

Meeting called to order at 7 p.m. by Chairperson Phyllis Hemstad. Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Attendance was taken by secretary SueAnn Strickland. Those present were Phyllis Hemstad, Dorothy Schmidt, Kelly Manzer, and SueAnn Strickland. Bob Mehlhoff absent (in Legislature in Helena)

New Business -- Wendy Thomas spoke concerning the City Code Updates. FEMA is converting maps from hand-drawn to digital. FEMA requested that a Flood Plain Ordinance be adopted, which we already have, but ours is fragmented. The City will consolidate them all into one code. There will be a Public Hearing on March 5 at 7 p.m. There will also be code amendments to Land Development Codes. There is a proposed change in the definition of a Townhouse—from 3 to 8, to 2 to 8. There will also be a clarification in Landscape Environment. Downtown parking official needs to also be designated. The “boot” fee is to change, proposed to \$140.00, which covers the actual cost of the booting. Code variances for “Mom & Pop” buildings will be discussed. There will be a general cleaning up of inconsistencies in the Codes. Multiple Animal and Kennel Code was questioned. This is being overseen by the interim City Attorney. Discussion followed. Code cleanup will go to the Planning Board in March and the City Commission in May.

Change to Bylaws -- Kelly and SueAnn wish to remove the words “within the boundaries of the Council from Article II Section 1. Their reasoning is that the current meeting place is not available in the summer if a special meeting is need. The Gibson Room in the Civic Center is always available to the Councils, but it is not within our boundaries. Phyllis gave the history of the initial writing of the bylaws. She checked and said that there were four meeting rooms within our boundaries that we could use. Kelly made the motion to eliminate the words “within the boundaries of Neighborhood Council #2” from Article II section 1. Vote – Kelly and Sue FOR, Phyllis and Dorothy AGAINST. After very much discussion Phyllis motioned to add the words “unless a free and publicly accessible meeting place cannot be found”. Sue seconded the motion. Vote -- 4 affirmative, no opposition. Kelly then motioned a proposed a clarification to Article I section 3 -- It shall take three “TOTAL” votes to pass a motion. Sue seconded the motion. After much lengthy discussion the vote was called. Vote -- Kelly and Sue FOR, Phyllis AGAINST, Dorothy ABSTAIN. Motion passed. Kelly then motioned a clarification to Article III section 1. Second line—after the word attendance to add “of Council members” Sue seconded. Vote -- 4 affirmative. Motion passed

Motion to have Patty record all Neighborhood Council #2 meetings was then made by Kelly with Sue seconded the motion. Sue then gave her reasons for needing the audio recordings and would not be able to continue on as secretary without them. Judy Tankink, 3620 9th Avenue No., the secretary of Neighborhood Council #4 also agreed with Sue’s need for audio recordings to have a correct record of minutes and requested that Patty put the same request on their next agenda. Vote -- 4 affirmative. Motion passed.

Review Neighborhood Council Handbook -- Sue read the paragraph concerning Robert’s Rules of Order were in place to help, not hinder meetings. As the other issues were addressed in the above changes, we moved on to setting the agenda for our March meeting .

Set Agenda for March meeting -- As our discussions on bylaw changes and audio recording of the meetings were extremely lengthy, Kelly motioned, with Dorothy seconding, that anything we could be cover in the ten minutes we had left in the meeting be put on the agenda for March. Vote -- 4 affirmative Motion passed.

Neighborhood Concerns -- Sue has received several calls concerning the fact that the pedestrian crossing lights have been removed from the poles on 6th Street and 2nd Ave. S.W., creating a hazard for pedestrian crossing there, as the push buttons were still in place, but no flashing lights. She contacted Steve Prinzing at Mont. Dept. of Transportation who told her he thought it was because they did not get enough “button pushes” to warrant keeping the lights up, but would have the person in charge of that get back to her.

Dale Speck 813 3rd Ave. S. W., questioned that if Bob was in the Legislature, how could he second a motion recorded in the minutes. It was explained that this was a correction from a previous set of minutes.

Viaduct Park -- Kelly reported that Mr. Schultz has said that he has leased the Park for the past 25 years. She was unable to find any receipts which show that he has paid for this lease. She also discovered that the City is still liable for any injuries on the land even if it is leased. There is also not supposed to be any barbed wire on a City Park. Kelly and Dr. Eric Hanson, PhD Forest Science, MS Weed Science, viewed the Park on Friday, Feb. 8. Kelly showed us pictures of what the park looked like on that date. She is concerned that this is the first view that travelers have coming into Great Falls from the Interstate onto the Central Avenue West Exit, which is a major approach to Great Falls. Dr. Hanson sent an evaluation to the Park and Recreation Department, listing six major problems with the park, listing weeds, overgrazing, glass and trash needing to be abated, etc. The park is on the list to be sold. Marty Basta says that it is possible to get some dirt on it.

West Levee Update -- Sandy Mares reported that there seem to be errors coming up in the renewal of the preferred risk flood insurance policies. She asked that Wendy please give Charlie Sheets a heads up that these were not coming in as renewals but Special Flood Hazard Area policies. She also said that people should be aware and check for this when their policies come up for renewal.

SueAnn made a motion to adjourn at 9:07 p.m., seconded by Kelly. Vote -- 4 affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

SueAnn Strickland, secretary