

MEETINGS MINUTES  
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL #2  
Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Great Falls West Elementary School Library  
5:30 pm

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A quorum was established with Vice Chair Tim Croft, Secretary Frank Speidel, Members Pam Wagner and Wayne Young as present. Lanni Klasner (Communications Specialist) was also present. Visitors were Dave Broquest and Avah Fowler.

OLD BUSINESS

- Approval of the December 2023 Special Meeting Minutes.
  - 5:31 pm Vice Chair Croft made a motion to approve the December 2023 Special Meeting Minutes. 5:31 pm the Council unanimously approves the December 2023 Special Meeting Minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

- Election of Officers
  - 5:32 pm Secretary Frank Speidel made a motion to retain the current officers. Vice Chair Croft seconded the motion. The Council unanimously approved the motion.
- Bylaw Review
  - 5:36 pm Tabled until Chair Shyla Patera attends.

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:
  - A resident who opposes the Bay View Apartment wanted to know if the Neighborhood Council had come to a consensus and were ready to tell the City that we don't want this. One of their conditions is that if the neighborhood doesn't express that they don't want it, it is taken as an approval. So he is hoping that the Council with overwhelming consensus that this is not a good thing for them to be doing. Rezoning based on their desires, their plans that they made a couple of years back and how they're using their own leverage to shove it down our throats. Vice Chair Croft asked if they were against the rezoning changing of the rezoning or against the apartments or just residential units going in there, to which the resident replied yes to all. The resident doesn't want multi family in that neighborhood. They just don't want multi storage buildings and all the parking problems that come with it, especially right at the River's Edge Trail. Especially at that intersection which is so narrow. They stood here and told us that, well they might have to do something with the streets. Well the street goes right to the property line and there is no parking. And you know what is going to happen, the parking that was there is very limited. They're on the water. They are going to have kayaks, bicycles, all that stuff has got to go somewhere. So the campers, the boats, everything is going to get parked on the street. I don't see it as a benefit to our neighborhood whatsoever. I think it is a real deterrent. They are trying to fulfill their own prophecies and I think make themselves look good by building housing units in Great Falls and I understand the principle behind it, but I don't think that's the place or way to do it. There is plenty of places in Great Falls to build. I am not sure if you are aware that there is a class action lawsuit started in Bozeman against this exact type of process where the legislators passed 4 bills that allowed this type of development and cities to do this. And so they got a stay.

I believe we joined that class action suit and I think they got a stay on 2 of those bills that may at least put the brakes on. So I am hoping that at the earliest convenience that the Council can come to a consensus, and it would be my wish that it would be against that development, and express that to the City Planning Department and the Commissioners. As I understood, the Planning Department meets this month. And if they agree they want to push forward with it, then the Commission has to vote the following month. Lanni Klasner stated that they will have to notice a public hearing. And then, they will have to notice a public hearing, and then, so it will be, it probably will be the beginning of March that I would imagine. The resident responded that he thinks that there is no way the Planning Board is not going to recommend this unless the class action lawsuit has changed their mind, or FEMA has come back and says you are out of your minds. Vice Chair Croft stated to put it on the agenda for next month where we can put it to a vote. The resident requested to know if it would help the Council if they were to go door to door in that area instead of a petition. Would it help the Council to make up their mind. Vice Chair Croft said it would not hurt. The resident responded that if 90 percent disagree it might sway your opinion. Secretary Speidel stated the biggest thing would be going to Planning and City Council. We make the recommendation but actually the City Council is the one going to say yea or nay.//still hit the planning meeting on the 13th//right//and the grass roots going door to door. Lanni Klasner stated that our meeting is going to be after the Planning Board and if we are wanting to do something the Planning Board is going to be your best bet. And it happened yesterday with the Park View in Council 1 and they did the same thing and because they saw that it was a traffic was the big issue, public safety, they can only look at the land use statute on that. Planning Board recommendation is going to be huge.

- o Vice Chair Croft reported that a resident dropped off a petition about the 9<sup>th</sup> Street construction that's going to happen, and I think we talked about this. It's not set in stone yet is it//Lanni Klasner responded that she think's what they are looking at is that there's no curb or gutter on that. They are looking to update the road //right it's an emergency snow route//and the residents don't want to lose /the residents don't want sidewalks//right//there is some sidewalk there so//right //not much though//same problem that there's cars parked on the boulevard//right now there is currently illegally parking on the boulevard, but there is no sidewalks there so//So I just want to let you know that this guy//one side is completely side-walked and the other one you have hit miss//and I talked to one of the guys that live there and he says he has no problem even though he signed this with sidewalks. He said he wouldn't mind sidewalks if they were recessed 4 feet into the property, so when they guys come with the snowplow don't dump it out onto the sidewalks//I have not really seen that happening yet//right so if you want to drive by and take a peek//Lanni Klanser stated that if they do any improvements on a road there are some laws that they have to bring them up ADA compliant.//There is not ADA things on that side of the street. So//Yeah either side, so//That is another thing that comes up. You have, where you get your funding from//federal//yeah and they have requirements. One of the challenges at least we will have to put it on the agenda. When this Council did their Visioning, one of the items on there was to get more sidewalks in the neighborhood. Kids walking to school//its a park area also//people with mobility issues. That was one of the goals that the Council had put forward. And they do need to be revisited but those were part of the current goals was to help //I don't know if the utilities need to be redone. I don't know. So I am just going to put it out there so you guys know what is going on.//is that from Central to the Bypass//Yep//Yes Central Ave West by the Pawn Shop all the way up to the Builders Choice Bypass.
- o A resident asked whether there was a website where he could see the bylaws, how many officers there are and all of that. Vice Chair Croft advised the resident yes the City website. Secretary Speidel advised the resident to go up to the City's web site, find Neighborhood Council

