

MEETING MINUTES
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL #2
Wednesday, December 11th, 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 Secretary Frank Speidel, Member Pam Wagner and Member Wayne Young present. Also present were City of Great Falls Neighborhood Council Liaison Rob Moccasin and resident Damian Conn.

OLD BUSINESS

- Approval of the November 2024 minutes
 - 5:31 pm Member Pam Wagner made a motion to approve the November 2024 meeting minutes. 5:31 pm Member Wayne Young seconded the motion. 5:31 pm the Council unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

- None

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
 - Member Wayne Young brought up people camping under bridges. He was driving back from Helena and noticed that bridges just off the interstate had signs on either side saying no trespassing. He wanted to know if we had that here in Great Falls because if we did, that would give us more tooth to at least get them out of it. Liaison Rob Moccasin stated that most bridges are going to come under state. He has a meeting with the director of MDOT here at the local office, Neighborhood Council 8, next month and he will try and bring that up. Member Young stated that we have had issues with the Central West, 6th St SW before 10th. If those signs were there that would at least maybe discourage some. And if the sign is there and it's illegal, that would at least go a long way at least making the people aware that they are not supposed to be underneath there.
 - Resident Damian Conn gave an update on the status of his FRA Quiet Zone proposal. Liaison Rob Moccasin advised that the Council of Councils wants him

at their next meeting which is the 28th of January. He will send him a reminder. Secretary Speidel stated that some of the Councils had questions. Liaison Rob Moccasin said it has been on all of their agendas. There have been some questions that have come up. He thinks that being at that Council of Councils meeting will really get something moving with the whole group as a whole. Some of the questions were basically cost. How do we protect these intersections if the trains aren't going to do their horns? Are they going to require signs? Who is going to pay for all that? And where are we going to put these quiet zones? There a lot of area's in the city that could probably use them. Liaison Rob Moccasin said to be prepared for questions on financing because the City Council will be asking about money. Damian Conn stated he will reevaluate his letter. Liaison Rob Moccasin stated that one of the Commissioners at the Council of Councils meeting wanted to know where we are at with this issue. It will take some time to get the Council of Councils onboard. It is all going to be driven by money. People are really concerned about safety. Member Young wanted to know why the rail road's not paying for this. Damian Conn stated because it is driven by the City or County. Right now their safety is being met by train horns. Member Young suggested approaching the rail road company and asking them to help cover the cost. //you can ask//the answers no//yeah//I mean for safety concerns and everything like that because I'm sure they'll come there. That they might assist. Just in their interest//looking at it from public relations stand point.//What we could do is look at it holistic stand point and we pull in the rest of the community and the rest of the councils get onboard. City, Council of Councils. We get possibly a story on channel 4 or something along those lines it that makes it more of an issue. That more people come forward with it than just us//yeah//people just sitting in a school library, then it would be more of an interest for them as well, because now they are disrupting other people in the city.//it may end up being let's start with this neighborhood council in this certain area. I know some other councils talked about the train noise like on the east end, and by the grainery, and things like that.//yep, 9th street crossing. You got 15th and 14th you got houses nearby//if they want to and since you got all the councils, if they want to I could put together a small presentation and come to each one. What is it? A 30 minute, conversation, fielding questions//That's a great idea. We just put you on the agenda, and you take the time to talk about it.//I think at the first meeting that you all met me was 10 minutes talking about the plan, what was needed, how it happen, things like that. And then there was probably 5, 10 minutes of conversation just between us. How busy are the other councils? Are they bigger or are they around the same//there's a couple, council 7 is big, council 5 is big, as far as a lot of people show up to those meetings.//how big is big?//well council 5 packed a room talking about the citizens academy a couple of months ago.//talking about what?//citizens academy for the police

department. They really get a lot of folks to come in but with this kind of issue I think, you know, it's hard to tell. It just depends on the interest of the public on this topic, so. But they do know a lot of people. Each council is like this one. They know a lot of people and they talk about it, so. I don't usually gage on how many people show up to the meeting. It's what can we accomplish. //well you have brought up the horn but we also have people bringing up the trains running all night.//as a mechanic, I've been a mechanic for the last 15 years that's an approach that's going to be a hard fought battle because the effort required to start the engines, keep them running, and just the money that goes into the upkeep and the cost like that's a lot. So, that one's a hard fought battle. Now unless their operators is going to be using it in the next 6 hours, give or take, I would need a cost comparison for what type of engine and everything else that goes into it, but I wouldn't be able to even fathom the amount of cubic feet for carbon monoxide produced to it. I already got in the original email, the case study that I did, there is a few examples of what that carbon monoxide did to the residents around them. On what it affected. It did affect say small cases of asthma, like that. They did a study, and I don't remember the specifics, but I think it was Pennsylvania, they did a study on the results of people like sleeping near a train station versus like sleeping 10 miles away from one, and they said there was a significant difference between the two. So, just off of sound, quality of sleep, the child's growth, I mean there is a number of side effects that can come from it.//I just didn't want us to forget there is a number of people from the public that brought that up. And by the way I live right across the street from the yard office. I know exactly what you are talking about. But they do shut those engines down on occasion.//every now and then//and when they get ready to start switching, they fire those suckers up.//you know what is crazy, in today's world of technology, everything is going electric, we won't jump on the conversation of electric are better or worse than gas but there is the technology out there for electronic capabilities to move the cars and the switching and things like that. So wherever possible that they may be able to use and electric tug to swap cars versus a diesel might be something to look into.//yeah they could actually, I don't think they want to put a catenary, but they could use a third rail for powering them. They used to do that all the time.//I wonder why they went away from it. Was that here?//No that was back east in the bigger cities. Especially where they had a no smoke, you know they had the steam engines, and so they ended up buying electric, and they ran on a third rail, basically the shoe goes down on it, or you had your overhead catenary.//yeah I am assuming it is the same principle say aircraft carriers launcher, its run off of electric or gas powered or steam powered movement device so. I could see that I just, I haven't thought about that one so. I don't know I would have to do research on that one.

- Resident Damian Conn wanted to know the status of the Soccer Park. Secretary

Speidel stated our council passed it. Liaison Rob Moccasin stated that the other council also approved it. It is in Park & Rec hands. There is no real opposition that he has heard.

- Secretary Speidel stated that those 7 campers out at ShopCo are gone as of today. I drove by and didn't see any. Liaison Rob Moccasin stated that has come up in other council meetings.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Neighborhood Watch
 - None reported
- Council Face book Page
 - Secretary Frank Speidel reported 105 followers, 0 new. 135 reached, up 80 percent. 4 links clicked, up 100 percent. 98 visits, down 6.7 percent.

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

- Agenda Suggestions
 - Council Officer Elections

ADJOURNMENT

- At 5:53 pm Member Wayne Young and Member Pam Wagner made a motion to adjourn. 5:53 pm Member Wayne Young seconded the motion. 5:53 pm the Council unanimously approved. The next scheduled meeting will be on January 8th 2025, at 5:30 pm.