

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL #7
Monday, **October 14, 2024**, 7:00 p.m.
Gibson Room, Civic Center

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was brought to order at 7:00 by Chair Trevor Mikkelsen, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

In attendance were Council Members Troy Lane, Trevor Mikkelsen, Sandy Rice, and Bill Wadmon and Neighborhood Council Liaison Rob Moccasin. Council Member Allison Tangen was absent. Roll call of the Council was completed and a quorum established.

Neighbors present were Charles Goodman from Neighborworks Great Falls, Jesse Slaughter from the Cascade County Sheriff's Department, Susie McIntyre from the Great Falls Public Library, Mary Ann Broso, and Jane Weber.

OLD BUSINESS

The September Minutes were approved as submitted.

Committee Reports

Downtown Development Partnership: Carol Bronson will probably represent Great Falls at the state wide Main Street America meeting in Billings. Main Street strategy was reviewed, which includes alley lighting for the murals, replacement lighting for the 1st Avenue North underpass, and economic study for downtown businesses, and placement of the WayFinding Kiosks. The Rocky Mountain Building is for sale.

Brownfield Committee: There has been only one request for Brownfield funds this calendar year.

Downtown Safety Alliance: Mobile Response Team will be rebuilt when Alluvion gets anticipated grant money. Ideas for Public Safety presentations in conjunction with the Library are being sought. Crime mapping for the general public is no longer available; the company providing the service is deleted the public section: the police crime mapping is still available to GFPD.

Council of Councils: Next meeting of the Council of Councils is scheduled for October 22, 2024.

Strategic Planning/ Neighborhood Watch: No Report

NEW BUSINESS: Sheriff Jesse Slaughter presented information on the County jail on Gore Hill. The facility is partly self-funded, but the expenses are far higher than the income realized from the Federal and Department of Correction inmates. Sheriff Slaughter is looking for ideas on how to get a closer balance between revenue and expenses and presented some of his ideas.

Library Director Susie McIntyre brought in handouts that explain the use of the levy money and the effects of the proposed changes for the 7 mills allocated to the Library through the 1993 Agreement. After public and Council discussion, Troy Lane moved that Secretary draft a letter of support for the Library; Bill Wadmon seconded and the motion passed. Sandy Rice will draft a letter for approval at the November meeting.

Regarding Public Safety funding, discussion included the need for a levy to fund public safety. In lieu of the failure of the 2023 levy ballot measure, ideas for future public safety levies included more community and elected official involvement, bringing in the human factor when presenting the levy proposal, splitting the levy into smaller pieces with ballot measures over several election cycles, separating fire and police levies, and the City should create a ballot initiative committee.

OTHER BUSINESS: Charles Goodman, director of the Baatz House permanent housing project, introduced himself and reported that the resident selection process is in place, construction should be finished mid-February, and hopefully move in will occur mid-March.

NEIGHBORHOOD PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: Trevor received a complaint from a neighbor and directed them to the city website complaint form.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL: None

Next Meeting: Monday, November 11, 2024

Agenda suggestions: Eric Boyd, Traffic – possible November
Todd Symanski, City Forester – December
Invite Doug Otto and Aaron Freck, GFPD, to present on Community Policing efforts
Invite Franklin Gilbert, Whittier School Principal and Breanne Foster, Whittier School Resource Director

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm on unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted, Sandra Rice, Secretary