Control Program. She said the ACOs are sworn officers that do not have arresting powers, but can issue citations for violations. She said city ACOs do not have jurisdiction in property located in the county nor do they handle wild animals. Animal Control handles domestic animals. The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks would handle issues concerning animals such as mountain lions. Kathy Gessaman asked what we would do if we notice a stray animal. ACO Becker said that if people see a stray dog off of its own property, injured or not, they can call the information into the dispatch center. She said their basic hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. If it's not an emergency after hours an ACO will not be sent out. They are on call up until 11 p.m. at night. She said an emergency may occur when a dog or cat is injured. She said that they have emergency veterinarians available to treat animals when needed. ACO Becker said to use the Great Falls Police Department non-emergency number when reporting an animal issue (406) 455-8599. Garri Mauch asked about the bee permits. ACO Becker said information related to bee permits are posted on the city website. Garri Mauch asked if a person was allowed to have chickens in the city. ACO Becker said chickens have not been allowed in the city since 2007. She said they are now only allowed in the R1 district of the city. She said the issue of having chickens in yards was on the ballot recently, but it got voted down. ACO Becker said the GFPD recently posted good information on chickens in the city on their Facebook page. Eric Peterson asked what the number of dogs and cats one family can own. ACO Becker said the ordinance states a person can own two dogs and two cats without a permit. She said information on permits can be found online or at the Great Falls Animal Shelter. ACO Becker said a big issue in the community is barking dogs. She said a violation can occur if the dog barks for 30 minutes within any given hour. She said their goal to try to resolve the issue at the lowest level and inform the owner of the dog of the ordinance. If problems continue, her office requires that bark logs found on their website be filled out for a minimum of three days. Once the logs are filled out they are provided to the GFPD Animal Control Officer to determine if there was a violation.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERNS

Kathleen Gessaman said she noticed the Little Free Library at Jaycee Park is missing.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

- **Council of Councils meeting:** Kathleen Gessaman, Garri Mauch, and Eric Peterson will attend the Council of Councils meeting on May 23, 2023 at 7 p.m.
- **Neighborhood Council Elections:** Council members were reminded that the filing period was open now through June 19th for running for election to the council.
- **June agenda items:** Garri Mauch suggested having a fire department representative attend the June meeting to discuss the safety levy. She also said she would reach out to the Cascade County Sheriff's Department to see if a representative could attend our meeting to discuss the use of levy funds.

ADJOURN

Garri Mauch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned by Kathleen Gessaman at 8:04 p.m.

The next regular NC3 meeting will be held Thursday, June 1, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Eric Peterson, secretary.