

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL #7
Monday, **March 9**, 2026, 7:00 p.m.
Gibson Room, Great Falls Civic Center

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was brought to order at 7:00 by Chair Trevor Mikkelsen, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

In attendance were Council Members Troy Lane, Trevor Mikkelsen, Sandy Rice, Allison Tangen, and Bill Wadman and Liaison Rob Moccasin. Roll call of the Council was completed and a quorum established.

Neighbors present were Jane Weber, Charles Goodman, Margaret Mitchell, Emmett Whall, Bryce Brown, Joe McKenney, Doug McElroy, Kevin Vining, and Shane Etwiler

OLD BUSINESS:

The February Minutes were approved as amended.

Committee Reports:

Downtown Development Partnership: Feedback on the proposed **drug** (Growth) plan ended on February 28. TIF projects are in progress. Chamber of Commerce has moved to 401 13th Avenue South. The downtown speaker system has been expanded and upgraded. The alley mural lighting project did not get the requested grant but will continue to pursue other funding. New garbage cans have been ordered and will be placed when ready. The parking commission is looking for ideas and alternatives for future implementation. There are several outstanding vacancies on city boards but elected officials (including Neighborhood Council members) are not allowed to serve.

Brownfield Committee: No report.

Downtown Safety Alliance: The SCRAM camera registry program is not viable anymore. The Crisis Response Team is in the process of hiring as the administrator is retiring in June. The SRO utilization will continue next summer as it was very successful last summer. After July 4th, Central Avenue will have closures on the 300 and 400 blocks for storm sewer main repairs, the alleys will be open to facilitate downtown traffic.

Council of Councils: Allison reported on the February quarterly meeting. Election of officers was held and Allison retained her position of Vice Chair. Crimemapping is back up.

Strategic Planning: no report

City Safety Funding: the City Safety Committee continues to meet every other Friday.

NEW BUSINESS: Charles Goodman from NeighborWorks Great Falls shared the 2025 Impact Report and reminded the Council that application of neighborhood social events should be submitted soon. Sandy will send the request for funds for the annual Ice Cream Neighborhood Social.

Shane Etwiler announced a new grass roots effort called Electric City Citizens for Public Safety which will work to get a public safety levy passed to enable Great Falls to address the growing concern about crime in the city. Great Falls has never passed a city levy for police or fire departments.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Emmett Whall announced a new Strong Town Group in Great Falls. Strong Town is a national organization dedicated to improving living conditions in communities. Both Strong Towns and Strong Towns Great Falls have a FaceBook page for more information.

NEIGHBORHOOD PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: Jane Weber called attention to the emerging crisis at the Eagles Manor assisted living center, now under new ownership which intends to eliminate all food services for tenants.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL: Trevor gave a shout out to the city forestry department, the school district, and NorthWestern Energy for the great response to the gale force wind destruction on March 6.

Agenda items: Family Promise presentation

Next Meeting: Monday April 13, 2026, at the Civic Center.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm on unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted, Sandra Rice, Secretary