

**Neighborhood Council #1  
Meeting Minutes  
May 8, 2012**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Fred Rauch, Jesse O'Hara, Lynda Sowell, Jay Russell, Bill Thomas

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Patty Cadwell, Bill Taylor, Emily Sowell, Gilbert Day, Keith Ochs, Jerry McKinley, (City Planning Dept), Randy McCamley (City Fire Chief), Kelly Maki (Meadowlark School Principal), Robert Lundberg (Great Falls Police Dept), Political Candidates: Jane Weber, Greg Pinski, Robin Baker

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Chairman Fred Rauch

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*City Commission:* no report

*Police Advisory Board:* no report. Next Meeting: May 17

*Council of Councils:* no report. Next Meeting: May 30

**OLD BUSINESS**

- No minutes from the last meeting available to approve.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Community Policing Officer Rob Lundberg gave his quarterly report
- **Jerry McKinley, City Traffic Division**, made a presentation on a proposed crosswalk at 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave SW and 11<sup>th</sup> St SW. Several people in the neighborhood have expressed concerns that the area poses a danger when children leaving school cross the street. Parents park on the street waiting for their children, creating some congestion and hazards. The proposed crosswalk would mean the loss of one or two parking spaces, or about 30 feet of curb. A new crosswalk would need ADA ramps; currently no ramps on the corner, though the City could nominate the corner for ADA ramps. Mrs. Kelly Maki, Meadowlark Principal, supports the proposal. She said children frequently cross the street in the area, and one was nearly hit by a car recently. The idea is still a proposal, and Mr. McKinley is gathering comments and input.
- **Randy McCamley, City Fire Chief**, spoke on fire dept staffing. The City has the same staffing as 23 years ago, even though the city has physically grown quite a bit (though the population is still about the same) and the Fire Dept. is four times as busy. As an example, he cited a need for 14 firefighters to fight a fire at a 2,000 square foot house. Our dept can only man it with ten. The lack of staffing is beginning to affect our community ISO rating, a score used by insurance companies to rate the effectiveness of a community's fire fighting ability. On a scale of one to ten, with one as

the best rating – we are now ranked a four. Mr. McCamley said we just fell to that ranking recently, and he expects our ranking to continue to fall in the next few years if we at some point don't hire more staff. Lack of staff has a direct correlation with the ISO rating, which will affect homeowner insurance rates for the entire city; understaffing has a direct effect on response times and the number of firefighters able to respond.

Mr. McCamley received a grant a few years ago to hire 16 additional firefighters, but was unable to use it because the city could not match it. The solutions appear to be either raising taxes or shifting money within the city budget – neither of which are very palatable options. Currently our cost is 30 cents per person per day; he thinks something like 32 cents per day would be more appropriate. He also said 70% of businesses that have a serious fire never open their doors again. Clearly, there is a cost the community will pay if we do not start addressing this problem.

- Jane Weber and Robin Baker, candidates for City Commission, and Greg Pinski, candidate for District Court Judge, each gave presentations on their candidacies.
- **Grande Vista Park Update:** Chairman Fred Rauch gave a report on developments at the park. He said the city had some extra asphalt and paved a portion of a driveway into the park. The city also installed some barriers to block a road from becoming a thru-way. Mr. Rauch said at some point they hope to fix the drainage problem so that the north end of the park does not become a pond whenever it rains. Also, some of the neighbors along Alpine Drive that border the park would like to replace the weathered wooden fence with their own vinyl fences. It appears they can do this.
- **Bill Thomas made a motion to adjourn for the summer, second by Linda Sowell. We will however meet if necessary. Motion unanimously approved.**

## **ADJOURN**

**Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:18 pm by Bill Thomas, second by Jesse O'Hara; approved unanimously. Next meeting: September 11, 2012.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jay Russell, Neighborhood Council District 1 Secretary