

## Neighborhood Council 7

April 14, 2014

Great Falls Civic Center, Rainbow Room, 7pm

Council Members in attendance were Tracy Houck, Amber Gardner, Dona Stebbins, Jim Super and Trevor Mikkelsen. Patty Cadwell Neighborhood Council Coordinator was absent this month.

7:04 p.m. Chairperson Tracy Houck called the meeting to order and Jim Super led the council in the pledge of allegiance.

Minutes of 3/10/14 Meeting moved to be accepted by Dona, seconded by Jim, accepted.

Old Business:

New Business:

Committee Reports:

City Council, no one has been able to attend City Council meeting since our last meeting.

Police Advisory Board: Jim Super was able to attend. He reported on the movement of the 911 center to the Airport. Concerns of the chief of police were ongoing problems with drugs, violent sexual offenders and the number of child abuse cases. There are 120 employees of the department with 85 of those badged officers.

Downtown Development Partnership: Tracy attended and reported on the development of the Set Free/Rocky Mountain building. Business partners in this project are hoping to have the project begin in June as they secure funding. Looking for 40 affordable housing spaces, 5 retail locations and 2 commercial leases.

May 12 NC7 meeting will be at Whittier School with presentations by Carol Bronson and neighborhood watch.

Stuart Nicholson was present and gave a report for the proposed school Levy for 1.6 million. Great Falls School District has the lowest cost per student of any AA district 9% below average. Salaries are 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest in AA districts. Dropout rate was reduced 50% last year. Homeless students exceed 250. More free & reduced lunches 55% elementary. Roughly 50% highschool. Average age of buildings is 50 years old, newest building built in 1970. K12 mill levy is lowest in AA districts. In past 9 years Mills have decreased 16% COLA is about 33%.

Greg Doyon City Manager gave a presentation on the proposed City Budget effective July 1, 2014. Slow property tax growth, department reliance on General Fund, Electric City Power Settlement and Capital Planning for Facilities and equipment are major budget drivers. The plan is increase economic development, stabilize the budget, reduce pressure on General Fund support to departments, increase capital planning for facilities. The plan includes a budget overhaul process considering Service Review, Fee review, Fund Review and quarterly budget meetings. The plan will

be set by determining Resident Priorities. New tax revenues coming into the General Fund has averaged about 10% of General Fund revenues in the past 10 years.

The largest portion of the city budget goes to pay wages and benefits approximately 70%

Shelia Rice from Neighborworks reported that they have applied for a zoning change at 905/907/909 5<sup>th</sup> ave S to create a 4plex similar to what was done on the 300 block of 5<sup>th</sup> ave s @ 301/303/305. Neighborworks built 17 new structures last year. Maypril is scheduled for April 26 & May 3. Sheila also spoke briefly about Neighborworks stewardship of the Neighborhood Watch Program.

Mary Moe talked about her candidacy for Senate District 12 and why she is running and what is most important to her.

Ashley reported that abandoned vehicles are being cleared up and the police volunteer program is working on this. Policeman's Ball is coming up. Warrant calls have been made and are successful.

May Agenda:

NeighborWorks' Carol Bronson will facilitate a presentation of Neighborhood Watch. Meeting will be at Whittier School on May 12.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 by Tracy Houck.