

**Minutes Neighborhood Council 3 (NC3)**  
**September 7, 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: Kathleen Gessaman, Garri Mauch, Eric Peterson, Sue Steichen.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **Minutes from the June 1 meeting:** Sue Steichen made the motion to accept the June 1, 2023 meeting minutes as written. Kathleen Gessaman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Minutes from the June 14, special meeting:** Sue Steichen made the motion to accept the June 14, 2023 special meeting minutes as written. Garri Mauch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Minutes from the July 20 special meeting:** Garri Mauch made the motion to accept the July 20, 2023 special meeting minutes as written. Kathleen Gessaman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Reports**

- **Road Improvements:** Kathleen Gessaman said Montana Department of Transportation District 3 Administrator Jim Wingerter sent photographs of the 3rd Street and 16th Avenue N.W. intersection. It now has a median, signs, and pavement markings added to provide for a right turn only and improve safety.
- **Summer Celebration Recap** - Kathleen Gessaman thanked Garri Mauch for heading up the Summer Celebration effort. She also thanked the members of Great Falls Fire Rescue and Great Falls Emergency Services for helping pick up and load the bouncy house after the event. Sue Steichen suggested publicly thanking our Summer Celebration sponsors on their Facebook pages for next year.
- **Calumet Updates** - There was no Calumet update for the month.
- **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 August. He said for the last 28 days our Facebook page has reached 4,957 people. He said there was a post engagement of 1,332. There were 15 new post likes for a total of 570 likes, and 26 new post followers for a total of 678 followers. He said there have been 511 reactions to our posts, 41 comments posted, and 54 page shares. The most active post for the month was the August 4 Summer Celebration post that reached 2,587 people and had an engagement of 155.
- **Crimemapping report:** Eric Peterson said for the past 28 days there were 58 reports of crime in our area. 48 of those reports were generated near the retail areas of Smelter Avenue and the Northwest Bypass. He said there were 43 theft/larceny reports, 1 motor vehicle theft, 1 drug or alcohol violation, 7 burglaries, 1 vandalism, 3 assaults, and 2 DUIs.
- **Fundraising for Skyline-Optimist and Valley View Parks:** Garri Mauch said we needed to reschedule a meeting with members of the People's Park and Recreation Foundation. She said she is waiting to hear back from Chad Simonson for a time and date and will let us know when the meeting will be rescheduled. She also said she is working on setting up a meeting with Great Falls Park and Recreation Parks Manager Kevin Vining. Kathleen Gessaman suggested holding off on sending fundraising letters until after we meet with these groups.
- **Candidate Forum:** Garri Mauch discussed the Neighborhood Council 5 Candidate Forum. She said she was impressed with how the program was run by Neighborhood Council 5 Representative Eric Ray. She said it was a very informative event.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- There was no new business covered.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

- Council of Councils - October 24 at 7 p.m. in the Civic Center Gibson Room

## NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERNS

- **Traffic/speeding/water pressure concerns:** Kathleen Gessaman said she received a call from Mr. Harris who is a resident of the district. He was concerned about speeding vehicles on 2nd Street. He had voiced his concerns to the mayor, who suggested he start with Neighborhood Council 3. She said he would be able to attend a December council meeting. Sue Steichen said Eric Boyd of Public Works and Rich LaBard from the Great Falls Police Department are two of the individuals from the city who would be able to work with traffic issues. She said they have done a speed study of the area and will make a report to the council soon. Kathleen Gessaman also said there was an additional concern from a resident that their water pressure has been reduced since the new apartments were built near Smelter Avenue.
- **Access to the River's Edge Trail:** Neighborhood Council 4 member Chris Ward was concerned about the former Westgate parking lot having been fenced off. He wondered if there was any communication with Calumet on the construction of the fence. The steel fence prevents pedestrians and bicyclists from getting to the other side and to the River's Edge Trail. He said ten years ago during the rezoning process there was discussion of the public need to access the River's Edge Trail at that location. He wanted to know if the council had heard anything regarding the fence and if the council could offer any advice on how to follow up on this issue. Garri Mauch said she would send an email to Calumet asking them for information that she could provide in October.
- **Calumet donation:** Sue Steichen asked what the current status was concerning the Calumet donation to the neighborhood. Kathleen Gessaman said this could be an additional question Garri Mauch could ask when she contacts the company.
- **Neighborhood Watch:** Sue Steichen asked if there was any update to the Neighborhood Watch program. Eric Peterson said he had provided a presentation to the Countryside Village residents. Sue Steichen said Jeri Beck was interested in starting a program. Eric Peterson said he would contact her and help her start a program.
- **Jaycee Park Vandalized:** Garri Mauch said Jaycee Park was vandalized, with three young teenagers taking books out of the Little Free Library and scattering them throughout the park. She said she turned the information into the Crimestoppers program and the School Resource Officer of North Middle School. She and her husband picked up the books and reorganized the library.
- **Cleaning Fee for Summer Celebration:** When Eric Peterson returned the bouncy house to Strobel's Rentals they said the \$100 bouncy house cleaning fee might be returned. It was determined that we would need to return it to the company that donated the money to rent the equipment. Garri Mauch said she would look into that issue.
- **Good Neighbor Day:** Eric Peterson said National Good Neighbor Day will take place on Thursday, September 28, 2023. He said he would post regular Facebook posts leading up to the event.
- **Possible damage to city road:** Garri Mauch read an online comment from a resident concerned that the weight of the Calumet heavy equipment was impacting the road near the Westgate parking lot. She said she would also take that concern to the company.
- **October agenda items:** The Great Falls Public Safety Levy Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for the Neighborhood Council 3 October meeting.

## ADJOURN

Sue Steichen made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Garri Mauch seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned by Kathleen Gessaman at 7:30 p.m.

The next regular NC3 meeting will be held Thursday, October 5, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Eric Peterson, secretary.