

**Minutes Neighborhood Council  
District 3 (NC3)  
Thursday, November 1, 2012  
Riverview Music Room  
7:00 p.m.**

**Call to Order:** Lori Fay, Chair Pro-tem, called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. John Sturgeon was absent. A quorum of Council members was present.

**Attendees:** Council members: Lori Fay, Kathleen Gessaman, Ron Gessaman, and Johnathan Kenneway. Patty Cadwell, Neighborhood and Youth Council Coordinator. Guest speaker: Tom Kotynski, Great Falls Public Schools. Only a few members of the public were in attendance.

**Minutes: Johnathan K. moved to accept the October 4, 2012 Neighborhood Council Three minutes; Ron G. seconded.** Lori F. asked for public comment; there was none. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**Committee Reports:** Johnathan K. reported on the last two City Commission meetings; minutes of City meetings can be found at <http://www.greatfallsmt.net/meetings>. At their last meeting, Johnathan said the Planning and Zoning Board recommended approval of the tax credits for the ASI (Accessible Space Inc) 38-unit affordable senior rental housing development (just north of the GF Medical Clinic NW). Ron G. asked if the tax credits were for the whole parcel, and Johnathan replied it was just for the two-acre project. Kathy G. asked if this tax credit would allow ASI to proceed with the project. Patty C. said it was just the first step in getting approval for the Federal tax credit. Johnathan also said the Planning Board will consider the refinery-requested rezoning of the Westgate Mall area from C-2 to I-2 at its Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Johnathan commented that the chairperson of the Council of Councils at their October meeting did a fantastic job (Patty revealed that Johnathan was the chair). Johnathan reported the Growth Policy project moderated by Ida Meehan is finishing the Economic Working Group meetings; Carol Bronson from Neighbor Works talked about the Neighborhood Watch program - over 1700 people are involved; and several of the Neighborhood Councils are combining their meetings with the Neighborhood Watch groups to ensure a good turnout. Some neighborhood concerns expressed focused on the loss of the City recycling center and unauthorized dumping of garbage into people's garbage bins.

Patty C. said she didn't have any new developments to report on either Jaycee or Skyline Park. Patty said Sue Steichen, Chair of the Skyline Park Committee, might be able to attend the February NC3 meeting (2-7-13). Patty suggested the February meeting focus on the Skyline Park development proposal by the Skyline Park Committee; the Board agreed.

Patty passed out zoning maps of the refinery's proposed change and mentioned that now General Distributing is also planning to switch their zoning from I-1 to I-2. Ron G. noted the changes in the Westgate Mall area rezoning outlined in the Public Notice published recently in the *Tribune* was different from the proposal presented at last (10-4-12) NC3 meeting. Patty said that the 9 to 7 lot realignment included in the *Tribune* Public Notice was shown on the drawings but not specifically mentioned by the architect during his presentation to the Council.

**New Business:** Tom Kotynski, Supervisor of Career & Technical Education for the Great Falls Public Schools, presented information about the School District's Career & Technical Education program in Great Falls. Tom said the program is an elective program that 70% of the students participate in, but many people in Great Falls are unaware of the program. The Career & Technical Education program is an enhanced version of the old Vo-Tech program. Tom said Career & Tech Ed is important for preparing

students for technical education programs such as those offered at MSUGF-COT that provide a needed pathway for students who are interested in real world studies and hands-on education leading to skilled occupations instead of a college degree. Tom reported on many of the opportunities available for the students in middle school and high school; he highlighted some of the businesses (that students have started at school) that are actually earning money while the students attend school. Tom said the wind turbine at CMR and the solar panels at GFHS have provided the students with good hands-on experience in the energy field. He said many of the students work and receive credits; the program has strong partnerships with local businesses.

Tom noted some of the grants his program has received like the Carl Perking Grant may not be available in the future, and he is increasingly concerned the Career & Technical Education program might be lost if the school district has another round of cost cutting. Tom said if people are interested in getting involved with the program they can volunteer as career presenters at the Career Fair, become a job shadow mentor for students, sponsor various events or programs, promote the Career & Technical Education program in Great Falls, etc. Tom answered questions from the audience. Ron G. noted Tom's statistics appear to show only 5% of students entering high school actually graduate from college with a degree in a reasonable period of time - Tom said that number could be high. Tom went on to say half of those graduating don't get a job and many choose to go back to school for technical training. Patty C. said this program shows how Great Falls provides for a trained workforce. Tom said he keeps promoting this program because so many kids get left behind; this program gives them an option to gain good career training or go on to college later.

**Petitions and Communications:** Ron G. relayed a question from a resident about what hazardous materials were being stored in the Hazardous Waste labeled steel drums behind the refinery about 50 feet north of River's Edge Trail and very close to the river. The refinery representative present in the audience said he would check into the issue; he suggested the drums might be on the 90-day storage pad for items that are waiting to be shipped off. They might contain contaminated dirt.

**Johnathan K. moved to adjourn, Ron G. seconded, the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.** The next meeting is scheduled for December 6, 2012 at 7 p.m. at Riverview School.

Respectfully submitted, Kathleen Gessaman, NC3 Secretary.

The NC3 Board would like to thank Riverview School for providing a meeting spot for NC3 at the school.