

Minutes Neighborhood Council District 3 (NC3)
Thursday, June 6, 2013
Multi-Purpose Room
7:00 p.m.

Call to Order: John Sturgeon, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Johnathan Kenneway, was unable to attend. Those present were: Council members John Sturgeon, Lori Fay, Kathleen Gessaman, and Ron Gessaman, a quorum; City representatives Marty Basta (Director of Parks and Recreation) and Patty Cadwell (Neighborhood and Youth Council Coordinator), and ten members of the public.

Minutes: John S. asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting. **Lori F. moved to approve the May 2, 2013 minutes; Ron G. seconded.** There was no discussion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Unfinished Business:

• **Committee Reports:** Ron G. reported on the City Meetings: on May 7th, the Commissioners approved the PUD overlay on I-2 zoning for Calumet's Westgate Mall; on May 24th, the City Commissioners approved switching the City's insurance from Blue Cross Blue Shield to MMIA; at the May 14th Planning and Zoning Board meeting, the Board approved Damon Carroll's plans for a PUD zoning for his proposed 24 unit Skyline Heights apartment complex (next to the water tower on 36th Ave NE); and on June 4th the City Commissioners tabled setting the public hearing for the first reading for Ordinance 3108 (to approve the annexation of Skyline Heights Apartments) until zoning issues spotted by the interim City Attorney could be resolved.

Minutes of City meetings can be found at <http://www.greatfallsmt.net/meetings>.

Unfinished Business: Skyline Additions Park: Marty Basta, Director of Parks and Recreation, summarized his previous presentation of the proposal by some members of Faith Lutheran Church to buy the undeveloped City and GFPS property across from Skyline School (the property is located between 2nd and 3rd Streets NE and 32nd and 33rd Avenues NE). Marty said Dr. Crowley (GF Public Schools Superintendent) indicated last year that the School District didn't have any use for their approximately 1 acre parcel adjacent to Skyline School. Marty reiterated the parcel was appraised on May 9, 2012 and its approximate 4 acres were valued from \$15-18,000 per acre or about \$60,000 to \$72,500 total. George Forsyth (212 Skyline Dr) noted a nearby single lot sold for near \$75,000 recently; he suggested surrounding neighbors buy the land to preserve the open space. Lori F. said she didn't want to sell parkland to pay for ECP debts. Marty responded that the money from a sale would go to the Park Trust Fund and those funds could only be used for parkland purchase or development. Ron asked if any money from the Park Trust Fund could be used for maintaining parks; Marty admitted that a small percentage could be used for maintenance.

Ron G. reported he talked to twelve of the neighbors living around the Skyline parcel earlier today, and only one person was in favor of selling the property (mostly because of uncontrolled dandelions). Dan Devine (3101 2nd St NE) said traffic is terrible on 2nd St NE and the road is too narrow for more traffic. June Sprout (217 Skyline Dr) said her property looks out over the parkland and every hour she sees someone walking, flying kites or remote controlled aircraft, walking dogs, etc. June noted many people bought property there because of the open space and many young families walk in the area. Lori F. asked how the neighborhood could promote making the park into a dog park; the neighbors were very interested in this possibility. Patty C. said a dog park could attract more traffic; Ron G. noted the existing dog park lot on River Road rarely fills up during weekdays. There being no further public comment on the sale of the Skyline Addition property, **Ron G. moved to recommend to the City Commission that this park property not be sold; Lori F. seconded. John S. asked if there was more discussion and hearing none called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously.**

Marty said the Park Advisory Board was meeting at 3 p.m. on June 10, 2013, and he would mention the Council's vote tonight to the Board. He invited everyone to attend the meeting.

Petitions and Communications: Al Smith, former NC3 Board member, (421 25th Ave NE) presented information supporting the installation of a cross walk at 4th St. NE and 25th Ave NE – just across from the playground equipment at Jaycee Park. Al noted there is a lot of traffic and speeding in the area and neighborhood children and walkers need a safer way to cross 4th St. NE. Patti C. said Jerry McKinley is in charge of traffic control and recommended Al contact him. Marty B. volunteered to talk to Jerry about adding a crosswalk for Jaycee Park access. The group discussed the using speed bumps, ramps, etc. to slow traffic.

Ron G. briefly reported on some NC3 area neighbors who are organizing to maintain the existing zoning designation. Ron said the residents living near the proposed Skyline Heights Apartments are opposed to putting a high density, three-story building next to their single-family residential lots. The residents expressed concern that the Planning Department has decided that if the project is given a PUD overlay on a medium-density R-5 zoning that the project will no longer be high-density even if medium-density R-5 zoning only allows two-story structures; residents consider three-story structures to be high-density (R-6).

Sue Smith (421 25th Ave NE) asked for suggestions on getting neighbors to clean up after their dogs and control weeds. Patty C. suggested Sue call Animal Control about the dog problems and Debbie Kimball at Public Works about weeds over 8 inches tall.

Ron G. moved to adjourn, Lori F. seconded; the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

NC3 will not hold meetings during July or August. The next NC3 meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, September 5, 2013 at 7 p.m. at Riverview School.

Respectfully submitted, Kathleen Gessaman, NC3 Secretary. Please note these minutes are not an exact record of what was said.

The NC3 Board would like to thank Riverview School for providing a meeting spot for NC3 on the evening of the last day of school for the current school year.