

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL #6 MEETING
February 5, 2014 Sunnyside School Library

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Robin Baker, Carl Donovan, Julie Parker, Darrell Beauchamp, and Cherry Loney

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Election of Officers:

The following officers were elected by unanimous ballot:

Chair – Robin Baker

Vice Chair – Carl Donovan

Secretary – Cherry Loney

Official Delegate – Carl Donovan

Carl Donovan will continue to be our delegate to the Council of Councils and Darrell Beauchamp will serve on the Police Advisory Board.

Old Business:

Minutes of the December 4, 2013 meeting were approved as written.

There were no committee reports.

New Business:

Planning/Community Development Update: Lee Nellis and staff from the Planning and Community Development Department provided an update covering the new growth policy, development trends, downtown Great Falls, transportation, flood insurance and changing floodplain management rules, historic preservation, and upcoming events. Future events include the December 31, 2015 deadline for sign code compliance, plans to review and revise the Great Falls Land Development Code, Long Range Transportation Plan public meeting (January 23, 2014, 6 p.m. Missouri Room), and plans for a workforce housing summit later this year. Mr. Nellis stressed they are seeking members interested in serving on ad hoc committees as part of the Land Development Code review/revision process. Julie Parker will serve on the ad hoc Residential Committee. Other committees include Medical District, Commercial Redevelopment, and Industrial. Anyone interested in participating on a committee should contact Mr. Nellis at 455-8432 or lnellis@greatfallsmt.net.

Community Policing: Officer Pam Henry, GFPD, provided an update on complaints and activity in the area noting disturbances, vandalisms, thefts, and traffic stops were down from 252 in December to 188 in January. She also introduced Michael Cronin, a volunteer with GFPD who will attend future Neighborhood Council meetings regularly as a liaison with GFPD. Pam will continue to attend quarterly. It was stressed that people with complaints should call and report them to GFPD directly to better establish facts and avoid second and thirdhand information and that complainants should have a specific address of the problem they are concerned about. Great Falls Citizens Police Academy will offer another cycle later this year. Interested citizens are encouraged to apply.

Neighborhood Watch: Robin reported she has visited with Lance Boyd, new principal at Sunnyside, who is very interested in helping move the Neighborhood Watch program forward. She asked that our March meeting be devoted to a kickoff for establishing a Watch program in our area and that Lance Boyd, GFPD, Sheriff Edwards, and Carol Bronson be invited to attend along with Eric Ray from NH Council 5 as their NH Watch initiative is well under way. The meeting will be held in the school gym to accommodate what we hope will be a large turnout. Refreshments will be provided. The goal is to learn more about NH Watch programs, identify block captains, and recruit and train interested residents. Robin noted that studies have shown a NH Watch program itself is a deterrent to criminal activity.

Other Business:

The bylaws were reviewed. A motion was made and passed unanimously to amend them as follows:
Section 5 – Officer and Duties, Subpart B. Vice Chair: “*Shall act as chair in absence of the chair.*”

Neighborhood Concerns:

Anita Heppner, 1711 16th Ave. So. noted streets around the school are not sanded for two to three days at a time and stressed she thought more frequent sanding is important. She noted the alley behind her house was sanded recently but streets around the school were not. The Council asked Cherry Loney to contact Jim Turnbow to investigate protocol for sanding and relay Anita's concern.

A GFHS student noted he walks to school and sidewalks near the high school are not consistently shoveled making it difficult to navigate them and easier to walk in the streets. Officer Henry advised him to call and report specific addresses as GFPD does respond to educate and remind residents about their responsibility to keep walks clean. If not heeded, citations are issued.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cherry Loney, Secretary