

Great Falls Citizens' Council
Council of Councils Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2015

The meeting was opened by Eric Ray, Neighborhood Council #5, at 7:00 p.m. in the Gibson Room in the Civic Center with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Delegates present: Sue Ann Strickland, Neighborhood Council #2; Kathy Gessaman, Neighborhood Council #3; Sandra Guynn, Neighborhood Council #4; Eric Ray, Neighborhood Council #5; Julie Parker, Neighborhood Council #6; Lisa Meyers, Neighborhood Council #7; Karen Grove, Neighborhood Council #8; Scott Miranti, Neighborhood Council #9; Commissioner Bill Bronson; and Commissioner Fred Burow.

Councils not represented: Neighborhood Council #1.

Guests: Captain Rob Moccasin, Mayor Michael Winters, Corky Grove, Bill Brainard, Barney Danishefsky, Jered Kuno, Patty Cadwell and several unidentified persons.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Minutes** from the May 26, 2015 meeting were presented and the vote to accept the minutes as presented was unanimous.
2. **Update of Holman Building**—Council #2 Sue Strickland brought the Council Delegates up to date on the Holman Building, including the response letter from Mr. Holman's attorney Gregg Smith (attached). Chairman Ray asked Sue what her agenda action would be. Sue replied her Council would create a petition, approved by the City Attorney. Chairman Ray then asked how the Delegates felt about signing the petition. Responses varied with some agreeing "something" had to be done; some wanted the building demolished; others wanted it to be brought up to code. Chairman Ray also asked the public attendees what they thought and the responses were similar to those of the Delegates, with some questioning the legality of the City Ordinances that would deem the building a public nuisance. An active discussion took place on legality issues. Commissioner Bronson commented that the City Attorney would have the final discretion to act or not act on the Ordinance, which did not bear on the Councils' ability to vote on and distribute a petition. Sue Strickland made a motion that Council #2 create a petition, worded precisely to request City action against the Holman Building, that would be distributed to the other Councils for action per their discretion. The motion was seconded and voted upon. There were 7 affirmative votes. Motion passed.
3. **NC3 Resolution (attached)**—Kathy Gessaman, Council #3, read the Resolution that requests the City of GF fulfill its responsibility to its citizens by assuring adequate infrastructure prior to large new developments. She asked for Council of Council support. Comments expressing reluctance to support came from Eric Ray, Council #5, who said his Council had not experienced the same problems with development and suggested more direct contact with City staff and Commission; Commissioner Fred Burow who said the issues had been or were already being addressed; Sandra Guynn, Neighborhood Council #4, who said she could not relate to the issues expressed in the Resolution as her area had little development expansion but had not had problems with the few that had taken place. Mayor Winters supported the resolution for reasons associated with increased traffic in the entire Riverview area and along 6th Street NW where he lives and observes many problems. Scott Miranti, Neighborhood Council #9, agreed with the mayor's comments. Commissioner Bronson suggested instead that a request be presented to the City Commission to make changes to the existing Growth Policy that would better reflect issues currently being expressed. Ms. Gessaman suggested

her Council's purpose of bringing the issues expressed in the Resolution to the Council of Councils was more to raise awareness than to ask for support. No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **DDACTS (Data Driven Approach to Crime and Traffic Safety), GFPD Captain Rob Moccasin**—Capt. Moccasin explained this was not a new program but one that had been reassessed, rearranged and reinstated. Its purpose is to reduce traffic crashes and property crime through increased police presence and visibility, and careful observation of the collected data surrounding the traffic and crime activity. The Department has observed a decrease in crime due to program activity through use of current records to create a visualization of traffic crashes which showed that crime was elevated in the high crash areas. The program is not only to reduce traffic crashes. Capt. Moccasin want to the get the info about the program out to stakeholders—the community, and involve the Neighborhood Councils as stakeholders. Data will be applied to maps so enforcement can be concentrated in the proper areas.

OTHER BUSINESS

Individual Council Sharing

1. Council #1 Delegate not present.
2. Sue Ann Strickland said the Holman Building was still the main consideration of the Council at present. She mentioned her Council had recently heard from their Community Policing Officer and also welcomed a new church to the area—the Greater Faith Church of the Open Door.
3. Kathy Gessaman noted her Council had heard from many of the candidates for the City Commission and was looking forward to a visit from someone from the Planning/Community Development Department regarding new activity in the Thaniel Addition.
4. Sandra Guynn reported her Council had heard from Scott Patera of Northwest Energy regarding the move and expansion of the east substation, which would increase the size, in part due to the Walmart development. Her Council will not have meetings in November or December due to their meeting dates coinciding with Thanksgiving and Christmas.
5. Eric Ray reported his Council met throughout the summer. He also reported the Candidate Forum his Council hosted was a great success and plans to hold others in the future. His Council had recently heard from the City Forester and Brad Livingston, former Director of Statewide Preparedness.
6. Julie Parker announced her Council's Ice Cream Social was a great success and included Neighborhood Watch recruitment, which will be relooked at in the future. Julie said another concern in her area is the proposed 2016 road expansion of 24th Avenue South, connecting 13th and 26th Streets South.
7. Lisa Meyers said her Council recently heard from Officer Kimmert and found their area is the area of the highest crime in Great Falls. She said they are hoping DDACTS and Code Red will help with notification of serious crime, like the recent bank robbery. Lisa added her Council had asked the Commission to rescind the residential parking permit in the Council #7 area.
8. Karen Grove reported Council #8 was still a quiet area. Their Ice Cream Social in August was a success. They did not meet in December. They recently heard a proposal for a Conditional Use Permit to change the old monastery across from the old St. Gerard's Church into a transitional home for 10 homeless vets. The Council offered its support.
9. Scott Miranti reported ongoing traffic problems at Great Falls High School with good communication with PD. They hoped for more police presence in the area. They had an ice cream social in July that was successful. The Council still hopes to create Neighborhood Watches in the area.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. **Neighborhood Concerns:** A group of unidentified landlords reported a new State Statute regarding trespassers on rental property had taken effect on October 1 and wanted to know if the local police were aware of and subsequently enforcing the statute. Commissioner Bronson suggested they call Chief Bowen to discuss how it will be handled. Bill Brainard wanted police to more receptive to evicting trespassers. Corky Grove commented that he believed implementation of actions associated with the new statute would take time.

A motion and second were made to close the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

The next Council of Councils meeting will be held Tuesday, January 26, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Cadwell, Neighborhood Council Coordinator