

Neighborhood Council #7
Monday, **November 13, 2023**, 7:00 p.m.
Gibson Room, Civic Center

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER:

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, and Sandy Rice; City of Great Falls Liaison Lanni Krasner; Council Member Trevor Mikkelsen was absent.

Roll call of the Council was completed and a quorum established.

Guests present were Neighbors Jerry Clark, Carole Ann Clark, Jane Weber, and Malissa Hollan; Sherrie Arey of NeighborWorks Great Falls

OLD BUSINESS

The October Minutes were approved as submitted.

Committee Reports:

Downtown Development Partnership: the Montana Main Street Conference was very successful. Jeff Siegler, *Revitalize or Die*, was the keynote speaker. He was impressed with Great Falls and noted "I don't think you can fail." The Electric posted an article on 10/24 that covered the Conference with an extended interview with Mr. Siegler. Jane Weber said she attended and was impressed with the organization and presentations.

Upcoming events: Parade of Lights, Saturday, Nov. 25 at 6:00 p.m. Christmas Stroll, Friday, Dec. 1, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Brownfield Committee: no report

Downtown Safety Alliance: 2nd Mental First Aid Program is planned at the Library; 1st Program was very successful. Program teaches both skills to deescalate situations and how to provide further help by recommending follow-up agencies. The December DSA meeting will be devoted to the 2021 Downtown Safety Plan: what was planned and what has been accomplished.

Council of Councils: October meeting included a presentation of the Safety Levy Town Hall. The next meeting is scheduled in January, 2024.

Strategic Planning: no report

Crime Mapping Report: Lisa presented two months of statistics, as there was no report in October. At the December meeting, Lisa will report quarterly results.

NEW BUSINESS: Sherrie Arey of NeighborWorks Great Falls requested recommendations for new Board Members, as several of the current Board members are retiring. Sandy suggested that the 38 write-in candidates for Neighborhood Council #7 may be interested. Sherry passed out Board Applications.

NEIGHBORHOOD PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Jane Weber noted that street lights are continue to be out in her neighborhood despite several calls to NorthWest Energy. Several lights have been out for over a month: 4th Avenue North from 7th Street North to 9th Street North and 8th Street North from 3rd Avenue North to 5th Avenue North.

It was noted that Whittier Elementary School has at least three lights out on its block.

As Neighborhood Council 7 boundaries have the highest crime rate in the city, the lights are necessary.

Sandy agreed to present these concerns at the November 21 City Commission meeting.

Lannie said she would try to find the direct phone number for JoDee Black, Public Relations Rep for NW Energy.

Jerry Clark asked if there was any information on "Plan B" as the Safety Levy did not pass.

Lannie pointed out that moving forward would be up to the City Commission taking office 1/1/2024.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL:

Troy went over the tentative plans for a Core School at Morningside Elementary School. There are extensive plans for staffing and a cooperative plan with UM-Western. A follow-up meeting is planned for November 14.

Next Meeting: Monday, December 11, 2023

Agenda suggestions: None

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. on unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted, Sandra Rice, Secretary