

**MINUTES  
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
DISTRICT 2  
Wednesday, June 13, 2012**

**ATTENDANCE:** Dorothy Schmidt, Phyllis Hemstad, Kelly Manzer and Bob Mehlhoff.  
A quorum was present.

**Meeting called to order** at 7:07 pm by Chairperson Phyllis Hemstad.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** Motion to accept minutes of May meeting made by Dorothy Schmidt and seconded by Kelly Manzer. Passed.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**West Levee Update:** Sandy Mares gave a brief update on levee issues. No significant advancement regarding the certification process. Kelly Manzer questioned the proposed property tax assessments with little assurance of certification. A public court hearing will be held June 14 at 3:30 pm at the Courthouse.

**West Bank Park:** Phyllis mentioned that the park is in need of money for further development.

**Committee Reports:**

**Council of Councils meeting:** Phyllis gave a review of the meeting which included:

**Large Vehicle Parking ordinance:** Phyllis was disappointed in turn out and public comment. No direction has been taken to date. She feels this is an issue no longer worth the time to peruse.

**Cell Phone Ordinance:** Jim Santoro (City Attorney) stated the first reading for the proposed ordinance would be June 19<sup>th</sup> with a public hearing scheduled for July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Fire Rescue** is requesting a personnel increase.

**Neighborhood Watch program:** Eric Ray is poc for organizational information.

Next Council of Councils meeting is scheduled for October 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Police Advisory Board:** Bob Mehlhoff attended the meeting last week with the new Chief of Police. The deteriorating condition of the existing Police department was discussed with options of updating and adding on to the current

building vs. a new location. The old Sears building was mentioned as a possibility.

Bob also mentioned the speed limit issue on 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW and Central Ave. W. It was previously mentioned that the council might send a letter to the city which may, in turn, receive support from the state in reducing the speed limit on 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW to 25 mph and Central Ave. W. to 30 mph.

Neighbors in attendance, Joanne Mitchell (230 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW) and Esther Freda (224 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW) questioned the 25 mph speed limit on Bay Drive which is not residential. They feel the speed limit is much too low and is a trap for speeding tickets. Patty Caldwell advised that a petition be sent to Jim Reardon regarding this issue.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Lisa Kuntz (City Clerk) and James Santoro (City Attorney) gave a brief power point presentation on open meeting law and Neighborhood Council protocol. A short question and answer period followed.

Three neighbors from 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW were present to express concerns regarding Terry Courtright's Brittany Spaniel breeding operation at 305 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW. Kirk Robinson (300 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW), Ester Ferda (224 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW) and Joanne Mitchell (230 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW) all stated that they felt Mr. Courtright's operation should be classified as a 'commercial breeder' rather than fall under the 'hobby breeder' with multiple animal permit regulations. They mentioned numerous occasions of barking and dogs running loose. Mr. Courtright stated that his breeding dogs have the best lineage in the country and they are a hunting breed that likes to run. He has paid at least \$1500 to the animal shelter in fines in the past year. Jana Cooper, planner for the City of Great Falls, advised the council that this was not a land use development code issue and they had no jurisdiction in this area. ACO Conner explained that the necessary paperwork had been done on Mr. Courtright's dogs to satisfy a multiple animal permit.

Bob Mehlhoff made a motion for the council to compose a written request to the city attorney for a legal interpretation of the ordinances for hobby vs. commercial clarification. Kelly Manzer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Kelly Manzer made a motion to adjourn. Dorothy Schmidt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm

Next meeting will be September 2, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Manzer  
Temp. Acting Secretary NC#2