

Neighborhood Council #7
Monday, **August 14, 2023**, 7:00 p.m.
Gibson Room, Civic Center

MINUTES

The meeting was brought to order at 7:00 by Chair Lisa Meyers, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

In attendance were Council Members Linda Daggett, Troy Lane, Lisa Meyers, Trevor Mikkelsen, and Sandy Rice; City of Great Falls Liaison Lanni Krasner; Neighbors Jane Weber, Wes Workman, Sylvia Tarman, Carolyn Talbot, Jan Herzog, Rev. Lori Babcock, Jerry Clark, Carole Ann Clark, and Susie McIntyre.

The June Minutes were approved as amended.

Roll call of the Council was completed: all members present and a quorum established.

OLD BUSINESS

Downtown Development Partnership. No report

Brownfield Committee: The Committee will continue to support the Baatz Building refit by NeighborWorks Great Falls.

Downtown Safety Alliance: Continues discussion on the unhoused population, including possibly providing water fountains and public bathrooms downtown.

Council of Councils: Next meeting is on September 25; Lisa asked for topics for discussion.

Strategic Planning: Troy presented a new, laminated sign for windows of residents who agree to work with Neighborhood Watch. Troy suggested that when we are doing our neighborhood outreach, we could talk about Neighborhood Watch and show residents the new sign.

Crime Mapping Report: Lisa reported one month statistics and three month statistics to highlight trends.

NEW BUSINESS

Sylvia Tarman, ARPA Project Manager presented on the Missouri Room conversion into Municipal Courts. Continuing in the basement of the Civic Center is not feasible and The City has looked for over 10 years for solutions to the Court problems. The Missouri Room conversion is the only viable solution at this time and the City can use one-time ARPA funds for the conversion. The Historic Preservation Advisory Committee recommended against the conversion but the City has come up against a timeline. Final proposals for ARPA funds must be presented by December, 2024 and the ARPA funds must be spent by September, 2026.

Other Business:

The Ice Cream Social has been confirmed for August 20 at Carter Park from Noon to 2:00 p.m. The Park has been reserved and Mr. Frosty committed to the date and time.

Sandra reported that the Park Avenue crosswalk at 5th Avenue has new traffic signs and she has asked that the crosswalk be painted. The absence of signs and faded crosswalk paint made the crosswalk almost invisible.

Neighborhood Petitions and Communications: Jan and Rick Herzog asked what could be done about the rowhouses on 8th street between 5th and 6th Avenues South. This has been a continuing problem in the neighborhood, with police presence often. Jan was advised to ask her neighbors and friends to complete a complaint form and submit it to the City. Many complaints about the same area should result in City action, although there is a long time-line due to legal constraints.

Susie McIntyre, Great Falls Public Library Director, said that a committee is being set up to determine possible options for the Library Park, which, although closed from dusk to dawn, has been a problem over some nights. She asked if any of NC 7 would be interested in serving on the committee. Susie also noted that Shakespeare in the Park will present The Three Musketeers in Gibson Park on Monday, June 28, at 6:00 p.m.

NeighborWorks Great Falls is circulating random survey about Great Falls in the NC 7 area.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL: The Whittier School playground is unlocked.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 11 2023

Agenda suggestions: Crimestoppers presentation, Lisa will contact Sandra Guynn
Public Safety Levy on November's ballot (scheduled October 9)
Discussion of public bathrooms downtown, Kellie Pierce of the DDA
Topics for the Council of Council meeting on September 25

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m. on unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted, Sandra Rice, Secretary