

**Minutes Neighborhood Council
District 3
Thursday, March 1, 2012
Riverview Multi-Purpose Room
7:00 p.m.**

Call to order: John Sturgeon, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Council members and guest speakers present: Lori Fay, Kathleen Gessaman, Ron Gessaman, Johnathan Kenneway, and John Sturgeon. Patty Cadwell, Neighborhood and Youth Council Coordinator, Police Chief Dave Bowen, Christie Mcomber and Brendan Scott from the MT Dept. of Transportation, Rep. Cleve Loney (HD 25 candidate), Tom Jacobson (HD 25 candidate), Mike Rausch (District Court Judge candidate), and Cyndi Baker were present.

Minutes: Lori F. moved to accept the minutes of the February 2, 2012 Neighborhood Council Three (NC3) meeting as posted on the City of Great Falls' website; Johnathan K. seconded. John S. asked if there were any changes, deletions, or discussion; there were none. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Delegate Reports: Johnathan K. reported on the February 7, 2012 City Commission meeting. [Minutes can be found at: <http://www.greatfallsmt.net/meetings>] Johnathan noted there will be a public hearing for closing 6th St NE at the March 6th City Commission meeting, and the Mayor proposed creating a Great Falls license plate. Johnathan also attended the Feb. 21st City Commission meeting and reported one of the Neighborhood Councils is concerned about the amount of train traffic in the City (Great Falls has the most train crossings for any city in Montana) and plans to study the issue. Johnathan summarized the rest of the Commission meeting.

Unfinished Business: Patty C. passed out a flyer from the Partnering for Parks committee [facebook.com/partneringforparks] promoting a **“Free Party for the Parks” on April 14, 2012 from 6 p.m. to midnight at the Hideout Lounge** (old Brick Sports Bar) at 2401 12th Ave South. Highlights of the event: **Free Admission, Live Auction, Silent Auction, Free Food, Live Music by Wurlitzer**. All event proceeds will go towards new playground equipment in Jaycee and Skyline Parks.

Follow the progress of the Skyline Park Development Committee at: <http://www.skylinepark.net/>; donors can use the tax exempt 501c3 ID number (81-046587) registered to the People's Park and Recreation Foundation of Great Falls, Montana. More donation information is available at the website.

Bylaw Changes: Kathleen G. moved to add the duties of the Vice Chair to follow after the Chair in the Bylaws under Section 5 – Officers and Duties. **B. Duties of the officers are as follows: Vice Chair: The Vice Chair shall act as an aide to the Chair and shall perform the duties of the Chair in the absence and/or inability of the Chair to act. Lori F. seconded.** John S. asked for discussion: Ron G. read from “Board Source,” the national standard for building boards [www.boardsource.org] about the duties of the Vice Chair; Lori said she looked at all the Neighborhood Councils bylaws across the country and their descriptions were shorter; **Johnathan K. called the question. The motion passed 4 to 1.**

Lori F. moved to accept the following changes to Section 7 – Removal and Vacancies of Officers.
A. Removal An Officer may be removed from his or her duties (as set forth in Section 5 – Officers and Duties) for good cause. Consideration of the removal shall be discussed at a prior meeting, shall require 4 votes, and the officer shall be given notice of said meeting. At the next subsequent meeting, removal of the officer shall be placed on the agenda, discussed by the Council and shall require 4 votes. **B. Vacancies** In the event that a vacancy should occur on the Council because of death,

resignation, illness, or removal, candidates for the unfilled term shall be nominated from the Council members and elected at the next scheduled meeting following the vacancy. The person elected to the vacated office will serve for the remainder of the term. Johnathan K. seconded. John S. called for discussion: Lori thought the wording was clearer, Ron G. said he didn't think there was any real benefit and preferred the statement "Any elected officer" in the present Bylaws. **Lori F. called the question. The motion failed; 2 For and 3 Against.**

New Business: Newly appointed Police Chief, Dave Bowen, spoke to NC3 about his background with the Great Falls Police Department. Chief Bowen said nothing is broken at the department. The department and its current style of policing are effective, but he would like to emphasize improving services to the community. Chief Bowen discussed community policing and suggested community partnerships and problem-orientated policing (using statistical data) could help the department better serve the community. Chief Bowen also answered numerous questions. In closing, Chief Bowen suggested the community invest in their families, their marriage, and their children as one of the best ways to keep the community strong.

Christie Mcomber and Brendan Scott from the Montana Department of Transportation (DOT) discussed projects in the NC3 area: the Smelter Ave project in Black Eagle will restart shortly; the intersection of Smelter Ave and 3rd St NW will be modified; the intersection at Smelter Ave and 4th St NE will be re-aligned; Smelter Ave utilities will be moved because the road width will increase from 25 ft to 42 ft and the section eastwards from the roundabout to the intersection with 3rd St NW (for the most part) will have two 12 ft travel lanes, 2 ft shoulders, a 14 ft two-way center turn lane, curbing, gutters, a 10 ft shared use pedestrian/bike path on the south side, and a 5 ft sidewalk on the north side; bids for the roundabout at Division and Smelter Ave will open around May 10th; the roundabout was designed to handle 67 ft truck/trailers; and in 2014, the Bootlegger from the intersection with Highway 87 up to the county line will be widened and improved to include 4 ft shoulders and a turn lane west onto to 36th Ave NE. If residents want a reduction in the Bootlegger's speed from Eagle's Crossing to 36th Ave NE, a DOT speed study would be needed; only local governments (in this case, the City) can request such a speed study.

The candidates on the agenda were given 5 minutes each to address NC3. Rep. Cleve Loney (HD 25) thanked the Council for the opportunity and spoke about his re-election campaign. Tom Jacobson, a candidate for HD 25, introduced himself and discussed his platform. Mike Rausch, a candidate for District Court Judge, spoke about his qualifications and local issues.

Cyndi Baker, 500 Montana Ave NW, discussed a flyer recently distributed in the HD 25 area. Cyndi said the flyer made untrue allegations about Rep. Loney. She appealed to the candidates to not use this type of smear advertising in their campaigns.

Issues of Neighborhood Concern: Ron G. mentioned that our community-policing officer, Officer Smail, was injured in an accident downtown early this week; he asked that NC3 go on record as extending the Council's best wishes for a speedy recovery to Officer Smail. Chief Bowen agreed to convey the Council's wishes. Chief Bowen reported Officer Smail is currently recovering at home.

Possible agenda items for the next meeting: cell phones, the large vehicle issue, and other political candidates – Patty said to let her know before the next meeting.

Johnathan K. moved to adjourn, Kathleen G. seconded, the motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for April 5, 2012 at 7 p.m. at Riverview School.

Respectfully submitted, Kathleen Gessaman, Secretary, NC3.