

Neighborhood Council #7  
Monday, **February 12, 2024**, 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 Troy Lane, Trevor Mikkelsen, Lisa Meyers, Sandy Rice, and Allison Tangen; City of Great Falls Liaison Lanni Krasner. Roll call of the Council was completed and a quorum established.

Guests present were Neighbors Jane Weber, Sarah and Tyler Bishop, Scott Reasoner, Steve Herrig, Rose Schuster, Bill Wadman, and Prayer Warrior Tribal Council members Marcos Bullchild, and Josh Butterfly.

**OLD BUSINESS**

The December Minutes were approved as submitted.

Committee Reports: Downtown Development Partnership: Allison reported that the downtown lighting project is being revisited as the initial bid was too high; Wayfinding signage is continuing to be placed; there are about 30 grants from the Main Street program funding downtown projects; the fire alarm replacement for the parking garage has been postponed; there is a need to volunteers for the Parking Board.

Brownfield Committee: Trevor reported that the 2024 kickoff welcomed new board members; DDP is looking for projects under the 5 year grant for mitigation projects; a budget was discussed but has not been approved.

Downtown Safety Alliance: Sandy reported that the DSA had extended discussion regarding the LGBTQ+ harassment that has been happening to downtown businesses, especially the Luna Café and the Wild Hare; the owner of the Luna Café reported on the harassment; there will be a Department of Justice presentation at the Library on Hate February 20, and DSA has continued working on the 2021 Downtown Safety Plan.

Council of Councils: Lisa reported on the 1/23/2024 quarterly meeting; GFPD is down four officers and will be down three additional officers in the near future, with eight dispatcher positions open; the GFPD is working on recruitment and a faster response time for hiring, but cannot sacrifice quality for quantity; crime mapping site was down for a time due to server problems, but is now in operation; the City Commission will consider a grant approval for the front lobby improvements; the new City Planner, Brock Cherry, is reviewing the 2013 city growth policy, using a consulting firm and will include feedback from the residents and Neighborhood Councils; there are about 100,000 people in Great Falls on any given day, including workers and visitors.

Strategic Planning: Troy reviewed the commitments made in 2021 at the first strategic planning session of contacting five neighbors a month; we need to recommit this spring as the weather warms; it is an election year, so knocking on doors will be challenging.

Crime Mapping Report: No report as the system has been down for about three weeks; about 1/3 of the crime in Great Falls is committed within N C 7 boundaries.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Steve Herrig, Parks and Recreation Director reported on the demolition of the Morony Park Natatorium and future plans for the site; the initial CDBG grant did not completely cover the demolition costs, so Parks and Recreation will be asking for more money to complete the playground pavilion and basketball courts; there are about 30 trees in Gibson Park slated to come down, with more than 300 trees city wide; the City replants as quickly as possible, but cannot keep up; a future "adopt a tree" program is in the works for residents.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Council members reviewed the by-laws and no suggestions and/or corrections were made. Lannie will bring a new copy of the bylaws to the March meeting for signatures of the current Council members.

**NEIGHBORHOOD PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:** Josh Butterfly of the Prayer Warrior Tribal Council asked that the Council be aware of the adverse effect that Native populations are experiencing from various government entities; the data seems skewed and the PWTC will bring evidence to the Council of Council, the City Commission, and the State. Rose Schuster attended the Sentinel missile presentation, where it was announced that the program will build housing for the workers on the five-year program; Rose suggested that the City and Council advocate keeping that housing after the program finishes for low-cost housing needs. Tyler and Sarah Bishop asked about Neighbor Watch programs and signs. Troy will meet with them after the meeting to give them the information he has on how to set up a Watch and where to get signs. Bill Wadman asked Steve Herrig about the rodent problem in Gibson Park and Steve outlined the City programs to help with the constant problem, but there isn't much that can be done.

**NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL:** Next Meeting: Monday, March 11, 2024

Agenda suggestions: City Forestry Department to bring us up to date on the Boulevard District

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm on unanimous vote. Respectfully submitted, Sandra Rice, Secretary