

## MEETING MINUTES

### NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL #2

Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Great Falls West Elementary School

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 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 4 members of the community. 1 resident of Council 4 neighborhood. Kevin Vining of Park n Rec, and Jeremiah Kirschman from Montana Rush Soccer Club

#### OLD BUSINESS

- Approval of the September 2024 minutes
  - 5:31 pm Vice Chair Croft made a motion to approve the September 2024 meeting minutes. Member Wayne Young seconded the motion. 5:32 pm The Council unanimously approved.
- Quite Zone (train noise)
  - 5:31 pm Vice Chair Croft made a motion to accept resident Damian Conn's letter to the City Commission on Rail Quiet Zones with the corrections of email addresses of the Neighborhood Council 2 members. Vice Chair Croft asked about who would impose the fine for violations. Damian Conn stated that he was sure City would impose the fines. Damian Conn gave a small presentation of the Quiet Zone for residents in the meeting. Rob Moccasin advised that it would probably be resolved through the City Complaint System. The City would have to do an Ordinance. 5:40 pm Vice Chair Croft closed the discussion and requested a vote on the petition. 5:40 pm Secretary Speidel made a motion to accept Damian Conn's letter and send it to the City Commission. Member Young seconded the motion. 5:40 pm the Neighborhood Council unanimously passed the motion. Vice Chair Croft asked if Damian Conn will be able to present his petition to the Council of Councils on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Damian Conn will be TDY and unable to attend. Vice Chair Croft stated someone from the Council will present it for him.
- BNSF Bay Drive weeds
  - Rob Moccasin stated he checked and the County handles the issue and to direct the resident to them.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- Jeremiah Kirschman of Montana Rush Soccer Club and Kevin Vining (Park & Rec) gave a presentation on a proposal of West Kiwanis Park repurpose. They are looking to build a Soccer mini pitch. Soccer mini pitch is sort of like a basket ball court or tennis court. They are multi-functional (soccer, basket ball, tennis and pickle ball) and ADA compliant.

Great Falls would be the first one in the region to have a mini pitch if approved. They are looking for approval to build two mini pitches in Great Falls for around \$234,000.00. They are looking at Russell and West Kiwanis parks. It could be done within a week. Jeremiah Kirschman's job would be finding sponsors and fundraising for the projects.

- A resident asked about the soccer fields out by Malmstrom. Kevin Vining of Park n Rec stated that those are city owned and leased out to and managed by the soccer leagues. Soccer leagues pay for water, electric, every bill out there. The mini pitches would be different and available to the public, like groups of kids who just want to learn and play the game. They are going to be city accessible courts. They will put some times in there when they want to have a tournament, block that out, but they are not going to lock the gates. It will be city accessible courts managed by the city; they are going to provide all the money to repurpose these areas.
- A resident was concerned about the cost. Kevin Vining stated that is where Jeremiah Kirschman comes in. from the City's stand point Jeremiah is coming to us and saying he is going to pay for all of it, if you just allow us to use this space. We're going to have some tournaments, practice and do some of that stuff. That is a pretty good offer from the City's stand point. And Jeremiah is also going to take care of all the maintenance.
- A resident asked about damage to the floor. Jeremiah Kirschman stated that the floor comes with a warranty. He thinks it is ten years.
- A resident asked about size of the court. Jeremiah Kirschman stated that it depends on whether West Kiwanis is giving us both tennis courts or only one. Kevin Vining stated that as plans develop they will make everyone aware of what the configuration will be. One of the questions was about lighting. Currently we're probably not at this point ready to just start letting them put lights all over the courts. People are not allowed in the parks after dark. They may allow them to put some up for an evening tournament, but they are not there yet. Jeremiah Kirschman stated that they can bring in portable lights if they need to, if they have an organized event.
- Vice Chair Croft wanted to know what they needed from the Neighborhood Council. Jeremiah Kirschman stated whether it will be one court or two courts. Rob Moccasin stated we can bring it up at the next meeting on whether we support the project or not. Also it will give the neighborhood time to comment on the project. Jeremiah Kirschman stated the sooner we make a decision the better. The goal is to have them built before the next World Cup 2026. Great Falls is hosting the next State Cup tournament and will have 80 to 100 teams here in June from all over the state, 13 to 19 years of age. He would love to have one built by June if possible. Then we could have check in there at West Kiwanis or Russell Park and have all the people that are coming into Great Falls see our brand new mini pitch. I guarantee they are going to want to build one in Bozeman, Missoula and Billings because they are going to want to keep up with what we are doing. We would be that kind of trend setter. The sooner we move on it, the sooner he can get to the news and sponsors, and get it set up by June 6<sup>th</sup>. Kevin Vining stated that they have already been to Neighborhood Council 5. Vice Chair Croft wanted to know their resolution. Kevin Vining stated that they were very much in support of it. They felt the same way that waiting to get this repurposed it's in terrible shape. Their biggest thing is to make it multipurpose

