

Meeting called to order at 7 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Attendance was taken by Secretary SueAnn Strickland. Those present were Phyllis Hemstad, Dorothy Schmidt, Bob Mehlhoff, Kelly Manzer, and SueAnn Strickland. A quorum was established.

New Business – Mike Dalton, Sunburst, Inc., gave an update on the Westside Community Garden. We were the first Neighborhood Council to support the 2 acre Community Garden. 150 shrubs were planted with 100 plus being given to the neighbors so they could green-up and beautify their property. 750 pots were sold in one morning, which gave much needed start up capital. Sally Stevens is the only paid employee and is the plant manager. All plantings were watered using a borrowed water truck. The produce will not be sold but rather given to an organization who is also trying to better the community – the Headstart Program. Boys and Girls Cub also was allotted a plot of land for a pumpkin patch, with the children being bussed twice a week to the garden to “work” and learn about the things that are produced there. There are also bee hives being kept and utilized there, with the Garden the recipient of 40 lbs. of honey. The bees are winterized and will survive over the winter. Mike also explained the greenhouse which will be built to the north end. Steps from the old Library are now being utilized as seats for the “classroom under the Poplars”. We will get a further update in the Spring.

Kathy Mora, Great Falls Public Library Director, spoke on a project called Little Free Library – simply, take a book, bring a book – at the specially marked Kiosk which will be placed in a park in each of the 9 Neighborhood Councils. Kelly made a motion with SueAnn seconding to have one placed in a westside park. The vote was unanimous. SueAnn suggested Rhodes Park as a location. SueAnn made a motion to recommend that Rhodes Park be the first Westside Park location. This was seconded by Kelly. The vote was unanimous. It was also mentioned that Westbank Park also be considered for a second location.

Neighborhood Concerns – Both Phyllis and Kelly received calls from the same gentleman who lives across from Westside Kiwanis Park that during activities there, his property is being blocked by cars. It was not understood if it was his driveway or parking on the boulevard that was a concern. Phyllis stated that this was a problem all over town, and unless someone is parked directly on his property, there is nothing that can be done, as everyone is entitled to park on the city streets.

Old Business – Approval of last month’s minutes. Kelly made a motion to approve with Dorothy seconding. Motion passed unanimously.

West Levee Update – No news ( and this is good news).

Council Trust Account -- There was a discussion last month as to what to do with the \$946.00 in our Council’s Trust Account. Dorothy made a motion to use the money to plant trees in West Kiwanis Park. Sue seconded the motion. Phyllis said that she will round out the amount to \$1,000.00. Motion was carried unanimously. Bob and Phyllis have agreed to split the cost of a drinking fountain in the park also. Sandy Mares would like to see a couple of evergreens in the park and will talk with Marty Basta about this.

Police Advisory Board -- Bob reported that they toured the new Communications Bldg. on Gore Hill. There are still some glitches to be worked out. In Jan. we will have to decide who will take Bob’s position on this Board, as well as Phyllis’ position on the Council of Councils.

Kelly questioned why there were only Grizzly posters up in the cafeteria and no Bobcat posters. She will call principal Michelle Meredith for an explanation.

Mayor Winters followed through on MaryAnn Komar's issue concerning street repairs. She received a call that all the funds were currently going toward water main repairs.

Kurt Robinson's dog issue is being looked into further by the new City Attorney and there will be more information later. Kelly will write a revised letter next week. Patty will e-mail Kelly the history of the animal ordinance.

Turf Club information will be presented at a later meeting. Things are still pending. There was much discussion regarding the discrepancies between the Fair's and the Turf Club's financial reports. Sandy Mares expressed concern that the books do not reconcile. Kelly said that she does not know what can be done.

There was discussion about the possibility of joining City and County operations to prevent duplication. This issue will be voted on soon.

Bob made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Sue. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

SueAnn Strickland, Secretary