

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL #7
Monday, **August 11**, 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, and Bill Wadman and Liaison Rob Moccasin. Council Member Allison Tangen was absent. Roll call of the Council was completed and a quorum established. Neighbors present were Charles Goodman (NWGF), Leesha Ford (Toby's House), Margaret Mitchell (Senate Candidate) and Louis Ippolito.

OLD BUSINESS:

The June Minutes were approved as submitted.

The July Minutes were approved as submitted.

Committee Reports:

Downtown Development Partnership: ArtsFest is next week. The murals will be painted on the back of the Times Square Building at 525 Central Avenue. There are 5-6 artists expected. DDP is accepting submissions for the traffic signal boxes wrap art. Downtown sidewalks have been pressure washed and will be washed again before fall. New trash cans to replace the concrete cans have been ordered. According to a new law, TIF board members must be appointed by the City Commission.

Brownfield Committee: no report

Downtown Safety Alliance: There has been an increased police presence in the downtown area. School Resource Officers have been utilized for this effort, but when school starts, these police will not be available. All downtown businesses have been requested to post "No trespassing No Loitering" signs on their businesses. The Tavern Association will create an Active Shooter training for their partners. The Library will create an active shooter public training in the fall.

Council of Councils: Next meeting is scheduled for October 28, 2025.

Strategic Planning: No report

City Safety Funding: The special committee reviewing funding proposals continues to meet.

Online complaints process discussion reviewed the procedure.

Neighborhood Council #7 Summer Ice Cream Social is scheduled from 11:00 to 1:00 Sunday, August 17 at Carter Park.

NeighborWorks Great Falls has generously provided a grant. Mr. Frosty will provide the ice cream and has promised to hand out flyers on the North and South routes earlier in the week.

NeighborWorks Great Falls has also provided a grant for NC-7 T-shirts for Council members.

NEW BUSINESS:

OTHER BUSINESS:

Charles Goodman of NWGF reported that the Baatz Building will have an open house on September 15. He also noted that there is a poster available that lists the Community Resource Guide.

NEIGHBORHOOD PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Margaret Mitchell, candidate for Senate District # 10, introduced herself.

Leesha Ford, Director of Toby's House Crisis Relief Center, presented Toby's House's idea for a newly constructed building, possibly on Carter Park in the little used southeast section. She requested that interested parties write letters of support for the project to the City Commission. Toby's House proposal will be on the Commission's August 19 agenda. Leesha can be contacted at Director@Tobyshousemt.org.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL:

Sandy distributed copies of the Resource Guide prepared by NeighborWorks and the Future Great Falls Growth Policy Update.

Neighborhood Council 5 will have a weed control presentation at the August 18 meeting.

Next Meeting: Monday September 8, 2025, at the Civic Center.

Agenda suggestions: Leesha Ford on plans for Toby's House new construction.

Eric Heinbach on the effect a lowered safety rating has on property insurance rates

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm on unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted, Sandra Rice, Secretary