

Neighborhood Council #7
Monday, **March 11, 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 City of Great Falls Liaison Lanni Krasner. Council Member Allison Tangen was absent. Roll call of the Council was completed and a quorum established.

Guests present were Neighbors Jane Weber, Sarah Bishop, Sherrie Arey, Patrick Inglis, and Ramona Ramadas.

OLD BUSINESS

The February Minutes were approved as submitted.

Committee Reports: *Downtown Development Partnership:* Troy reported that Lonnie Hill is replacing Tom Micuda; the Leland Group is working on an analysis of Downtown Great Falls and presented their observations to the DDP; The National Main Street Conference will be held in Alabama, Troy will attend.

Brownfield Committee: No Meeting

Downtown Safety Alliance: Sandy reported that Melissa Smith, Legislative Coordinator, is creating a handout of how to report hate harassment and will give copies to Sandy to present at the various NC meetings; No More Violence week preparation is ongoing at the Library in conjunction with other groups.

Council of Councils: Lisa asked the Council for concerns we wanted to bring up at the Council of Councils April meeting be brought to the April NC 7 meeting.

Strategic Planning: no report

Crime Mapping Report: Lisa reported crime statistics within the NC 7 boundaries since the February 12 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: Sherry Arey of NeighborWorks Great Falls brought a handout of the NWGF Impact Report which outlines the tremendous impact NWGF has on the Great Falls Community, including future events. She encouraged Council members and neighbors to spread the word on the programs available from NWGF. The CDGB Plan must be reviewed and updated in 2025 and ideas for the future need to be written in the Plan.

Sandy gave an update on two questions raised by neighbor Ramona Ramadas regarding crosswalks on 9th Street North at 3rd Avenue North and 4th Avenue North. Eric Boyd of the City of GF responded that the traffic control division will schedule Traffic Studies for those two areas. After discussion, it was decided to ask for lighted yield signs, similar to those near the University of Providence. Bruce Haman of the City Planning Department responded that the Jensen Apartments at 801 4th Avenue North has been an off and on project for more than six years and all permits have expired. He will reach out to the owner and get a status on the project.

There was extensive discussion on the safety of the Jensen Building, as squatters have been in and out of there. All the neighbors were encouraged to report any activity and to complete a Complaint Form found on the city's website.

OTHER BUSINESS: Lannie left a new copy of the bylaws to the March meeting for signatures of the current Council members.

NEIGHBORHOOD PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: Lisa told Sarah Bishop she would get Neighborhood Watch signs for her. Jane Weber brought up a problem apartment house on 7th Avenue South and 11th Street. That building is in Neighborhood Council #9 and Jane was encouraged to bring the information to their meeting.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL: Troy brought up at that Whittier School Playground is being locked whenever school is not in session. NC 7 will contact Gordon Johnson, Chair of the School Board (Lisa), the principal of Whittier (Sandy), and Set Free Ministries (Sandy) for help in keeping the playground available while solving the problem of drug debris.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 8, 2024

Agenda suggestions: How to open Whittier Playground when school is not in session, especially over the summer
 Invite a school board representative to answer Whittier Playground questions.
 Invite a representative from Parks & Recreation to update us on the Boulevard District

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm on unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted, Sandra Rice, Secretary