

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL #5 MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 17th 2025 – 7:00pm

Great Falls Clinic Specialty Center, 3000 15th Ave So

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Co-Chair Howard Plouffe with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Members Present: Co-Chair Howard Plouffe, Dylan Lennox, Greg Milton, Luella Vogel. Members Excused: Tom Kotynski. Neighbors Present: 11

NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTION: Howard introduced and welcomed Greg Milton, our most recent member to join the council.

Howard also thanked Eric Ray for his 14 years of dedicated service to Neighborhood Council #5 and shared several of the multitude of accomplishments Eric achieved during his tenure on the Council. He will be missed.

NEW BUSINESS: Our first guest speaker was **Sheila Rice, a volunteer with the NEIGHBORWORKS PROGRAM** who discussed the homelessness issue in Great Falls and how the issue has broad-ranging impact on many aspects of the city. There are 535 named homeless with 200 homeless teenagers among that count, who are staying at various locations. The most recent population to be served is homeless men. This program, funded by a Family Promise Program grant, helps men gain the resources necessary to make it possible for them to become employable. It is proving to achieve the goal of becoming employed.

Our second guest was **Lanni Klasner, Communications Manager with Calumet**. Calumet employs one of the largest number of employees in Great Falls. It is one of the smallest refineries in the US, consisting of two companies, the Legacy side, Calumet Montana (CMR), and Montana Renewables (MRL). Since 2016 Calumet has invested 1 billion dollars in Great Falls. They employ 300 direct jobs averaging compensation of \$140,000 annually plus benefits, as well as, 3,100 regional jobs. Their tax contributions and capital investments directly support essential public services, schools, and infrastructure.

OLD BUSINESS: Eric Ray provided an update on the Russell Park path project. 250 feet has been completed and then the work stopped. Jason Boyd, Cascade County Public Works Superintendent, said ;they have sprayed the path with liquid tar which is less expensive and will help maintain the path. Eric also said the Park tennis court project is still on the table and it will happen.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 19th at 7:00. The guest speaker will be TJ Ashley, On-Site Foreman for Dick Anderson Construction, updating the Benefis Sanavita Estates Project. A tentative list of speakers for the remainder of 2026 is attached with these minutes.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm on a motion by Eric and second by Dylan.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Luella Vogel, Secretary