

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL NO. 5 MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 16, 2026

Great Falls Clinic Specialty Center, 3000 15th Ave. S.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Council Co-chair Howard Plouffe with the Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL: Members present: Co-chairs Plouffe and Greg Milton, Luella Vogel and Tom Kotynski. Excused member: Dylan Lennox. Neighbors present: 11

MINUTES: The minutes of the Jan. 19 meeting were read and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **NeighborWorks Great Falls.** Alan Heisler, housing and financial counselor for NeighborWorks Great Falls presented on his organization's programs and goals. NeighborWorks was created to build strong communities through affordable housing. He described the organization's successes like high school houses, the Baatz Block downtown for the homeless. He told us about homeowner education, homeowner success workshops, the work done with surrounding counties and the specifics of financing to get people, who would otherwise not be able to afford home ownership, into a home. Programs used include downpayment assistance, owner-built homes, matched savings.
- **Meeting dates moved tentatively.** After some discussion the council voted unanimously on a motion by Tom Kotynski, seconded by Greg Milton to do a one year trial of moving January and February meeting dates to the third Tuesday of the month to avoid the MLK and President Days' holidays. The rest of the year the meetings will remain on the third Monday of the month.
- **Facebook:** The council agreed to consider Facebook page administration at its March meeting. The page is currently administered by Tom Kotynski, but the city requires a second administrator who is a council member. Broadcast of council meetings on the page remains undecided.
- **Park vandalism:** Eric Ray described increasing C.M. Russell park vandalism, particularly the library book kiosk near the tennis court. He pleaded for increased vigilance from the council and neighborhood.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.