

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL #4 MINUTES for March 28, 2024

Heritage Baptist Church – 900 52nd Street North, Great Falls, MT 59401

Members Present: Sandra Guynn (Chair), Neil Tredray (Vice-Chair), James Whitaker, Chris Ward (Secretary), Doug Darko (Official Delegate) – All present

CALL TO ORDER:

Sandra Guynn called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance

NEW BUSINESS:

- Scheels Aim High Big Sky Facility Update. Jessica Compton, Deputy Director Park and Recreation. Facility to open in early June. Fee structure approved by Commission. Day passes and annual memberships. A farmers market will be held in the parking lot June through August. Facility tours are available by appointment. Council 4 tour was set for Thursday, April 4. Director Kevin Vining spoke about the Adopt a Park program. An application form and more info are available at <https://greatfallsmt.net/recreation/adopt-park>. There are 57 parks plus undeveloped green spaces. GIS inventory started with Heren Park.
- NeighborWorks. Emma Nelson, Community Engagement and Marketing Coordinator. 104 new homeowners in 2023. Homebuyer Fair on April 20 at UP. CommUNITY Cleanup May 3-4, and applications being accepted for Cleanup Teams.
- Ponderosa Solutions LLC Conditional Use Permit. Introduction by Kayla Kryzsko, Assistant City Planner and Brock Cherry, Planning Director. The planning board already approved the permit on March 26. The change to the normal sequence was necessary due to scheduling. CUP is needed due to hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) gas in vapor space of asphalt tanks at the proposed transloading facility. Presentation by Brian Marler of Ponderosa Solutions. Transloading facility will initially allow asphalt to be transferred from tanker trucks to train cars for further shipment. Expecting to store up to 32 rail cars, and load 8 per day. Switching of cars would be handled by the current BNSF train. Transloading of other products is likely. Residents asked for clarification about exposure to H₂S, handling of storm runoff, hiring of local workers, increases in rail traffic, and whether River Drive can handle the additional truck traffic.
 - Council Action. Chair Guynn moved that Neighborhood Council 4 recommend the City Commission approve the Conditional Use Permit as legally described in the Staff Report, and the accompanying Findings of Fact, subject to the Conditions of Approval being fulfilled by the applicants. Darko seconded. Motion carried. Vice-Chair Tredray noted that he abstained as he felt there was not enough information to base a decision on.

OLD BUSINESS

- Guynn moved to accept the minutes from the February meeting. Tredray seconded the motion. Minutes approved.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Neighborhood Concerns: None!

OTHER BUSINESS

- Chair Guynn announced that Jim Whitaker has filed for House District 22. He would need to resign from the council if elected.
- Bylaws. For code consistency, legal staff requested addition of a sentence to Section 3 of the document that was approved in February. Chair Guynn moved to accept the revised bylaws. Second by Whitaker. Bylaws approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Chair Guynn provided an update on formation of the Public Safety Advisory Panel. Attendees expressed interest in the issues that led to the levy request.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

- Agenda suggestions included Animal Shelter update for April, Storm Drain Master Plan with Mark Juras in May, review of Council mission statement, Brock Cherry Growth Policy update in June.
- Growth Policy Steering Committee application deadline is April 12. See <https://greatfallsmt.net/planning/growth-policy-update>.
- Long Range Transportation Plan update by Andrew Finch is on the Council of Councils agenda for May 28.

ADJOURN

- Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Submitted by Chris Ward