

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL #6 MEETING
May 4, 2016

Council Members Present: Robin Baker, Darrell Beauchamp, Julie Parker, Cherry Loney

Council Members Absent: Carl Donovan

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

Old Business:

Minutes of the April 6, 2016 meeting were approved as written.

Committee Reports:

Neighborhood Watch Update: Julie and Cherry distributed a composite of results from the questionnaires distributed at the last meeting along with an updated sign-up sheet for Neighborhood Watch. The surveys were informative in pinpointing further learning needs of Sunnyside area residents. Information on gang activity was the most prevalent educational need. Mr. Boyd agreed to send out Neighborhood Watch surveys to Sunnyside families through Wednesday Envelopes. When all surveys are returned, results will be added to the composite. At the April 6 meeting, the Council committed to developing an "action plan" to ensure further educational needs of those interested/signed up are met, that we provide ongoing communication, and that we ensure continued progress toward establishing and expanding Neighborhood Watch. Based on identified needs, Cherry and Julie suggested the following action plan:

- a.) Further information on Neighborhood Watch will be available at the upcoming annual ice cream social.
- b.) A presentation on gang activity be scheduled in July if feasible. Cherry will follow up with Officer Gerhart to see if it is feasible for him or someone from GFPD to do a presentation on gang activity on July 13.
- c.) The October 5 meeting, which already includes an update on area crime data, will also include a brief educational session touching on other needs identified in the survey such as clarifying the number to call to report suspicious activity, what type of information is needed, etc.
- d.) Continue to analyze questionnaires distributed through Wednesday Envelopes.
- e.) Identify ways to determine ongoing needs and learning opportunities as well as develop/implement follow up.
- f.) Each Council member will call a segment of people on the sign-up list and let them know our action plan as well as keep in touch with them for updates/reminders, etc.

The Council unanimously agreed to the suggested action plan. Each will call their assigned neighborhood residents from the sign-up sheet to communicate the plan. To ensure a consistent message, they asked Cherry to develop "talking points" to be distributed to everyone. Patty will develop a press release and Darrell will call KRTV and KFBB to make them aware of the social.

New Business:

Community Health Improvement Plan: County Commissioner Jane Weber provided an overview of the Community Health Improvement Plan for Cascade County noting the top priorities were substance abuse and prevention, achieving and maintaining healthy weight, access to health care, and child abuse/neglect prevention. She discussed some of the activities planned including encouraging use of community parks and other ways local agencies are collaborating to respond to needs identified.

Great Falls College MSU Summer Programs: Heather Palermo provided an overview of summer programs available through the Life Long Learning division of Great Falls College MSU.

Ice Cream Social: The Council will hold their third annual ice cream social at Verde Park, June 8 from 6:30 – 8 p.m. Patty will ask Meadowgold to donate 3 containers of ice cream. Pepsi will donate pop. The Council agreed to personally pay for all purchased supplies by splitting the costs among themselves. Donations from people

attending the social will also be accepted. Robin will pick up supplies. Cherry and Julie will develop a date saver flyer to be distributed through the school if approved. Patty will update last year's flyer for use with various media outlets including social media. Patty will also work with Amber Beckner, NeighborWorks Great Falls, who will disseminate the flyer to her social media contacts.

Other Business:

Council of Councils: Julie reported she will be out of town and unable to attend the next Council of Councils meeting. Since no other Council member is available, Julie will develop a written report of Council #6 activities.

Commission Work Session – June 21: Patty reminded the Council we are on the docket for the June 21 City Commission work session to provide an update of our activities, accomplishments, and challenges.

MApril Cleanup: Amber Beckner, NeighborWorks GF, reminded us of MApril Cleanup scheduled for May 21 and June 4.

June Meeting: By consensus, the Council voted not to hold a regular meeting in June (originally scheduled for June 1).

Upper/Lower River Road Drainage Project: Cherry noted there is construction activity on Upper River Road and wondered if it is related to the drainage mitigation project. Patty offered to contact Jim Reardon.

Neighborhood Concerns:

There were no neighborhood concerns.

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cherry Loney, Secretary