

MEETINGS MINUTES

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL #2

Wednesday, November 8th, 2023

Great Falls West Elementary School Library

5:30 pm

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A quorum was established with Chair Shyla Patera, Vice Chair Tim Croft, Secretary Frank Speidel, and Member Pam Wagner present. City of Great Falls Communications Specialist Lanni Klasner, Planning and Community Development Planner Lonni Hill, Robbie Osowsk from Woith Engineering, Sean Sturges from NeighborWorks Great Falls, and six members from the community.

OLD BUSINESS

- Approval of the September 2023 minutes
 - Vice Chair Tim Croft motioned to approve the September 2023 meeting minutes. Secretary Frank Speidel seconded the motion. The Council unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

- Sean Sturges from NeighborWorks made a presentation on NeighborWorks Board and handed it out applications.
- Great Falls City Community Planning Development Planner Lonnie Hill and Robbie Osowsk from Woith Engineering gave a presentation and answered questions on the proposed Bay View Apartments project located at 805 2nd ST SW and their rezoning request. At 6:08pm Vice Chair Tim Croft made a motion to postpone the Councils recommendation to approve or not approve the project until the normal December meeting to get more input from the community. Lonnie Hill advised that Neighborhood Council 2's next meeting on December 13th would pose a problem because the next City Council meeting is on the 12th. Secretary Speidel stated that the information is already out there on the Councils Facebook page and has been since Monday. A member of the community said not everyone has Facebook. At 6:11 pm Secretary Frank Speidel seconded the motion to postpone. A member of the community asked not to have it at 5:30pm which is too early. Chair Shyla Patera said that is fine she would work out her transit. At 6:13 pm Vice Chair Tim Croft amended his motion to meet on December 6th at 7:00 pm to get more input from the community. Secretary Frank Speidel seconded the motion. Lanni Klasner stated that the new meeting date pends approval from the school, but it should not be an issue. A member of the community asked if there would still be an opportunity for the public to comment after that meeting. Lonnie Hill said

that anybody has the opportunity for three meetings, the public meeting at the planning board, second one at the first reading at the City Commission meeting, and the final one at the final reading at the City Commission meeting. 6:15 pm the Council unanimously approved the motion for a special meeting, either here at West Elementary Library or at another location, on December 6th at 7:00 pm to allow more public comment on the proposed Bay View Apartments project located at 805 2nd ST SW and their rezoning request. Lanni Klasner requested to know if the Council will also have the regular meeting on 13th. Vice Chair Tim Croft stated that the special meeting should suffice for the regular meeting. Chair Patera stated that the special meeting will replace the regular meeting. A member of the community wanted to know about the election of officers. Chair Shyla Patera advised that the election of officers occurs in January. Chair Shyla Patera and Lanni Klasner explained the process of being elected to the Council.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS (Public comment on any matter that is not on the agenda of the meeting and that is within the jurisdiction of the Neighborhood Council. In the interest that all parties can be heard, please limit your comments. When addressing the Council, state your name and either your address or whether you are a Neighborhood Council 2 resident for the record).

- Neighborhood Concerns
 - None

OTHER BUSINESS

- City of Great Falls Growth Policy
 - Lonni Hill advised that the City is updating their growth policy which is their long-range planning document. The Community will hear about it in from the news and government. They would like everyone to participate. There will be several events in the future for community participation.
- Great Falls Transit
 - Chair Shyla Patera advised that the Great Falls Transit is conducting their survey right now. 6:25 pm Chair Shyla Patera departed, and Vice Chair Tim Croft assumed responsibilities of the Chair.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (Miscellaneous reports, announcements, and agenda suggestions from Neighborhood Council #2 members)

- Neighborhood Watch
 - Vice Chair Tim Croft reported that only 9 crimes were reported. 2 burglaries, 2 disturbing the peace, 2 arsons, and 3 vandalisms.
- Council of Councils
 - Vice Chair Tim Croft gave an update on the meeting which primarily consisted of the City of Great Falls Public Safety Levy and Bond Election with possible consequences if not passed., which it didn't. Chief Jones stated reduced services

and longer response times, Fire Prevention Program may have to take some cuts, and higher insurance rates. Code enforcement may have to cut staff. Call volume they may have to be selective on the calls they take. Doug Otto reports that patrol visibility will probably be down, SROs for schools may have to be cut, Citizens Academies may be cancelled, cut training, police officers' involvement with meet and greet with the community may be cut. Legal, the crimes that they are going to prosecute are all severe crimes. Case load is heavy; they are going to have to dismiss cases because of the speedy trial. Shorthanded on serving warrants.

- Council Facebook Page
 - Secretary Frank Speidel reported reach is up to 5.8%, interactions down 62.5%, links clicked down 25%, visits up 53.8%, and 2 additional follows. It is a mixture. Most of my stuff is the crime map.
- Agenda Suggestions
 - Continuation of the discussion of the proposed Bay View Apartments project located at 805 2nd ST SW, and their rezoning request.

ADJOURNMENT

- At 6:31 pm Secretary Frank Speidel made a motion to adjourn. Vice Chair Tim Croft seconded the motion. The Council unanimously approved. The next scheduled meeting will be on December 6th, 2023, at 7:00 pm.