

MINUTES WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL#2 March 9, 2016

Meeting called to order by Miss Olson. Pledge of Allegiance recited. Attendance was taken by Mrs. Strickland with Mrs. Strickland Miss Olson, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Ferderer present. Miss Patera was home sick. A quorum was established.

Laura Merchant and Kristy Pontet-Stroop explained the CHIP – Community Health Improvement Program. The program assessment started in 2012 with a survey and then in 2015 again. For more information please visit the website thouston@casadecountymt.gov or visit www.cchdmt.org. This all falls under United Way goals as a community impact model. A question and answer period followed.

Carol Bronson spoke on the Neighborhood watch program. She would like the council to co-ordinate the program for the neighborhoods. Discussion followed. Debbie Pickering of 511 2nd Ave. S. W. spoke regarding her concerns of retaliation every time she calls the City with a problem with the neighborhood. It was explained that any action by the City is complaint driven only. A discussion followed as to why the citizens of Great Falls must lodge complaints in order for the City to do anything and why is the City not enforcing their codes. It was felt that the City should be doing its job in enforcing the codes and not make the citizens the “bad guys”.

Brittany Olson was nominated by Al Ferderer to serve as our representative to the Police Advisory Board and seconded by SueAnn Strickland. The vote was unanimous.

Brittany spoke to the City Commissioners at their work session two weeks prior and gave them an update on our questions to them. SueAnn Strickland gave a further update on the Trespass Law and why our Police Dept. will not enforce it. The wording has now gone to the Attorney General’s Office for final ruling. If he feels that the wording is okay then the police will have to enforce the law. The Tow Man issue was discussed. Lack of Code enforcement was discussed. No solutions were brought forth by the City. Craig Raymond and Charlie Sheets are to work on the Code situation. Craig has yet to talk with Heather Rohlf on the Code violation issues on the Holman Building.

Albert J. Ferderer announced his candidacy for House District 22. He plans on running a one-man campaign using his own personal funds and not requesting public donations.

Sandy Mares reported on the West Side Flood District. There is a public meeting Monday April 11, 2016. The proposed budget, property tax assessment, and Court hearing date are to be discussed.

Mike McCoy mentioned the access issue to West Bank Park. The City is sitting in on the talks but this will be ultimately decided between Calumet Refinery and Burlington Railway.

Motion was made to adjourn at 8:45 by Al Ferderer and Seconded by SueAnn Strickland with a unanimous vote. Next meeting will be April 13, 2016.