

Neighborhood Council #7  
Monday, **April 8, 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, Allison Tangen, and City of Great Falls Liaison Lanni Klasner. Roll call of the Council was completed and a quorum established.

Guests present were Neighbors Sarah Bishop, Tyler Bishop, Lance Boyd, Gordon Johnson, Tom Moore, Scott Reasoner, Corrie Smith, and Jane Weber.

**OLD BUSINESS**

The March Minutes were approved with corrections.

Committee Reports: *Downtown Development Partnership:* The 1<sup>st</sup> Alley South off 5<sup>th</sup> Street Lighting project has been reduced to do costs; The Library is presenting Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) during No More Violence Week; the Wayfinding Kiosk should be up by July 1; as the Milwaukee Depot apartment building nears completion, ways to increase lighting for the 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North underpass were discussed. NC7 Public comment included suggestions for cleanup of the underpass as well as better lighting and it was suggested that the public parking garages use better publicity, as downtown shoppers may be unaware that they are public. Large banners touting “Public Parking; Free on weekends and after 5:00 p.m.” were suggested.

*Brownfield Committee:* There are funds available for projects meeting the criteria for Brownfield improvements: Applications are available from Business Improvement District’s office.

*Downtown Safety Alliance:* April 8 through 12 is No More Violence week: events are planned by the Public Library, NeighborWorks Great Falls, and the Paris Gibson Square. There are pinwheel reminders at the Library and other public buildings.

*Council of Councils:* Lisa asked the Council for concerns we wanted to bring up at the Council of Councils May 28 meeting be brought to the May 13 NC 7 meeting.

*Strategic Planning:* Troy recommended that NC7 pursue collaborative planning to facilitate outreach, approaching downtown entities such as Housed Great Falls, Get Fit Great Falls, Little Shell Tribe, or the Children’s Museum, perhaps in conjunction with the August Ice Cream Social. Further discussion and motions will be on the May agenda.

*Crime Mapping Report:* Lisa reported crime statistics within the NC 7 boundaries for the first quarter of 2024, excluding January statistics, as the server was down in January.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Lance Boyd, Executive Director, and Corri Smith, Whittier School Principal, gave a well-thought-out presentation on the problems and possible solutions to the Whittier School Playground problems. NC7 Neighbors have requested that the Playground be open during non-school hours for neighbor children to use. The problem are vandalism and dangerous items being left in the playground overnight. The gates are currently locked during school hours, opened at 2:30, then locked again at 8:30 during the week. Weekends, the gates are open from 2:30 Friday until 8:30 Monday morning, which does not help alleviate the vandalism/unwanted items problem. One proposed solution was to have a volunteer come lock the gates at dusk on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings, then reopen the gates at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Troy Lane and Allison Tangen volunteered to work this out. Access to the key might be a hindrance. Gordon Johnson, School Board Chair, and Tom Moore, School Superintendent, supported Corri and Lance and answered questions.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Lannie received the new copy of the bylaws with all Council signatures.

**NEIGHBORHOOD PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:** Sarah and Tyler Bishop asked for help in alleviating a litter problem caused by the Lexington Apartments at 201 8<sup>th</sup> Street North. The litter blows into their yard daily; they have contacted the City Ordinance Department and the landlord to no avail. Several recommendations were given but on private property there is little that the City can do. Lanni gave Sarah and Tyler Deputy Building Official Joelle Marko's contact information as she is covering for Bruce Haman, Building Official, in his absence.

**NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL:** Troy recommended that NC7 investigate new signage for Neighborhood Watch, perhaps in a bright yellow to get attention. Signs could be created like political signs, to be placed in yards or in neighborhood windows. Wednesday envelopes, a part of the National Neighborhood Watch toolkit, could be distributed by school children, handed out at the Ice Cream social, or by door knocking.

Sandy reported that Eric Boyd, Street and Traffic Manager, is working on the traffic study for 9<sup>th</sup> Street at the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue intersections. Bruce Haman, City Planning Office, has been out on extended leave and has not been able to respond to NC7's questions regarding the Jensen Apartments at 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 8<sup>th</sup> Street. Lanni recommended that Sandy contact Joelle Marko, Deputy Building Official, in Bruce's absence.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 13, 2024

Proposed Agenda Items: Collaboration ideas for Strategic Planning Outreach  
Ice Cream Social ideas  
Items for presentation at the May 28 Council of Councils Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm on unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted, Sandra Rice, Secretary