

MINUTES

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL DISTRICT 4

Thursday, July 26, 2012
Heritage Baptist Church, 900 52nd Street North
6:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council Members Present: Sandra Guynn, Judy Tankink, Harold Wheeler, Audrey Finlayson

Council Members Absent: Aaron Pursell

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Steve Sem, P.O.Box 7485, commented that someone told him that homeless people had been living in Pinski Park.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

City Commission – Judy Tankink reported that the City Commission approved a tax increase for the City. A cellphone ban was approved and will be implemented August 1st.

Police Advisory Board – Harold Wheeler reported that officers for the Police Advisory Board were selected. The City may face law enforcement challenges regarding due to the influx of people working in and around the oil fields north of Great Falls. A task force has been created to address those concerns. The police department is exploring different options to alleviate the over-crowding problem in the current Police Department facility. The next Police Advisory Board meeting will be September 20, 2012. The police volunteer program was not discussed at the advisory board meeting. Tom Glover, 1318 16th St S; and Steve Sem, P.O. Box 7485 also commented. Harold explained that a PowerPoint presentation is available and he'll try to have that presented at one of our future NC4 meetings.

OLD BUSINESS:

Harold Wheeler made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 28, 2012 NC4 meeting and was seconded by Audrey Finlayson. Minutes were approved as written.

Property 4727 2nd Ave N –Sandra Guynn reported the property has been purchased. It must go through a zone change and the new owner would like to put storage units on it.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Harold Wheeler talked about a problem in his neighborhood that has also occurred in other areas of the City in which individuals pound on a homeowner's door to find out if anyone is home; with the possible intention of breaking and entering the dwelling if no one appears to be home.

NEW BUSINESS:

Marty Basta, Park and Recreation Director gave a report on neighborhood parks in NC4 area.

- City has 55 developed parks with about 900 acres of developed park land; about 300 acres of undeveloped park land; and 300 acres of conservation land near Rainbow Dam.

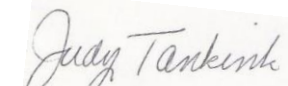
- NC4 has five parks: Soccer Park (60 acres with 30 acres leased from GFPS and the City purchased an additional 30 acres) which is leased to the Soccer Foundation; Heron Park; Pinski Park which just received a \$34,000 CDBG grant for playground equipment (9.5 acre park annexed into the City in 1958-59); Sunrise Park (2.25 acres); Clara Park.
- Playground equipment has been ordered for Pinski Park and the old equipment will not be removed until the new equipment arrives and is ready for installation. The estimated time of completion is September. The grant does not cover all expenses for the new equipment, but to make up for the difference, the City will do in-kind work by assembling and install equipment and also apply woodchips to the ground in the play area.
- Some parks in the City want more amenities however; the City doesn't have money to fund improvements. One consideration is selling under-utilized park land and using the money to purchase bathrooms, or other improvements. Clara Park may be one property that is under consideration for sale.
- Rudolf Tankink, 3620 9th Ave N, indicated that Graybill Park has children using the park but no bathroom facilities are available. He also reported that weeds are a problem. Judy Tankink mentioned that the picnic table has graffiti.
- The City is in the process of updating the City's Master Plan and requesting input from neighborhood councils and the public.
- Audrey Finlayson asked for a list of all the parks. Marty said he would put it onto the website or give the list to Patty Cadwell and she can send it out.
- Patty Cadwell stated that Ida Meehan, City Planner will be going to each of the Neighborhood Councils and gathering input on the Growth Plan. A kick-off will be August 6th.
- Sandra Guynn asked if an underutilized park were sold, would those funds be used in that neighborhood? Mr. Basta said funds cannot be earmarked and that the park board makes recommendations on how the funds are spent.
- Funding Sources for improvements include the Park Trust Fund and also the People's Park and Rec Foundation which is a 501(c).
- Audrey Finlayson asked if the Tribune may be willing to do a weekly article on Park and Rec which would be similar to Cops Corner. Patty Cadwell will follow-up with the Tribune.

NEXT MEETING OF NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL 4:

August 23, 2012 at 6:30 PM

ADJOURNMENT:

Harold Wheeler made a motion to adjourn; it was seconded by Audrey Finlayson. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.



Judy Tankink
Recorder