

MEETINGS MINUTES
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL #2
Wednesday, April 10th, 2024
Great Falls West Elementary School Library
5:30 pm

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A quorum was established with Chair Shyla Patera, Vice Chair Tim Croft, Secretary Frank Speidel, Members Pam Wagner and Wayne Young present. Also present were City of Great Falls Communications Specialist Lanni Klasner, NeighborWorks Ashley Benefiet. Ben Forsyth, and two members of the neighborhood were also present.

OLD BUSINESS

- Approval of the March 2024 minutes
 - 5:37 pm Vice Chair Croft motioned to approve the March 2024 meeting minutes with the corrections of “where” to “were” in the second paragraph under Neighborhood Concerns. 5:37 pm The Council unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

- NeighborWorks – Ashley Benefiet from NeighborWorks gave a presentation on their Impact Report and scheduled Community Cleanup for May 3-4. For cleanup groups and information on Neighborhood Socials contact Emma Nelson marketing@nwgf.org. Suggested site is the Viaduct. Lanni Klasner stated to find out whose property it is before cleanup. Vice Chair Croft will find out.
- Visioning – Actively recruit two additional members by September 3rd deadline date completed. No other changes. Vice Chair Croft asked what other Councils are doing with Visioning. Lanni Klasner advised one of their goals is to increase engagement in the neighborhood. They have like a list serve where they collect names and emails and they email out the minutes and information on the Council. When the weather is nice they go out and meet their neighbors and introduce themselves as neighborhood council members and build awareness. Council 3 have a brochure and Council 7 have a flyer with vision and goals. Other Councils put up flyers in their local businesses. Chair Patera stated members can bring any visioning changes to the May or Sep meeting. Neighborhood Guides are at the Library. Lanni Klasner stated they are also available at Planning and Community Development.
- Bylaws – No changes. Chair Shyla Patera asked about attendance. Lanni Klasner stated it was in City Code which states 3 unexcused absences the Council can vote to recommend removal of the person not in attendance and the City Commission will act. 6:38 pm Chair Patera asked for a motion on the Bylaws. 6:39 pm Secretary Speidel made a motion to accept the Bylaws as they are. 6:39 pm the Council unanimously approved the motion. Chair Patera reminded all members of the Council to sign the Bylaws.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS (Public comment on any matter that is not on the agenda of the meeting and that is within the jurisdiction of the Neighborhood Council. In the interest that all parties can be heard, please limit your comments. When addressing the Council, state your name and either your address or whether you are a Neighborhood Council 2 resident for the record).

- Neighborhood Concerns
 - Ben Forsyth gave a presentation on Marijuana effects and laws and requested from the Council that the Council recommend to the City Commission that the potency of THC be reduced to .03 percent in coordination with State or Federal laws of safety.
 - 6:12 pm Chair Patera departed and Vice Chair Croft assumed Chair
 - Secretary Speidel reported that he posted on Council 2 Facebook page the City regulations for Dispensaries and how to contact City Commissioners and officials as requested by a resident.
 - Vice Chair Croft expressed his concerns on disrepair signs like Jacks Antiques. He is going to fill out complaints on both

the sign and the dumping site next week. He is also going to see if he can get some bodies to clean it up and ask Kelly from K-Heart Veterinary Clinic if she will put her cameras on the dumping area.

- Both Vice Chair Croft and Secretary Speidel drove by the Dispensary being built on 5th St SW. Vice Chair Croft and Member Wayne Young stated it was a weird place to have a Dispensary. Secretary Speidel stated it is zoned for heavy/light industrial and didn't understand why the citizens couldn't change the zoning. Lanni Klasner stated that the owners of that property could petition to change the zone of their property. The City voted to have Dispensaries in an industrial zone. The City did try to say it was against federal law and we got sued. Member Young wanted to know if there was a way to limit the number of Dispensaries because we already got three of them in our neighborhood. Lanni Klasner suggested we call the Planning and Community office for the information for zoning and the inspections certificates go through the Fire Department.
- Member Wayne Young gave a final update on the proposed rezoning for the Bay View apartment project. Members Pam Wagner and Wayne Young expressed their disappointment the City Commission didn't take the recommendations of the Neighborhood Council and the area residents. Member Young stated that the residents gave the Commission several legitimate reasons to say no to the project. Vice Chair Croft and Member Wagner felt the same way.

OTHER BUSINESS

- None

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (Miscellaneous reports, announcements, and agenda suggestions from Neighborhood Council #2 members)

- Neighborhood Watch
 - Vice Chair Croft reports 2 assaults, 3 disturbing the peace, 1 alcohol/drug DUI, 1 fraud, 4 larceny, 2 vandalism, and the penis painters are back out on the west side.
- Council Facebook Page
 - Council was adjourned
- Agenda Suggestions
 - Ben Forsyth request for the Council to recommend to the City Commission that the potency of THC be reduced to .03 percent

ADJOURNMENT

- At 6:40 pm Vice Chair Croft made a motion to adjourn. Secretary Speidel seconded. 6:40 pm the Council unanimously approved. Member Wagner asked if we did the Neighborhood Watch. Vice Chair Croft gave a quick update on Neighborhood Watch. The next scheduled meeting will be on May 8th, 2024, at 5:30 pm.