because they already have a basket ball hoop on that. In that double sided court. West Kiwanis is a little different. They already have a basket ball court //well I didn't want to hold things up. I want to get things rolling//yeah//we only meet once a month//that's what I am saying so// I just like to give you the go ahead right now as far as I'm concerned//well is there anything that we have to do//yeah we just need your support to put it forward. You know we still have to put this in front of the City Commission, because at some point contracts will still run through the City. Through Park&Rec. So we have to get it through the City Commission. Get their blessing. //this is the time to start planning it//so it is good to get that going now because based on timing we might not get on the next City Commission agenda. Might be a month and a half down the road kind of thing, and then we got to actually start writing the contracts out. The only twist with that contract business is generally anything over 80,000 will require multiple bids however if there's not multiple companies that do this or want to bid on it we are more than able to go ahead and accept that company's bid and award it, get it going. City government tends to run//slower//I just don't want to be holding anything up that's all I got to say, anything for the kids and stuff that's great for me.//yea or nay//it really boils down to you can support it but you have to, the only thing to think about is neighbors around that area that decide that they don't, they may disagree.//public hearing//you have to have time for them to weigh in on that. That's the only thing that I am concerned about but you can say yeah we support this right now but for you to, I just think you should give your neighbors time to digest what they are looking at//well we could give our blessing to it and then like we did with the apartment place, put up a sign there that we are going to have a meeting, get some input, comment//yeah really all you are doing is advising the City Commission that you support this. At the end of the day that's what you're doing. The City could decide they are going to do anyway but the support always makes it a lot easier.//yeah we don't want to go into a tennis court if we're not welcome there//Vice Chair Croft asked if they need a motion from us to proceed or give our blessing or nay or yea//Rob Moccasin responded I think it is really up to you as the Vice Chair. I think, I don't think you can vote on anything until next month. You have to get that information out. You want to tell them yeah right now it looks like a great deal, but you still have to give your neighborhood an opportunity to speak. Vice Chair Croft stated to put it in the agenda for next month. Take a vote on the Chairman's and the City's proposal on the revamp of West Kiwanis Park.//vote to support this project and I don't know if you want to use one portion of it or both that's where you could kind of say yeah we support whatever is best for this organization to make it as big as possible. Member Wayne Young stated that the fact that you said you could repurpose tennis or basket ball for parking and you could put the basket ball hoops inside that solves, that's a win win//right//I think that's a great idea. We could include picket ball court lines with those tiles. So it could be basket ball, pickle ball, soccer//and off street parking//get that re-purposed. Current basket ball court. That's a pretty big slab of asphalt.//I don't think it is a contentious issue, but you never know.//we've had some issues//actually I think the kids in the neighborhood would be thrilled.//me too//Vice Chair Croft stated we will put it on the agenda and vote on it for next month. We will figure out what we got to

say.//and probably try to reach out and get as much published out there as possible. //we try//Secretary Speidel stated all we have is our Face book page unless we start to come up with funds to buy a printer, print notices, and everything else. Rob Moccasin stated he thinks that the way we are doing it is probably good enough. If your neighbors are interested in knowing what is going in their neighborhood they should be looking at that. //there is a certain amount of responsibility that falls on your neighbors. //correct//if they want to be involved in these decisions then show up at your neighborhood council meetings and voice their opinions or at least be aware of what's going on. Vice Chair Croft stated alright we're done.

- More information about mini pitch can be obtained at <https://ussoccerfoundation.org/programs/safe-places-to-play/> and <https://www.mini-pitch.com/minipitch>

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
  - None

#### OTHER BUSINESS

- Neighborhood Watch
  - Vice Chair Tim Croft reports 2 assaults. 2 drug and alcohol. 2 disturbing the peace. 1 larceny. 1 fraud. 1 burglary. 1 DUI. 5 vehicle vandalism's. 9 thefts and graffiti.
- Council Face book Page
  - Secretary Frank Speidel reported posts reached 89. 2 net followers. 34 page engagements.

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

- Agenda Suggestions
  - Vote on to repurpose parts of West Side Kiwanis Park to mini pitch(s) by Montana Rush Soccer Club

#### ADJOURNMENT

- At 6:16 pm Secretary Speidel made a motion to adjourn. 6:17 pm Member Wayne Young seconded the motion. 6:17 pm the Council unanimously approved. The next scheduled meeting will be on November 14<sup>th</sup> 2024, at 5:30 pm.