

Minutes April 17, 2014
Neighborhood Council District 8 Meeting

Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6 pm with Karen presiding.
All Council members were present: Karen, Mike, Robin, Liz and Barbara.
Six others were present, three of whom came to address our group.

Minutes: MSC to approve the March minutes.

By-laws: MSC to approve the By-law changes recommended in a letter from Sara Sexe, the city attorney. The initials of all members were required to approve the changes.

Reports: Robin reported on the last Police Advisory Board Meeting. Summarizing some of his comments, there were 200 child abuse cases in 2012; there are 200,000 calls to 911 in a year. That is approximately 1900 calls a month. These calls are increasing. There is a need for 5 more officers and an additional dispatcher. More meth and marijuana users, not heroin. 90% of those on pre-release are on meth. We could ask for an in-service on what to look for in drug use--a possibility for a future meeting.
There are about 52 people who do volunteer work for the department.
Budget funds go towards maintenance and equipment.

New Business:

GF School Levy Jan Cahill and Mary Moe, school board members, came to encourage us to vote for the levy. They presented facts for the levy and how the money would be used. Jan also shared concern about myths that have been heard about reasons to oppose the levy. In response to whether there would be another levy in 2015, Jan stated it depended on what the legislature does regarding education. We were reminded of the forum for trustee candidates that is scheduled for April 23 at 6:30 pm in the Heritage Center at the College of GF.

Trustee Candidate, Dave Abbott, Director of the Great Falls Community Food Bank, explained his rationale for running for a position on the school board. He questioned whether this levy would get us to sustainability. He feels the trustees need to be a bridge to communication. Trustees need to look at the unused school district properties and find better use for them. There is a need to maintain the existing buildings as the hundred year old concrete is still good. Maintenance is less expensive than new buildings.

Mapril Cleanup is a yearly event. We have nothing planned for this year and May 3rd is not an option for Karen or Barbara. If we come up with a plan we will communicate and coordinate participation for Saturday April 26th.

MSC to adjourn at 7:20 pm.

Barbara Going, secretary

