

Great Falls Citizens' Council
Council of Councils Meeting Minutes
October 30, 2012

The meeting was opened by Johnathon Kenneway, Neighborhood Council #3, at 7:00 p.m.

Delegates present: Lynda Sowell, Neighborhood Council #1; Phyllis Hemstad, Neighborhood Council #2; Johnathon Kenneway, Neighborhood Council #3; Sandra Guynn, Neighborhood Council #4; Eric Ray, Neighborhood Council #5; Carl Donovan, Neighborhood Council #6; Amber Gardner, Neighborhood Council #7; Karen Grove, Neighborhood Council #8; and Peggy Scheschy, Neighborhood Council #9.

Guests present: Carol Bronson, NeighborWorks; Ida Meehan and Wendy Thomas, Planning/Community Development; Judy Tankink; Rudolf Tankink; and Commissioner Mary Jolley.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Minutes** from the May 30, 2012 meeting were approved as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Neighborhood Watch collaboration:** Carol Bronson, Community Building Coordinator for NeighborWorks, explained the recent change in the area Neighborhood Watch leadership. Neighbor Watch has moved from Cascade County RSVP to NeighborWorks. Plans to cultivate a partnership between the Councils, the Neighborhood Watch participants, and the Community Policing officers in each neighborhood are underway. Bi-monthly Business Watch presentations already in place will be available as trainings for new Watch members. Additionally, there will be a yearly volunteer event. Eric Ray spoke about his Council's recruitment and partnering efforts. Patty mentioned that Councils would hopefully, in the future, provide agenda space for Neighborhood Watch communication.
2. **Growth Policy Update:** Planner Ida Meehan and Planning/Community Development Deputy Director Wendy Thomas presented information on the activities associated with the update, Imagine Great Falls, which included an open house, working group meetings, presentation to many community groups, surveys, and visioning activities. Ida handed out surveys that were filled out by the attendees and provided opportunities for the attendees to identify city strengths and weaknesses and preferred areas for budget emphasis.

OTHER BUSINESS

Individual Council Sharing

1. Lynda Sowell reported her Council was off for the summer with not much happening yet this season.
2. Phyllis Hemstad reported Jim Morin for the Airport Authority Board had presented information on new flights, new construction and had been questioned about low fares for Great Falls customers. Additionally Marty Basta and others had presented information on a new community garden in Community Hall Park, and all of the candidates had made presentations at their last meeting. Neighborhood concerns had been around a dog and zoning issues.

3. Johnathon Kenneway reported his Council had taken the summer off also. However, the last meeting had been lively with topics including the rezoning of the Westgate property to heavy commercial for the Montana Refining Company along with a senior apartment tax credit project on Division Road.
4. Sandra Guynn reported her Council met during the summer. The problem property located at 4727 2nd Avenue North has been cleaned up and sold to a developer who plans to build storage units. Also Marty Basta and Audrey Finlayson are working on developing a Parks column for the Tribune. The Council met at the Highway Patrol Office in September and toured the Drug Take Back operation there. Council #4 is planning an Open House to cultivate resident input for the Growth Policy update.
5. Eric Ray reported his Council had been dealing with resident complaints from the construction of two Benefis projects: Cascade Ridge and Grandview. The residents have submitted claims for damages from blowing dirt. In addition, his Council had another large meeting about Neighborhood Watch and intends to continue the partnership between it and the Council.
6. Carl Donovan reported his Council is still working on Upper Lower River Road drainage problems. The Eight Ball Inn issue has been resolved. There has been some vandalism in the alleys in his neighborhood.
7. Amber Gardner reported her Council had recently had presentations from representatives of the Rescue Mission and the new Goodwill offices that will be located in the old Interstate Bank building. She said her Council was currently working on cleaning up the post office building located on the corner of 2nd Street and 2nd Avenue North.
8. Karen Grove reported her Council was pretty quiet, though they have recently worked with residents on a neighborhood issue. Her Council just filled a vacancy also.
9. Peggy Scheschy reported her Council met throughout the summer though things had been pretty quiet.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. **Neighborhood Concerns:**

Karen Grove mentioned she had noticed many more occasions where people were using her garbage can since the recycling center had shut down. Others present said they had noticed the same.

Carl Donovan reported an abandoned car near McDonalds on 10th. He will call PD to report.

Judy Tankink mentioned that bicycle riders were talking on their cell phones and wondered if they were covered under the new ordinance. She said she believed the ones she had seen were from the PreRelease Center. She will call to report to the Director of the PreRelease Center.

The next Council of Councils meeting will be held Wednesday, January 30, 2013.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Cadwell
Neighborhood Council Coordinator