2, which we are and it's all in there. Lanni Klasner advised to go to greatfallsmt.net and there is a drop down, Neighbor Council link, then you have all the Councils greatfallsmt.net plus the Neighborhood Councils. The resident wanted to know if our Visioning document was on the website//I don't know if it is//Lanni Klasner stated she didn't know if it is//Secretary Speidel stated you would find Planning up there//Lanni Klasner stated that the Visioning was from 2019 to 2021. It was when the goals were set up. Increase the attendance to meetings, actively recruit, explore new ways to address sidewalks, address nuisance properties and vehicles, what they did in the June meeting 2019. Then we had COVID. The resident asked if the document could be sent to him. Lanni Klasner responded yes. Most of the Council members were not on the Council then. It expired 2021. Member Pam Wagner wanted to know if there are plans to renew. Lanni Klanser stated that is the will of the Council. Secretary Speidel stated he thought Shyla mentioned that in an email or something like that. Revisit Visioning. Member Pam Wagner stated she would love a copy of it as well. Lanni Klasner gave the copy to the resident and will email the Council members a copy.

- o A resident got in contact with a bicycle club. Since that is a designated bicycle route 10<sup>th</sup> Ave SW. He thinks that they don't want it. They postponed or canceled their December meeting so he doesn't know if they will talk about it in their January meeting, if they have one. And also to Rivers Edge Trail Foundation which gave mixed response, he suspects because they get some of the benefits of the Community Development planning type, so they are a little reluctant to make enemies over it. So he doesn't think they will express an opinion either way over it. Vice Chair Croft said that is another item to bring up//traffic, cross country teams run there//law enforcement//how far down do they go//is it the Torch Run//No, the Ice Breaker//They turn right at the intersection there Bay Drive//that's what I was thinking//but they close down the roads//well yeah but then you got all those vehicles parked there. Someone pulls out.
- o Vice Chair Croft expressed concerns about migrants and homeless getting into and starting fires on the burned out and abandoned trailers on 7<sup>th</sup> St SW across from the Rocky Mountain Building, behind the A & K Diner. Lanni Klasner advised to start with filling out the complaint form. He can do it on behalf of the Neighborhood Council if we all have concerns. If anyone sees any nefarious activity they should call law enforcement. 6:01 pm The Council didn't have any issues with Vice Chair Croft filling out the complaint form on behalf of the Council.
- o A resident expressed their concerns about a building permit for another dispensary going in right next to Stone place right there //right next to where//it's starting to develop already//it's already zoned//no no this is right down near the corner where the apartments are going. Right across the street next to the the Stone, I don't know the name of the business, they sell granite//yeah//hot tubs//stone countertops//that would be two dispensaries in that area//at least two//that's because it is zoned that way//business//yeah//it is already zoned the way they want it zoned. //We will make note of that.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

- Council of Councils 01/23/24 at 7:00 pm Civic Center Gibson Room
  - o Vice Chair Croft and Secretary Speidel will make an effort to attend.

#### NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

- Miscellaneous reports and announcements from Neighborhood Council 2 members
  - o Neighborhood Watch
    - Vice Chair Croft reported 1 criminal mischief, 2 DUI's, 1 theft, and 1 felony assault. Crimemapping website has had technical issues the last two weeks.
  - o Council Facebook Page
    - Secretary Speidel reports 82 people reached, 4 new followers, 17 engagements. Secretary Speidel will respond to a resident requesting further information on the Bay View

Apartment project on Facebook. Lanni Klasner reported that the next Planning Board meeting she thinks will be February 13<sup>th</sup>. Secretary Speidel will keep an eye out for it.

#### NEXT MEETING AGENDA SUGGESTIONS

- Bay View Apartment Rezone Project recommendation for the City Council.
- Visioning
- Bylaws

#### ADJOURNMENT

- 6:04 pm Member Pam Wagner made a motion to adjourn. Member Wayne Young seconded the motion. 6:04 pm the Council unanimously agreed to adjourn. The next scheduled meeting will be February 14<sup>th</sup> 2024.