

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL NO. 5 MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 16, 2026

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

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: 16.

MINUTES: The minutes of the February 16 meeting were read and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Montana Tobacco Use Prevention.** Penny Paul, director of the City-County Health Department's program, explained the department's programs to include compliance with the state's laws. She said nicotine in tobacco is the most addictive drug, more so than most commonly known street drugs; that 10 percent of Montanans smoke; that 24 percent of high school students vape and that there are dangerous chemicals in vape smoke; that Montana is second in the nation after Louisiana in youth vaping. She works with businesses to enforce no-smoking laws and concentrates on educating 5th grade students about the harm of tobacco smoking and vaping.
- **NeighborWorks.** Emma Nelson, of NeighborWorks, updated the council on upcoming NeighborWorks events: An April 11 Homebuyer Fair, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at University of Providence; a Community Cleanup, April 24-25; the Community grant cycle, throughout the year; and an annual meeting April 30, 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Baatz Block.
- **Montana Department of Transportation.** Jim Wingerter, District 3 DOT administrator, took questions particularly on 10th Avenue South issues. Specifically: a turn light at 39th to facilitate those turns onto 10th; the unsafe 45 mph speed limit; and what the new Town Pump gas station, and convenience store, casino and liquor store, might mean for traffic there.

To that end, the council unanimously passed a resolution asking that a letter be written to the Montana Department of Transportation to study and address these issues. The motion was made by Tom Kotynski and seconded by Greg Milton.

The council decided to discuss the Facebook issue at the April meeting, which will be April 20 at 7 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m., on a motion from Howard, seconded by Greg, which passed unanimously.