

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL #5

Monday, March 17, 2025

Great Falls Clinic Specialty Center, 3000 15th Avenue South

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Co-Chairman Tom Kotynski with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Members present: Tom Kotynski, Howard Plouffe, Eric Ray and Luella Vogel.
Members Absent: Dylan Lennox. There were 14 neighbors present.

NEW BUSINESS: **Emily Nelson with NeighborWorks** gave a presentation sharing their 2024 Impact Report. They provide services to new home owners, home buyer education, built 11 new homes, provided foreclosure prevention, new neighbor counseling, and have provided 58,975 hours of new home owner counseling. NeighborWorks upcoming events are as follows:
Community Cleanup on April 25-26 is a city wide annual event to clean up neighborhoods.

Home Buyer Fair at the University of Providence on April 26th from 9am-2pm. 45th Anniversary

Masquerade Ball will be held at the Newberry on April 5th from 5pm to 9pm.

Municipal Judge Mark Dunn gave an up to date account of the status of Municipal Court and expressed his appreciation to Council #5 for our good work in the community. One issue currently facing the Court is that they are down 3 clerk positions. They are currently interviewing for one prosecutor position. Judge Dunn indicated that recidivism is an ongoing issue for the Court. The recidivism issue is frequently a result of individuals with substance abuse and/or mental health problems. It is common for these individuals to end up in court time after time due to homelessness and lifestyle. Options available to the judge in these cases are jail, fines, drug court and/or referrals to counseling.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Graffiti continues to be a problem in city parks. Please contact the City Park and Recreation Department or your Neighborhood Council with graffiti issues.

Russell Park cleanup is scheduled for May 3rd on a motion by Tom and second by Howard.

OLD BUSINESS: Eric reported the cracks in the park walking path will be taken care of this year. Contact the Park and Recreation Department or the Council with graffiti issues.

Tennis court update. Eric reports that the conversion from Russell Park tennis court to a pickleball/mini pitch/basketball court has been approved. The conversion will be a year or two down the road, at a cost of a quarter of a million dollars. There are no funds attached to this project, therefore, Eric suggests it will most likely never happen.

OTHER BUSINESS: Approve Minutes: The minutes were read and approved on a motion by Howard and second by Eric.

NEXT MEETING: April 20th featuring the Future of Great Falls Growth Policy. Also, Neighborhood Council #3 member Eric Peterson will discuss their success with posting meetings on Facebook.

Our Council #5 first recorded meeting can be viewed on [Facebook.com/gfcouncil5](https://www.facebook.com/gfcouncil5).

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 On a motion by Howard and second by Luella.

Respectfully submitted,
Luella Vogel