

**Great Falls Citizens' Council**  
**Council of Councils Meeting Minutes**  
**January 26, 2016**

The meeting was opened by Julie Parker, Neighborhood Council #6, at 7:00 p.m. in the Gibson Room in the Civic Center with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Delegates present:** Mike McCoy, Neighborhood Council #2; Terry Thompson, 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; Barney Danishefsky, Neighborhood Council #9; Commissioner Bill Bronson; and Commissioner Fred Burow.

**Councils not represented:** Neighborhood Council #1.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Minutes** from the October 27, 2015, meeting were presented. Lisa Meyers suggested a correction to the spelling of her name. Karen Grove made a motion to accept minutes as corrected. Lisa Meyers seconded. The vote to accept the minutes as corrected was unanimous.
2. **Update of Holman Building-** Mike McCoy, Council #2, brought the Council Delegates up to date on the Holman Building, including the status of the completed petitions. A couple of the Councils did not support the idea of petitioning the City to enforce codes, and others questioned the legality of the Councils' petition activity. Ultimately, the City Attorney will decide what, if any, actions will take place.

In response to growing questions from the Councils about another unattended building project (possible "eyesore"), Mark Cappis, one of the partners of the Rocky Mountain Building reconstruction project, updated the Council of Councils on its progress. He said financing was lining up, grants had been received to determine the Brownfield status, and some of the general cleanup would start in late February.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **GFPD Volunteers— Adrienne Ehrke, Volunteer Coordinator.** Adrienne explained the mission of GFPD and her list of duties as the Volunteer Coordinator which included social media manager, event coordinator, and helper of the Citizens Academy. She gave pertinent facts about the volunteers and their projects which include, but are not limited to, listening to inmate calls, tagging and removing abandoned vehicles on city streets, citizen patrol, entering and filing warrants, assisting with Citizens Academy and helping out at the front desk. There are 30 volunteers of various ages and backgrounds who commit to 4 hours a week or 200 hours per year. Lisa Meyers is one of the volunteers with specific, complex, duties.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

1. **Positive Updates**

Council #2 reported two vacant buildings in their area had been purchased and now housed two new church organizations: the old Saint Joseph Catholic Church had been remodeled and was now the Greater Faith, Church of the Open Door, and the old Saint Joseph Catholic School across the street was now occupied by Calvary Baptist Church, currently only for storage purposes. Additionally after concerted efforts of Council #2 member Mike McCoy, street lights had been installed along 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NW adjacent to West Kiwanis Park.

## **2. Individual Council Sharing**

1. Council #1 delegate not present.
2. Mike McCoy had already spoken.
3. Terry Thompson noted her Council had recently invited City staff to investigate the need for crosswalks across 36<sup>th</sup> Ave NE for children going to and returning from school via the school bus and those wishing to go to Skyline Park from homes located to the north.
4. Sandra Guynn reported her Council had not had meetings in November or December due to their meeting dates coinciding with Thanksgiving and Christmas. Her Council members did attend the training provided by the City on open meeting law and other subjects relating to Neighborhood Councils.
5. Eric Ray reported ongoing construction was happening with the new Clinic Hospital and additional units at Cascade Ridge, and due to preliminary proactive communications from his Council and residents, many problems associated with construction, such as dust issues, had been averted.
6. Julie Parker reported Neighborhood Watch recruitment in her area was moving forward. She also cited a disturbing incident of home invasion that had happened recently as more reason for continued action towards active Neighborhood Watches.
7. Lisa Meyers said her Council recently heard from Officer Kimmet that their area continues to be the area of highest crime in Great Falls. Her Council is involved in several meetings regarding the downtown area. There were new members on her Council this term and 4 out of the 5 members attended the training. She noted her Council may revisit Neighborhood Watch recruitment in the future.
8. Karen Grove reported Council #8 was still a good neighborhood. They had held elections, reviewed their bylaws and had attended the training. They had recently heard from representatives of the Great Falls Development Authority and found the information interesting and valuable.
9. Barney Danishefsky reported students from Great Falls High School had reported a lack of snow removal in the parking lot and along sidewalks that was causing safety issues. Additionally, the Council had been working with neighbors adjacent to a rental property who were concerned about litter and other serious problems.

## **PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no Petitions and Communications

A motion and second were made to close the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

The next Council of Councils meeting will be held Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Cadwell, Neighborhood Council Coordinator