

**Minutes Neighborhood Council
District 3 (NC3)
Thursday, January 3, 2013
Multi-Purpose Room
7:00 p.m.**

Call to Order: Lori Fay, Chair Pro-tem, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. John Sturgeon was absent. A quorum of Council members was present.

Attendees: Council members: Lori Fay, Kathleen Gessaman, Ron Gessaman, and Johnathan Kenneway. City officials in attendance: Patty Cadwell, Neighborhood and Youth Council Coordinator, Officer Smail, Community Policing, Carol Bronson, Neighborhood Watch, and Bob Kelly, City Commissioner. Nine members of the public were in attendance.

Patty C. announced that Damon Carroll, who was a presenter on the agenda, couldn't attend the meeting.

Minutes: Lori F. noted the minutes of the Dec. 5, 2012 special meeting had the incorrect day of the week in the title it should read: ~~Thursday~~ **Wednesday, December 5, 2012. Ron moved to accept the minutes of the NC3 special meeting on December 5, 2012 subject to the correction noted by Lori F. Johnathan K. seconded.** Lori F. asked for public comment; there was none. **The motion passed.**

Johnathan K. moved to accept the December 6, 2012 Neighborhood Council Three minutes; Ron G. seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business: The Westgate Mall rezoning was the first item under old business. Lori stated that since at previous meetings the refinery representatives said they wanted the mall area for a storage site, she thought I-1 (light industrial) zoning would work for the neighborhood and Calumet. Ron G. reported he had three more people in the neighborhood approach him in the last week and express opposition to the rezoning; he asked them to express their opposition at the January 15, 2013 City Commission meeting. Lori asked for public comment; there was none.

Committee Reports: Johnathan K. reported on the last two City Commission meetings; minutes of City meetings can be found at <http://www.greatfallsmt.net/meetings>. Some items reported by Jonathan: Jason Lehman was appointed to NC9, the Refinery requested rezoning was accepted on first reading – setting a public hearing for the Jan. 15th City Commission meeting, the ADF zoning was approved, and Bob Kelly was sworn in at the Jan. 2nd City Commission meeting – Bob replaces Mary Jolley as City Commissioner.

Lori F. asked Patty C. if she had any new information about Skyline Park. Patty said she had none.

New Business: Officer Smail reported on crime statistics for the past three months in the NC3 area - in general, the area had its typical low crime rate with most activity being traffic related. He reported there were no DUIs citywide on New Year's Eve - maybe the programs like Home Free helped people get home safely. The group discussed some of the problems that might come to Great Falls with increased drilling and fracking for gas and oil. Officer Smail said more illegal drugs and bank robberies were two of the more unusual problems appearing in North Dakota – both associated with lots of money and man camps. Carol Bronson asked Officer Smail if he has had any contact with Neighborhood Watch groups in the area; he said no, but there might be more communication after the program completes its reorganization.

Carol Bronson was the next presenter; she passed out literature about the Neighborhood Watch program and discussed the program reorganization currently underway. Kathy G. asked how many houses were in a block watch. Carol said it varies but typically a block watch includes about five houses and a block captain. Carol encouraged neighbors to get involved in the program and invited everyone to come to the Neighbor Works sponsored gathering on Tuesday, January 8, 2013 from 5:30 to 6:30 for more program information; refreshments will be served. Carol reported Patty Cadwell agreed to be the contact person for people who wished to join Neighborhood Watch, call: 406-455-8496 or email: pcadwell@greatfallsmt.net.

Other Business: Patty C. and Johnathan K. asked for agenda suggestions for the January 30, 2013 Council of Councils meeting at 7 p.m. in the Gibson Room in the Civic Center. Ron G. suggested three items:

- 1) How reappointments to the various City Boards and Commissions are handled – presently vacancies are advertised but reappointments are not – not advertising reappointment positions may deny the boards and commissions of fresh ideas and members who might be more qualified than the reappointees;
- 2) The term length of appointments to the various City Boards and Commissions appears to have increased over the past few years with more and more of the appointment terms being longer than the two year city standard – are the longer terms desirable, working, etc. or are they causing stagnation?
- 3) In several recent situations, the City seems to be promoting an informal policy of allowing large property rezoning without requiring the applicant to present full details about what usage will be made of the rezoned property in the future – is this a good idea for the long-term well-being of our community?

In response to a question, Patty said the Council of Councils meets three times a year in the Gibson Room, and, presently, Commissioners Bronson and Burow attend as the City Commission's representatives.

Petitions and Communications: Patty C. said Damon Carroll was on the agenda to talk about possibly building multifamily apartment units on the strip of land west of the water tower and across from the Volk storage units on 36th Ave NE. Bettie and Marvin Ambuehl said they had missed a ball game at CMR specifically to hear what Damon C. had to say. Marvin and Bettie were concerned about water drainage (presently, water from a pump repair has flooded that section of land down to 12 St NE), parking, and the effect of apartments on property values. Kathy G. asked if the parking was covered and if they would widen 36th Ave NE to match the width of the road down by Harvest Springs Church. Ron G. asked if Mr. Carroll was planning on building two eight-plexes like he did in the Portage Meadows area. Patty didn't know anything about the project and suggested Damon would try to speak to the neighbors at a future meeting before filing his plans officially with the City.

Lori F. asked Bob Kelly if he had anything he wished to say. Bob said this was the first Neighborhood Council meeting he had attended and he hoped people would address their concerns on issues like the Refinery rezoning at the City Commission meeting as well as at the Neighborhood Councils. Bob said he plans to listen to people and will try to be their advocate to City Staff.

Johnathan K. moved to adjourn, Ron G. seconded, the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2013 at 7 p.m. at Riverview School.

Respectfully submitted, Kathleen Gessaman, NC3 Secretary.

The NC3 Board would like to thank Riverview School for providing a meeting spot for NC3 at the school.