

Minutes Neighborhood Council 3 (NC3)
June 5, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
Riverview Elementary School - Music Room

CALL TO ORDER: at 6:30 p.m. by Kathleen Gessaman, Chair.

Council members present: Sue Dickenson, Aron Krischel, Garri Mauch, Eric Peterson

OLD BUSINESS

- **Minutes from the May 1, 2025 meeting:** Aron Krischel made the motion to accept the minutes as written. Garri Mauch seconded the motion. The motion to accept the minutes as written passed unanimously.
- **Calumet Updates** -There were no Calumet updates provided during this meeting.
- **Vision and Goal Setting** - Vision and goal setting will be held for a future meeting.
- **Committee Reports** – Eric Peterson said he attended the 9th Street N.W. reconstruction open house. He said he spoke with Montana Department of Transportation Project Manager J.R. Taylor. He said the project will reconstruct 9th Street N.W. from Central Avenue West to the Northwest Bypass. Deteriorated pavement will be replaced, storm drains will be upgraded to improve drainage, and the traffic signal will be upgraded at the intersection of 9th Street N.W. and the Northwest Bypass. ADA compliant curb ramps and sidewalk upgrades will be made as needed. He said it will be a joint project between the Montana Department of Transportation and the city of Great Falls. Construction is anticipated to occur during the 2026 construction season.
- **NC3 Facebook Page Update** - Eric Peterson provided the NC3 Facebook page update for the month of May. He said the page has a total of 654 likes. There are 802 followers. He said there were 20 posts made during the past 28 days. There were 13,781 post views, a post reach of 5,690, and 209 content interactions. He said the most active post this past month was the post made on May 27 sharing the Calumet media release on the upcoming maintenance activity at the refinery. 7,467 views reached 4,764 people and had 40 interactions.
- **NC3 Crimemapping Report** - Eric Peterson said during the last 28 days in the NC3 area there have been 41 crime reports in the NC3 district, with 24 of those reports generated near the retail and commercial areas of the Northwest Bypass or Smelter Avenue. There were 21 theft/larceny reports, one motor vehicle thefts, two drug/alcohol violations, three burglaries, two vandalism reports, five disturbing the peace reports, no fraud reports, four assault reports, two DUI reports, one vehicle break-in report, and no arson reports.
- **Railroad Crossing Concerns** – Garri Mauch said if we had a concern with the railroad crossing for trail access we would need to look to the BNSF railroad. She said there is an agreement in the records with Calumet to not cut off access to the Rivers Edge Trail. Sue Dickenson said she thinks that Calumet wants to honor the agreement to allow the public to access the trail. She said if we notice any change to this policy we will need to weigh in on it.
- **Council of Councils Report** –Garri Mauch said she learned during the Council of Councils meeting that the Great Falls Police Department has been losing officer positions and have not been able to replace them. She said the School Resource Officers will be moved downtown to patrol during the summer months. She said there is a problem with the Crimemapping software in use by the Great Falls Police Department. She said a new AI-based program will roll out in one or two years that will be in use by the department. The councils discussed the railroad quiet zone issue. There was a suggestion to determine the noise decibel level coming from the train horns. She said creating a quiet zone would cost the city money and redirect city resources. Neighborhood Council 2 decided to research the noise level and report back during the next Council of Councils meeting.

- **Fundraising for Skyline Park and Valley View Park** –Garri Mauch said Calumet has reached out and they are planning to donate to our pavilion project. They cannot provide an amount until they have completed their fiscal year budget. She also believes Sam’s Club will donate an amount to the fundraising project. Eric Peterson said he provided our pavilion fundraising information to the legal advisor to the Little Shell Tribe but has not heard back from them. Sue Dickenson said we are on a Town Pump list for a donation.
- **Summer Celebration** – Garri Mauch said Magpie & the Honeybees Facepainter, Joe Ryan Acoustics, the bouncy house, EMS, Frosty Ice Cream Truck, Great Falls Fire Rescue has been confirmed for the Summer Celebration. She said she needs to check with the Great Falls Public Library Bookmobile and Great Falls Public Works to see if they can provide a garbage truck. She wanted to know if the council would be interested in inviting additional city offices to set up information tables.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Great Falls Animal Shelter presentation** - Community Relations Specialist Joseph Parchen presented an update on the Great Falls Animal Shelter.
- **Park and Recreation** – Deputy Director Jessica Compton presented information on the United States Tennis Association assessment of paddle sport courts in Great Falls. She said the department is also revitalizing their list of park district projects. She said there are opportunities for funding to pay for renovations. Garri Mauch said she was concerned about the placement of parking and sidewalks to be located in Skyline Park. She would like to make sure a sidewalk would not have to be moved when the new pavilion is placed in the park. Sue Dickenson said she was concerned about the poisoning of gophers in city parks. Jessica Compton said the city deters gophers from living in the parks but doesn’t poison them. The NC3 Summer Celebration will take place from 1-3 p.m. on August 23, 2025.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- **Neighborhood Concerns:** A neighborhood resident voiced her concern about vehicles speeding on 5th Street N.E. She said there was no speed limit sign posted at that location. Sue Dickenson said if the council would put in a request the Great Falls Police Department would do additional patrolling in the area. Garri Mauch asked if a city representative would be able to do a public service announcement for driving safely during the summer months. She said every street feeding off 36th Avenue N.E. has individuals speeding in vehicles.

ADJOURN

Eric Peterson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Garri Mauch seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned by Sue Dickenson at 7:45 p.m.

A special meeting is called for 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 16, 2025 to be held at the Corpus Christi Church to finalize details concerning the Summer Celebration event. The next regular NC3 meeting will be held Thursday, September 4, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Eric Peterson, secretary.