

Neighborhood Council #7  
Monday, June 10, 2024, 7:00pm  
Gibson Room, Civic Center

MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was brought to order at 7:00 by Vice Chair Troy Lane, who led the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance were Council Members Troy Lane, Trevor Mikkelsen and Allison Tangen. Sandy Rice was absent. Roll call of the Council was completed and a quorum established.

**OLD BUSINESS**

The May Minutes were approved with corrections.

Committee Reports:

Downtown Development Partnership: Troy reported that the Elmer Roberts TIFF grant had been approved and was moving forward. The underpass by the Milwaukee Station is receiving improved lighting and avian abatement is being undertaken. Wayfinding Kiosks are proceeding but slower than planned. 80 new job downtown have been created by the Rib and Chop House and the Gibson Boutique Hotel. The Brownfield Study on the Baatz Building was completed. Exploration of strengthening ties with Lethbridge Alberta were being undertaken. With the halt in redevelopment of the Rocky Mountain Building the DDP would like to see some hardening of the site and reopening of the sidewalks.

Brownfield Committee: No report.

Downtown Safety Alliance: No report.

Council of Councils: Allison reported that the GFPD attended and presented their annual report. Crime was up slightly. They are understaffed by eight sworn officers.

The comprehensive transportation plan was presented. It was noted that a roundabout is being planned for River Road and 25<sup>th</sup>. The plan is available at [GreatFallsTransPlan.com](http://GreatFallsTransPlan.com).

City planners discussed the Lead Pipe survey. Information was mailed to water users earlier this year.

Strategic Planning: No report.

Crime Mapping Report: Lisa Meyers provided the statistics for NC7 and they were presented by Trevor.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Ice Cream Social will be scheduled Sunday August 18. Mr. Frosty will be contacted by Trevor to confirm their availability. Troy had contacted Get Fit Great Falls and they suggested someone else to provide games for the participants as their focus is on children 5 years old and younger. Troy had 500 flyers printed regarding Neighborhood Watch and placed in the last Wednesday Envelopes for Whittier and Longfellow Schools. The flyers invited parents and others to attend the NC7 meeting to discuss formation of Neighborhood Watch. Bill Wadmon attended the meeting and expressed interest in filling the Council Vacancy. Motion to appoint Bill Wadmon to NC7 was moved and passed. Trevor agreed to become chair of NC7. Motion to appoint Trevor as Chair was moved and passed. Allison agreed to serve as our official delegate to the Council of Councils. Motion to appoint Allison as delegate to the Council of Councils moved and passed.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**NEIGHBORHOOD PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:** Ben Forsyth presented materials on the increase of hospitalizations due to cannabis. He continued with the heightened use of cannabis especially among juveniles and of the detrimental effects this causes. He distributed several documents and discussed the proliferation of dispensaries both registered and unregistered. Ben desires for the elected officials and government regulators to intervene in the cannabis issue.

Bill Wadmon highlighted the increase in Richardson Ground Squirrels (gophers) in the city parks and green spaces. Bill has contacted Parks and Recs and has not received any information on what the City is planning on doing about the gopher increased infestation.

Sarah Bishop raised concerns about drug abuse and theft centered around an unlicensed van behind 721 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave N. Sarah has contacted the police and they have not intervened as no flagrant illegal activity was observed.

**NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL:**

Trevor reported that a yellow Toyota pickup belonging to MaryAnn Bross was stolen between midnight and 3AM the morning of Monday June 3. The vehicle was not driven away but was most likely towed.

Troy brought up that the City Commission was considering removing 7 mils from Library funding and moving it to the General Fund. Troy noted that the citizens had voted on the Library Bond to supplement the Library funding as it stood and that this action would be contrary to what the citizens had approved via vote.

Next Meeting: Monday, July 8, 2024

Proposed Agenda Items: Brock Cherry – Transportation Plan

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm on unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted, Trevor Mikkelsen, NC 7