

Great Falls Citizens' Council
Council of Councils Meeting Minutes
October 25, 2016

Karen Grove, Neighborhood Council #8, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Gibson Room in the Civic Center with the roll call.

Delegates present: Shyla Patera, Neighborhood Council #2; Terry Thompson, Neighborhood Council #3; Sandra Guynn, Neighborhood Council #4; Eric Ray, Neighborhood Council #5; Julie Parker, Neighborhood Council #6; Karen Grove, Neighborhood Council #8; Barney Danishefsky, Neighborhood Council #9; City Commissioner Bill Bronson; and City Commissioner Fred Burow.

Visitors present: Corky Grove, Ron Gessaman, Jean Price, and Mitch Tropila.

Delegates and Commissioners not present: Neighborhood Councils #1 and #7 Delegates were not present.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Minutes** from the May 24, 2016 meeting were presented. Sandra Guynn made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Eric Ray seconded. Karen called for a vote, which was unanimous in favor of acceptance.
2. **Holman Building update:** Karen read the *attached* letter from Planning/Community Development Director Craig Raymond which provided a synopsis of actions taken and progress of the abatement to the building located on Central Avenue West, across from the new Federal Court House.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **City Code Enforcement update** – Assistant City Attorney Joe Cik presented information (*attached*) regarding the City's updated procedure for property code enforcement, which includes the citizen complaint form, the nuisance abatement procedure including performance bonds, and criminal prosecution.
2. **Building Active Communities Initiative (BACI)** – Abigail Lichliter and Erin Merchant from the BACI gave a presentation on visual changes to city areas that would attract people to visit, mainly for encouraging activities such as walking, biking, and shopping: placemaking, which is designing spaces around what people like to do. Existing examples are the Farmer's Market, the painted light boxes on the corners downtown, and the downtown playground behind the Roberts Apartments. Bright and attractive crosswalks were a suggestion for neighborhoods in Great Falls to increase activity and interest in an area. Food trucks were also suggested in neighborhood parks. Julie Parker asked who would pay for these changes. Commissioner Bronson proposed possible grants. Abigail and Erin said the BACI group is there to help implement ideas. Abigail gave her phone number for more information or for requests to give the presentation to specific Neighborhood Councils: 454-6980.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Candidate Introduction** – County Commission candidate **Mitch Tropila** introduced himself, gave some background information about his political service, and provided a brief description of his philosophy for

service as a Cascade County Commissioner. Additionally, **Jean Price**, who is seeking reelection for the State Legislature, introduced herself and described the committees she has been serving on for three terms.

2. Individual Council Sharing

2. Shyla Patera reported her Council is excited about the Holman Building.
3. Terry Thompson reported her Council took the summer months off, but is concerned about the crime in their neighborhood. Residents do have a Facebook page and Neighborhood Watch is being discussed. A crosswalk has been painted on 2nd Street and 36th Ave NE at the urging of the Council. Reconstruction on 36th Ave NE has been delayed until spring. The design for this project brought up concerns about drainage.
4. Sandra Guynn reported her Council had toured Chief Joseph and Lewis and Clark schools during the summer. She also reported development is taking place in her area including the egg plant and a new church. She invited everyone to attend her meeting on Thursday to hear information on “human trafficking.” Her Council will probably not meet in November or December due to the holidays.
5. Eric Ray reported how much his Council appreciated the opportunity to meet with the mayor and commissioners in March and called Mayor Kelly to see if that was going to continue. It will. The big projects, Walmart and the outlots, are progressing nicely. Super One Foods opened in September and sponsored the Council’s ice cream social and has also promised to sponsor all future Council social events. Council #5 and #6 held a joint meeting to hear information on a proposed NeighborWorks project to build 17 units south of 23rd Ave S.
6. Julie Parker reported her Council had their ice cream social in June. Ice cream and pop were donated and Robin Baker paid for the rest of the supplies. Neighborhood Watch is progressing in the neighborhood with the help of Sunnyside School. There were no meetings during the summer and the September meeting was cancelled due to the lack of a quorum. Speeding on 4th Street has been a concern and is being looked into by Officer Gerhart. Also, the upper/lower river road drainage project is progressing.
8. Karen Grove reported her Council did not meet during the summer. Crime in the form of vandalism in the area is a new concern and Neighborhood Watch is being looked into. The summer ice cream social was a great success. The October meeting had to be cancelled, at the meeting, because there was not a quorum.
9. Barney reported that the Council had been successful in getting a school crosswalk on 25th Street and was greatly pleased at the response from the City in getting that done. Also a master plan has been donated from an architectural firm for Kranz Park. The only problem is no money to implement it. The Council was involved with a neighborhood dispute regarding an apartment complex which has since been resolved.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. Ron Gessaman said he was dismayed not to hear about vandalism on 1st Ave S between 10th and 12th Streets, and he has been helping owners of 7 residences to find contractors to repair the damage. He also brought to the attention of the delegates that the Neighborhood Council Handbook has a discrepancy in the election of officers. He also said residents in Riverview had had problems with the mucuous membranes around their mouths and had heard lots of noise from the refinery. He left a phone number of a person at DEQ for complaints.

2. In response to Ron's code concern, Joe Cik, Assistant City Attorney, mentioned he was looking at many code issues including the animal code.
3. Patty announced Meadow Gold had been very generous to Councils with their ice cream donations in 2016.
4. Commissioner Burow reminded the delegates that changes to the cell phone ordinance, which would raise the existing fines, would be brought before the Commission soon.

A motion and second were made to close the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

The next Council of Councils meeting will be held Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Cadwell, Neighborhood Council Coordinator