

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL #7
Monday, **December 9, 2024**, 7:00 p.m.
Gibson Room, Great Falls 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 Trevor Mikkelsen, Sandy Rice, Allison Tangen and Bill Wadman and Liaison Rob Mocassin. Council Member Troy Lane was absent. Roll call of the Council was completed and a quorum established. Neighbors present were Charles Goodman from NeighborWorks Great Falls, Judge Mark Dunn of the Municipal Court, Dr. Burke Wallace of the Great Falls Public Schools, and Jane Weber, State Legislator Elect. Student observers were Isabella Crowchief and Charlotte Noczak

OLD BUSINESS

The November Minutes were approved as amended with a corrected spelling of Mocassin.

Committee Reports:

Downtown Development Partnership: No report

Brownfield Committee: No report

Downtown Safety Alliance: Police staffing is getting better although there are still opening. Extra patrols will be dispatched for the Christmas Stroll and New Year's Eve. A coordinator for the Crisis Diversion and Mobil Response team is in the process of being hired. The second floor of the Indian Family Health Clinic on Central will be utilized for this program. Grace Haven, a shelter for women vets, is the recipient of the 2024 Coins for a Cause. The Rural Economic Summit is scheduled for Great Falls next summer.

Council of Councils: Allison reported on the September Council of Councils meeting. Sheriff Slaughter gave his presentation on the jail problems and plans. GFPD reported that arrests have been fewer, but that may be due to fewer police available. The next meeting of the Council of Councils is scheduled for January 28, 2025. The Quiet Zone proposal for the railroad is on the agenda.

Strategic Planning/ Neighborhood Watch: No Report

NEW BUSINESS:

Judge Mark Dunn of the Municipal Court gave an overview of what the Court does, the in-progress expansion of the Missouri Room, and a typical day in his Courtroom. He also spoke on how difficult decisions are when faced with mentally ill defendants.

OTHER BUSINESS: Charles Goodman, Director of the Baatz Permanent Supportive Housing project, reported that the first step for applying for an apartment by a chronically homeless person is Opp Inc.

NEIGHBORHOOD PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: Jane Weber reported a drive-by shooting at her house on the corner of 8th street and 4th avenue north. The police were notified. Sandy reported a shots fired incident at the corner of 8th street and 2nd avenue north: it is not known if the incidents were related.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL: None

Next Meeting: Monday January 13, 2025 at the Civic Center

Agenda suggestions: Eric Boyd, Traffic Department
Todd Symanski, City Forester (February or March)
Franklin Gilbert, Whittier School Principal and Breanne Foster, Whittier School Resources
Representatives from Police, Fire, and Courts

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm on unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted, Sandra Rice, Secretary