

GREAT FALLS CITIZENS COUNCIL
Council of Councils Meeting
MINUTES
Tuesday, October 23, 2023
Gibson Room – Civic Center – 7:00 p.m.

Chair Sandra Guynn opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

- Neighborhood Council representatives in attendance: NC1 David Foscue, NC2 Tim Croft, NC3 Garri Mauch, NC4 Sandra Guynn, NC5 Eric Ray, NC6 Earl Salley, NC7 Lisa Meyers, NC8 Travis Grove, NC9 Barney Danishefsky
- Representing the Great Falls City Commission: Mayor Bob Kelly and Commissioner Rick Tryon

Old Business

- Approval of the May 23, 2023, minutes: Eric Ray made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Lisa Meyers seconded the motion. The motion to accept the minutes passed unanimously.

New Business

- Sandra Guynn introduced city of Great Falls officials who discussed what the impact would be if the the public safety levy and the bond would pass or not pass. Great Falls City Manager Greg Doyon, Great Falls Fire Rescue Chief Jeremy Jones, Great Falls Police Department Capt. Doug Otto, and Great Falls City Attorney David Dennis presented information to the council members.

Council Sharing

- **NC1** – David Foscue had nothing significant to report to the council.
- **NC2** – Tim Croft mentioned that meeting location at West Elementary School has ADA accessibility issues and their last meeting was in September. He said they have had one resident concerned about four trailer houses located on 7th Street that were involved in a fire and wanted to know if they were to be demolished.
- **NC3** – Garri Mauch said her council continues to broadcast their meetings on Facebook. She said their Summer Celebration was a huge hit in September. She said there is a lot of discussion about the Calumet Refinery in our district. She also said there is also interest in creating a crosswalk for CMR High School students to cross the street during lunch.
- **NC4** – Sandra Guynn said the last meeting of the year for her council will be Thursday, October 26. She said her council will receive an update from the Park and Recreation Department on the Aquatic Center. She said in January the Public Works Department will present information to her council on a study made on 36th Street traffic. She said neighbors do not want 36th Street to become a through street.
- **NC5** – Eric Ray said in June his council had a representative from Touro College come and speak to them. He said they have some housing issues, but the school is up and running. He also said a representative from Benefis discussed the proposed nursing school that was approved by the state. He said they are expecting to break ground in May. In July his council met with representatives from Alliance for Youth and toured the facility. He said the council members met with approximately 40 neighbors who had recently received property tax appraisals. In

August, he said his council held its fourth candidate forum, and nearly all candidates participated. He said in September, due to resident's concerns for rising homeowner's insurance rates, the fire department was invited to come to his council to discuss the bond issue. In October, he said the public safety levy was discussed at their meeting by city officials. He also said the Neighborhood Council 5 ice cream social went well. In November, he said the council hopes to solve a ten-year problem. There is an intersection at 11th Avenue and 32nd Street behind Super One Foods is a problem. He said it used to be a four-way stop, but was changed to a two-way stop due to lack of traffic. He said Great Falls Street and Traffic Manager Eric Boyd attended their March meeting and said there would be an in-depth study conducted. He said Boyd will return in November to provide information on the study to his council.

- **NC6** – Earl Salley said his council did not meet during the summer. He said the council has only had three or four council members for quite a while, but they now have a full complement of members. He said his council received a mill levy presentation from city officials, with a robust question and answer period following.
- **NC7** – Lisa Meyers said her council conducted its second ice cream social in August. They have had an engagement with new people asking how to be involved. She said council members had a presentation on the new courtroom that will be placed in the Missouri Room of the Civic Center. She said the historic Baatz Building located at 400 2nd Avenue South conducted a groundbreaking ceremony on October 19. She said the building will offer 25 permanent supportive housing units offering residents wraparound services such as mental health, or help with getting a job. She said there were issues early on with noises coming from the refinery, but it has mostly been resolved. She said her district has the highest crime rate in Great Falls with nearly one third of all crime in Great Falls coming from her area. There are issues with transients at the park library and said they may fence the area off.
- **NC8** – Travis Grove said his council had their ice cream social in July and served more people than normal.
- **NC9** – Barney Danishefsky said his council has been working with a property owner complaint of a neighbor running a junkyard. He said the city attorney's office was consulted and was told there wasn't funding available to do anything about it. He said his council was trying to get playground equipment placed at Kranz Park for several years. Three years ago he said they finally raised the money for the playground equipment, but it sat in storage for two years because they didn't have any money to put it in place. He said last year they found the money to put it in place and they broke ground on the project two weeks ago. Last year during the Council of Councils he asked for the city to help with a barking dog complaint from a resident who has a neighbor with six dogs. He said he worked with the neighbor to help resolve the problem, but two weeks ago while he was out of town the issue escalated to a battle between the two neighbors with charges being filed. He considers the city ordinance to be ineffective.

Petitions & Communications:

- There were no petitions or communications offered by residents.

Barney Danishefsky made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sandra Guynn seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Peterson
NC3 Secretary