

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL #7
Monday, **May 12, 2025**, 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 Troy Lane, Trevor Mikkelsen, Sandy Rice, Allison Tangen and Bill Wadman and Liaison Rob Moccasin. Roll call of the Council was completed and a quorum established.

Neighbors present were Charles Goodman (NWGF), Todd Seymanski (City of GF), Rose Schuster, and student observers John Szawczyk, James Cooper, Zachary Cooper, Seth Bonilla, Lotte Von Olmen, Ama Lascaray, and Ethan Berna.

OLD BUSINESS:

The April Minutes were approved as submitted

Committee Reports:

Downtown Development Partnership: TIF funding has been approved and forwarded to the City Commission. The North Parking Garage will have free 2-hour parking for the summer and may apply for mural painting with ArtsFest, BID is planning a downtown tree inventory, removing lights from the trees, and power washing the sidewalks for the summer trade. The question arose on why the City is getting TIF funds, which should be allocated to private entities. Troy said he would ask the question at the next DDP meeting.

Brownfield Committee: One application for funds has been approved for 617 Central Avenue. The City has the option to receive tax money from dispensaries tax; as of now, the tax money goes to conservation efforts.

Downtown Safety Alliance: Indian Family Health Center will be the intake location for the Crisis Response Team, which is being funded by a grant for now. The Montana Department of Health and Human Services announced a \$6.5 million grant program to fund forensic mental health stabilization services, to ensure that individuals involved in the legal system have access to mental health stabilization evaluations.

Council of Councils: Next meeting is scheduled for May 27.

Strategic Planning: No report

City Safety Funding: No report

NEW BUSINESS:

City Forester Todd Seymanski gave a report on his department. The Boulevard district runs 22.5 feet from the curb, not just to the inside edge of the sidewalk, as is commonly believed. If a homeowner wants to plant a tree in the Boulevard district, they must apply for a free permit. The City will do an evaluation to ensure that the right tree is planted in the right spot for success. The City will also reimburse up to 90% of the cost of the planting. Throughout the City, the aging urban forest requires Todd's department to work continuously to ensure success. Donors have provided funds for 35 new trees for Gibson Park to replace the damaged trees that had to be taken down. There are about 15 more trees available for sponsorship.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Charles Goodman of NWGF reported that the opening date for the Baatz Building Supportive Housing project is a moving target due to unforeseen engineering problems with the building. The current projection is occupancy in September. The Baatz Building Supportive Housing project has won a Cascade Preservation Award and a Montana Award for their efforts. NWGF, Great Falls City Commission, and other stakeholders are working on permanent, not temporary housing, for the Sentinel Missile update project. Allison will bring our concerns about the influx of workers for the Sentinel Project to the Council of Councils so that a unified presentation from all the City Councils can be presented to the stakeholders in this Project.

NEIGHBORHOOD PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL:

Next Meeting: Monday June 9, 2025, at the Civic Center.

Agenda suggestions: Representative from Calumet to report on general information and current tax abatement requests

Casey Schreiner to update the Council on Alluvion plans

Joe McKinney, Cascade County Commissioner

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m. on unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted, Sandra Rice, Secretary