

Neighborhood Council #7  
January 14, 2013  
Great Falls MT | Civic Center | Commissioner Chambers

**Present Council Members:** Jim A. Super, Amber Colton – Gardner, Tracy Houck and Patty Cadwell (ex-officio)

Absent Council Members: None

**Guests:** Jason Lehmann, Travis Harp, George Wheeler, Bob Kelly, Carol Bronson and Officer Tad Kimmett,

Chairman Jim Super called the meeting to order 7:09 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** led by councilmember Tracy Houck

**Previous meeting minutes:** provided by Councilmember Michael Vohs  
Motion made by Tracy Houck to approve the minutes, Seconded by Amber Colton – Gardner.  
Motion passed unanimously.

**Old Business**

Committee Reports:

**City Commission:** Tracy Houck attended the city commission meeting in December. She spoke in support of the NC #7 motion to thank the City for the on-going CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) program and asked the city to consider supporting both public and private organizations in future funding.

Council #7 did not attend the first January City Commission mtg.

**Growth Policy Meetings:** No report

**Police Advisory Board:** No report, next meeting, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013 – Jim will attend

**Council of Councils:** No report, next meeting January 30, 2013 – Amber will attend

**New Business:**

**Neighborhood Watch:** Carol Bronson attended the meeting as the coordinator from the Cascade County Neighborhood and Business Watch. The Community Building program of NeighborWorks Great Falls now coordinates the Neighborhood Watch program for Cascade County. The newly revamped program is being aligned with the nine neighbor councils and the Black Eagle civic club as well the town of Cascade.

Neighborhood Watch remains the most success crime prevention program worldwide. As a program that stresses education and common sense, it also relies on volunteers – residents and business owners. Five people and a block captain are needed to get started. Interested volunteers should contact Carol, who will then then coordinate an orientation. Carol may be reached at 761-5861.

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There is training every other month for the watchers. The schedule was passed out, the next meeting will be March 12, at 5:30 at the NeighborWorks office at 509 1st Ave South. For more information or to RSVP to the training, please call the Great Falls Business Improvement District (BID) 406-727-5430.

**Council #7 Vacancy:** Ken Volk and Mike Vohs both left the council in December 2012, opening two vacant seats on the council. Candidates from the community were encouraged to attend the meeting and seek a nomination.

George Wheeler introduced himself as an interested citizen in serving on the council.

**A motion to appoint George Wheeler to Council #7 was made by Amber Colton – Gardner. Tracy Houck seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

George will be sworn in as an official member at the next city commission meeting. We still have one more opening. Interested citizens are encouraged to contact Patty Cadwell or any other of the council members for more information and attend the February 7, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

**Announcements:** City Commissioner Bob Kelly introduced himself. His residency is in Neighborhood Council 7.

**Community Policing Report:** BRIC Officer Tad Kimmit gave an update on the different activities and projects he has been working on in the last six months. He has been working with both businesses and residents to get the Neighborhood and Business Watch programs running. He is working on compiling comparison stats for us in the future. He commented that there is a downtown safety plan that many groups are involved with as well as the BID.

**Community Leadership Institute:** Travis Harp and Amber Gardner brought information regarding NeighborWorks Community Leadership Institute and their interest Survey. This project is a follow up from the NeighborWorks Community Leadership Institute summit in Orlando FL this autumn.

Travis shared his experience in attending the workshop and his take-aways from the summit. The Great Falls team in attendance is taking on the initiative of distributing an interest survey with a focus on the neighborhood councils. This survey will help gauge interest and determine topics for developing a local Great Falls Community Leadership Institute. These trainings will be open to the community but there will be a targeted marketing focus to the Neighborhood Councils and Neighborhood Watch.

**Calumet Montana Refining Company proposed zone change -** Jason Lehmann, member of Neighborhood Council 9 presented and brought council two's concerns from ordinance 3900 at the city Calumet Montana Refining Company and Genco proposed to have acreage on the West Bank re-zoned from commercial to heavy industrial (I2). It is currently commercially zoned.

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Council member Tracy Houck expressed her concerns to the group that once property is zoned for heavy industrial it is very hard to revert back to light industrial or even commercial zone. While this property has not seen any development interest in many years, it has had recent interest and the south end of the West Bank has recently been developed quite nicely. According to the proposal from Calument – they currently do not have a demand for heavy industrial zoning. Light industrial would work for their current business proposal. Tracy Houck shared her concerns that this zone change was applied for in November of 2012 and in less than 90 days the zoning of this property could be changed with a potential high environmental impact. It appears more evaluation needs to be completed and negotiations with Calument establishing provisions for the aesthetics and recreational use of the river front be considered.

Commission Kelly spoke to encourage the council to come to the January 15<sup>th</sup> city commission meeting and speak our concerns succinctly. He also gave some clarification on the proposal explaining the zoning needs of Genco which is also involved in the rezoning proposal.

A motion was made by Tracy Houck that **Neighbor Council #7 would like their concerns expressed to the city commissioners that more research and evaluation for the long term stability of our community be done before the I2 rezoning is approved.** The motion was seconded by Amber Colton – Gardner. The motion passed with Jim Super abstaining for the vote.

A motion was made by Tracy Houck that **George Wheeler be appointed as the Neighborhood Council #7 liaison to the Downtown Development Partnership** effective upon his appointment to Neighbor Council #7 at the next City commissioners meeting February 5, 2013. The motion was seconded by Amber Colton – Gardner. The motion was unanimously approved.

Amber Colton – Gardner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Tracy Houck. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tracy Houck