

Minutes Neighborhood Council District 3 (NC3)
Thursday, September 5, 2013
Multi-Purpose Room, Riverview School
7:00 p.m.

Call to Order: John Sturgeon, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Lori F. was unable to attend. Those present were: Council members John Sturgeon, Johnathan Kenneway, Kathleen Gessaman, and Ron Gessaman, a quorum; City representatives Patty Cadwell (Neighborhood and Youth Council Coordinator) and Andrew Finch (Planning & Community Development); presenter Jeff Key; and fourteen members of the public.

Unfinished Business:

• **Minutes:** John S. asked for a motion to accept the last meeting's minutes. **Ron G. moved to approve the June 6, 2013 minutes; Kathleen G. seconded.** There was no discussion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

• **Committee Reports:** Ron G. said he would not report on the Commission Meetings because the Commission pays no attention to recommendations from Neighborhood Councils. Minutes of City meetings can be found at <http://www.greatfallsmt.net/meetings>.

Johnathan K. reported on the last Police Advisory Board where Chief Bowen discussed the 911 Call Center's planned move to a building near the airport (the old Flight Services Center). Johnathan said many different grants will help pay for the move and upgrading equipment. The Fire Department and other groups that use 911 will pay more to cover any increased operating costs.

Kathleen G. noted the annexation and R-5 zoning for the Skyline Heights Apartments would likely come before the City Commission again at the October 1, 2013 meeting.

New Business:

• **Transportation Plan Update:** Jeff Key, Transportation Engineer, Pescia and Assoc., gave a 15-minute presentation on the work on a Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) for the City of Great Falls and the surrounding area. Jeff said his firm is seeking input from various groups including Neighborhood Councils and plans to spend half their time studying the existing transportation and half their time on plans for future growth – forecasting out to 2035. The next report to the City will be in mid October to discuss existing transportation. After the presentation, Jeff asked for questions or concerns from the audience.

Kathleen G. asked if 36th Ave NE was going to be the default northern bypass around the City or if there were other plans. Jeff said he wasn't aware that was an issue. Larry Fulton, 837 36th Ave NE, expressed concerns about the high traffic volume and speed on 36th Ave NE. Jeff said the intersection of 36th Ave NE and the Bootlegger is one of the 61 intersections in the City under study. Jeff noted 36th Ave NE is a collector road (3500 vehicles per day) and possible future growth could include another east-west road that connects the Bootlegger to 6th St NW to help ease the traffic load on 36th Ave NE. Patty C. gave an example of unintended problems when a speed bump was installed in the Fox Farm area to slow traffic – eventually the bump was removed. Andrew Finch, City Planning and Development, made some suggestions about traffic calming options such as narrowing the street, traffic enforcement or some physical feature that forces people to slow down. Jeff said traffic circles are used extensively in Missoula to calm traffic and curb bulb-outs are another options. Ron G. suggested a grid street plan for growth up to the hills to the north would be helpful for future development. Jeff said the LRTP document would have a recommended future street network section for future growth in the study area. Jeff said Bozeman has a good grid system laid out for future growth. Don Petrini, 977 Ave D NW, said there was an old 1930ies City of Great Falls map in the Black Eagle Fire Department that showed the area from 36th to Wire Mill Road plotted for streets and lots before the area was even developed. 25th Ave NE was also brought up as a very busy street - Jeff agreed and noted that the intersection by North Middle School was graded E or F (not acceptable).

More information and a pdf of Jeff's presentation can be found at <http://www.greatfallslrtp.com/> and <https://www.facebook.com/GreatFallsLRTP>

- **City Commission/ Mayor Candidates:** Patty C. introduced Terry Thompson as the only other candidate for NC3 besides Kathleen G.
- Aaron Pursell, candidate for Mayor, spoke briefly about his work in information technology, his family, organizations he works with including Neighborhood Council 4 where he is a board member, and campaign issues important to him. Aaron answered questions from the group. Contact information: <http://pursellformayor.com>, <https://www.facebook.com/pursellformayor>, phone: 406-923-1020, email: aaron@pursellformayor.com, and slogan: "Let's try something different."
- Michael J. Shell, candidate for 4-year term for City Commissioner, discussed his background – he is an EMT and a critical care paramedic for Great Falls Emergency Service. He also teaches intro philosophy, ethics, and basic EMT courses at MSU Great Falls College, volunteers with the Police Dept., and is on the board of Neighborhood Council 7. Michael mentioned his concerns and goals for the City of Great Falls and answered questions from the group. Contact information: <http://www.shellforcitycommission.com>, phone: 406-315-1244, email: Michael@shellforcitycommission.com, and address: PO Box 1502, Great Falls, MT 59403.
- Don Petrini, candidate for 4-year term for City Commissioner, was born and raised in Great Falls. Don worked at the Smelter, was a meat cutter for 32 years, and was Assistant Chief and Chief of Black Eagle Fire Dept. from 1990 to 2010, which involved working with the State and Federal EPA. Don outlined some issues important to the future of Great Falls. Don answered questions from the group. Contact information: donpetrini@bresnan.net, phone: 406-727-1405, and slogan: "Bringing Common Sense Back to the Table."
- Terry Thompson, candidate for NC3, said she is a ranch girl from Hobson. Terry is the CEO of the Great Falls Association of Realtors and was instrumental in forming a coalition (including realtors, homebuilders, Chamber of Commerce, the Landlord Association, and an investor group) on development and planning in the community. Terry has lived on 34th Ave NE for the past two years and hopes to meet many of the neighbors in the NC3 area during her campaign.

Petitions and Communications: Dexter Busby of Calumet refinery said the refinery would be shutting down this weekend for about six weeks for a scheduled turnaround; a turnaround takes place every 3 to 4 years to overhaul every piece of equipment. Dexter said about 150 extra people would be working seven days a week. John S. asked if they had enough fuel stored; Dexter said they should have enough. Ron G. asked why there was heavy flare activity lately; Dexter said the refinery has issues and was ready for a turnaround. Ron asked about the *Tribune* story reporting that Calumet was building a 25,000 barrels per day hydrocracker, but the crude unit would only expand to 20,000 barrels per day, and where was the hydrogen coming from. Dexter said Calumet was also building a hydrogen plant. Bonnie S. asked about the fenced area by Westgate Mall – Dexter said it was a lay down area for expansion equipment. Don P. asked about the asphalt loading on 10th St NE; Dexter said the loading is gradually being moved to the west end. People expressed concerns about refinery workers crossing the road where the old crosswalk was instead of using the crosswalk at the signal.

No one had any public concerns.

Ron G. moved to adjourn, Johnathan K. seconded; the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

The next NC3 meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 3, 2013 at 7 p.m. at Riverview School.

Respectfully submitted, Kathleen Gessaman, NC3 Secretary. Please note these minutes are not an exact record of what was said.

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