

MINUTES OF COUNCIL #3 MEETING

Date of Meeting: Thursday February 5, 2015
Riverview School Music Room

Meeting was called to order by Cyndi Baker at 7:00 p.m. Cyndi filled in for Kathy Gessaman who was unable to attend the meeting, due to the fact that she was out of town.

Members Present: Cyndi Baker, Steve Malicott, Rich Calsetta and Terry Thompson.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Minutes from the last meeting were approved as read. Rich Calsetta seconded.

Committee Reports: Rich Calsetta reported on Council of Councils. Holman Building was discussed. The meeting was positive with budget increases. The Council of Councils met new city employee, Joe Petrella who is the new Director of Park & Rec. New development is being planned in our neighborhood area.

Petitions & Communication: Cyndi brought up the fact that she recently learned about the Rescue Mission's Capital Fund Drive has raised over 7.1 million dollars for a new family homeless center. Corner of 2nd Avenue North/4th & 5th Street.

Note: February 17th – Southeast Great Falls – Planning Board meeting about growth.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Petrella spoke to the council and all attendees about the upcoming growth planned on the Northwest Side above Skyline Drive area. Talked about growth policy, parks plan, major street plans. He spoke about emergency response time, school issues, sanitation and insurance ratings. Extension of West Ridge 171 lots and Cox development plans over 400 houses. Concerns are sewer and storm drains, water, storm water runoff, etc. Roads and transportation. Presently we have no trails or neighborhood parks planned for upcoming developments. Our Great Falls Land development code does not match with the state's requirements. Must address these issues. As you go West and North – steeply sloping land. Have utility concerns, patterns of density and soils problems.

SW to NE ridge actually has better soils. Affecting development would be runoff issues with slow, permeable soils. Runoff is an issue. Transportation is an issue. There is also an oil pipeline that goes across the area. Assets of these lands is that there is a lot of habitat. We could have trails with planned habitat.

He raised good questions – Does Great Falls have the tools to prosper and grow? Failure is hard. We need a Growth Policy Plan which includes open space.

He had maps and visual aides to accompany his talk. Unfortunately, his computer/powerpoint presentation could not be viewed due to technical difficulties.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. Next meeting will be Thursday March 5, 2015.

Respectfully Submitted,
Richard Calsetta, Acting Secretary