

Neighborhood Council Minutes template

Minutes Neighborhood Council 3 (NC3)

April 5, 2018

Riverview Elementary School---Music Room

Call to Order: Tim Austin, Chairman

Council Members present: Tim Austin, Sue Dickenson, Cyndi Baker, Kathleen Gessaman, Max Mauch

Unfinished Business:none

Minutes: Minutes from March meeting were corrected and accepted an amended.

Committee Reports

City Commission

Planning Board

Police Advisory—Cyndi reported on the meeting. In an overview of 2017, there is an alarming increase in 911 calls. Also Meth and Heroine use is higher, with opioids causing the most damage. The request to separate residential from commercial theft in quarterly reports will be considered. More fed funding for school security a complex issue. Law enforcement chooses to be proactive in this area. (Appendix A has more details of report.)

School Board

Communications with residents

Other---Advisory Committee for International Relations—Max reported that it was possible they would coordinate a joint function with Helena’s committee. A Japanese drum group from Lethbridge will perform before the Ice Breaker. There will be an Open World Partnership activity later this year.

Calumet Report---nothing new to report. Thanks to Joe Dauner for attending.

New Business

Park Maintenance District given by Patty Rearden. On May 8 (ballots go out Apr. 23), voters will decide whether to create a parks district or face continued maintenance postponements, safety and ADA issues not being addressed. If the district is approved by the voters, the proposed assessment amount would be \$1.5mil annually for the first 3 years. That amount would be collected through property tax increases. On a \$100K home, the park district tax would be \$1.91 a month. The Park and Recreation Master Plan identified \$12.6 mil in deferred or critical maintenance projects to be completed within 5 years. If maintenance cannot be done, facilities may close and services such as mowing, watering and tree maintenance will be reduced. If approved the larger public parks would be attended to first, with neighborhood parks to follow on a 3-yr plan.

GFPS Levy Requests—Dave Crum, ceo of GFPS Foundation, reported on the levy request—why it was being requested, to what needs would it be directed if passed, and what would be the consequences of it not passing. The biggest expense in GFPS education is staffing and insurance. Those expenses continue to increase with time. State funding has not kept pace with inflation and

there have been specific cuts which have stressed the schools's budgets. Cuts in the district would mean larger classes, elimination of some classes/ programs, fewer teachers, counselors, and custodians, etc. Compared to other AA schools, GF spends the least per student under current budget. Both the Park District and the School Levy are on the same mail in ballot and all citizens are encouraged to vote and to talk to their neighbors about the pros and cons of these issues and vote in such a way that will be good for our community.

Petitions and Communications---none

Neighbor Concerns---none

Other Business

Bob Rosipal, candidate for sheriff, introduced himself and what he would hope to do if elected Sheriff.

City Commission work session on April 17, 5:30PM, will include a time for us to share neighborhood concerns. Possible concerns to be shared would be crime, traffic/speeding around schools.

There was some discussion about organizing fund raisers to improve neighborhood parks if the ballot issue fails. It is extremely helpful if a non-profit can be enlisted to assist in that effort. It can be a lot of fun for neighbors to come together to work on some worthwhile project together.

Adjourned—8:50PM

Next meeting---May3, 2018, Sandy Rice, Downtown Safety Alliance