

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL #7
Monday, February 9, 2026 7:00 P.M.
Gibson Room, Great Falls Civic Center

February Minutes:

Call to order:

The meeting was brought to order at 7:00 by Chair Trevor Mikkelsen, who led the Pledge of Allegiance. Council members in attendance were Trevor Mikkelsen, Troy Lane, Allison Tangen, and Bill Wadman. Also attending was City of Great Falls Liaison Rob Moccasin. A quorum was established. Neighbors present were Margaret Mitchell, Scott Reasoner, Charles Goodman, and Jane Weber.

Old Business:

Troy Lane made a motion to approve the January minutes as written. Allison Tangen seconded. The minutes were approved.

Committee reports:

Downtown Development Partnership: 2025 was a great year for downtown Great Falls. There were over 26,895 volunteer hours providing a significant investment in the downtown areas. Over \$7.9 million invested in renovating or rehabilitating downtown buildings. Thirty-four new businesses chose to locate downtown, creating approximately 100 new jobs. Two major projects were completed: a storm wastewater system on 1st Ave. South and a Streetscape on the 700 block of 7th Ave. South.

Brownfield committee: No Report

Downtown Safety: No Report

Council of Councils: No report (Suggested items or concerns to take to C of C: Toby's House looking for Board members, property that continues to be a nuisance for neighborhoods, and new investment in downtown like the Clearwater Credit Union.)

Strategic Planning: No Report

City Safety Funding: Gathering information and donations for a survey.

New Business:

- Andrew Finch from the City of Great Falls gave an update on the City Growth Policy. Over 2000 citizens responded to the public outreach and the analysis has resulted in a blueprint for the draft plan. The city is now looking for public comment on the proposed plan, specifically on future land use. Go to FUTUREGREATFALLS.COM for the entire draft and to make public comment.
- Penny Paul, Tobacco Education Specialist from Cascade County Health Department gave a presentation on the Montana Tobacco use Prevention Program. The mission of the program is to address the public health crisis that tobacco causes in our state and communities. Nicotine is the #1 addictive substance in our society and the prevention program focuses on our youth to better inform them of the health consequences of tobacco and nicotine. Products such as e-cigs (vaping) are growing and being used by a large percentage of the population, especially teens. One recent bill outlawing vaping in public hopes to protect citizens from second-hand exposure. For more information and help quitting, go to tobaccofree.mt.gov.

Neighborhood petitions and communications: Charles Goodman brought up the problem with nuisance properties causing disruption to neighborhoods toward safety and livability. There is frustration that the city is not doing enough to deal with this problem. Is there a better way to put pressure on the owners and landlords, possibly by code violations as well as legal action?

Neighborhood council: Rob Moccasin inquired if any council member wanted business cards. Rob also brought up how Council #7 would like to relay concerns and opinions to specific departments or the City Council to better document and streamline the process. Also brought up was how the agenda and minutes should be posted. Allison Tangen reported that crime mapping was back and available online.

Agenda Items: none

Next Meeting: March 9, 2026

Submitted by Bill Wadman