

MEETINGS MINUTES

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL #2

Wednesday, September 11th, 2024

Great Falls West Elementary School Library

5:30 pm

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A quorum was established with Vice Chair Tim Croft, Secretary Frank Speidel, and Member Wayne Young present. Also present were City of Great Falls Neighborhood Council Liaison Rob Moccasin and 2 members of the community.

OLD BUSINESS

- Approval of the May 2024 minutes
 - 5:31 pm Member Wayne Young made a motion to approve the May 2024 meeting minutes. Secretary Frank Speidel seconded the motion. 5:32 pm The Council unanimously approved.
- Neighborworks Grant
 - Secretary Speidel stated that the only Neighborworks Grants that he knows about is the one the Council used for our Spring Ice Cream Social at Rhodes Park.

NEW BUSINESS

- Neighborhood Council Liaison Rob Moccasin made his introduction as the new Neighborhood Council Liaison.
- Damian Conn, a resident of the neighborhood expressed his concerns about the excessive noise generated by train horns, particularly during late night hours. He expressed the impact the excessive noise has had on his family sleep and wellbeing. He is proposing the City Council implement Quiet Zones throughout the City in accordance with Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), to mitigate this problem. Member Wayne Young stated he was recently in Spanish Fork UT and they had signs on rail crossings stating no horn is being used and to look both ways before crossing. So there is an exception. Secretary Speidel asked if it was a city issue or a county issue. Damian Conn stated it is a county issue but they typically have the request come through the city. Resident Jane Brinkman also took issue with the excessive train horn use. Damian Conn will write up his request for a Quiet Zone which the Neighborhood Council will vote on and submit to the City Commission. Member Wayne Young may contact someone from the railroad to talk to us at the next meeting.
-

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
 - Secretary Speidel brought up Kelly Quick's issue with excessive locomotive idling that she sent via Facebook.
 - Jane Brinkman, a resident of the community, wanted to know what we could do to get a No Wake Zone for the Sun River. Speeding watercraft are swamping her pump with dirty water and causing excessive noise at night. She also wanted to know who was responsible for all those weeds on the railroad property. It is a fire hazard right now right across from 3 River(s) Electric Coop (the only electric company I could find was Montana Electric Cooperatives Association 501 Bay Dr.). Jane Brinkman also noted the weeds at the planned new apartment complex. Vice Chair Croft referred her to the City Complaint Form located on the City of Great Falls web page. Resident Damian Conn showed Jane Brinkman how to access the web page via her cell phone. Jane Brinkman wanted to know if that is where she should also request a No Wake Zone on the Sun River. Liaison Rob Moccasin stated he didn't know if the City could do anything about the river itself. Vice Chair Croft stated that they have it on Broadwater Bay. Liaison Rob Moccasin stated to go ahead and try and if not then direct it to the County.
 - Vice Chair Croft received from the Montana Rush Soccer Club that they want to repurpose West Side Kiwanis Tennis Courts. They want to do pickleball, soccer and maybe basketball. No one showed up to speak so we will have to put it on next month's agenda.
 - Vice Chair Croft asked about the Medical Marijuana issue. Secretary Speidel stated that we already addressed it. We asked Lanni about it and Lanni said it is a State issue. All the regulations come from the State. Liaison Rob Moccasin stated his understanding is that is where it is at. Ben has been to numerous Councils and he gets the same response. We understand your concern but the City can't do anything. I know the City has some litigation with one business but the State put this out and obviously they don't regulate it like they should. They are aware of it and at least the legal in the City is at least addressing what they can.
 - Vice Chair Croft brought up an issue with people camping and defecating on the Rivers Edge Trail underneath the Central Ave West Bridge. Liaison Rob Moccasin advised that it depends on the availability of officers to patrol that area and he would have to ask on that but he thinks that they are violating a city ordinance for camping on the trail but he would have to look that up to be sure. He will forward it along to Captain Otto.
 - Member Wayne Young asked if there was any new information on the vehicles piled up on the property 1st Ave SW and 11th ST. Neither Vice Chair Croft nor Secretary Speidel has heard anything.

OTHER BUSINESS

- None

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

- Neighborhood Watch
 - Vice Chair Tim Croft reports 3 assaults. 2 drug and alcohol arrests. 6 disturbing the peace. 1 larceny. 1 vehicle theft. 1 burglary. 1 DUI. 2 vandalisms.
- Council Facebook Page
 - Secretary Frank Speidel reported posts reached 122. 1 new follower.
- Agenda Suggestions
 - Repurpose of West Side Kiwanis Tennis Courts by Montana Rush Soccer Club

ADJOURNMENT

- At 6:17 pm Vice Chair Tim Croft made a motion to adjourn. Member Wayne Young seconded the motion. The next scheduled meeting will be on October 9th 2024, at 5:30 pm.