



Work Session Meeting Agenda
2 Park Drive South, Great Falls, MT
Gibson Room, Civic Center
October 04, 2022
5:30 PM

The agenda packet material is available on the City's website: <https://greatfallsmt.net/meetings>. The Public may view and listen to the meeting on government access channel City-190, cable channel 190; or online at <https://greatfallsmt.net/livestream>.

Public participation is welcome in the following ways:

- Attend in person.
- Provide public comments in writing by 12:00 PM the day of the meeting: Mail to City Clerk, PO Box 5021, Great Falls, MT 59403, or via email to: commission@greatfallsmt.net. Include the agenda item or agenda item number in the subject line, and include the name of the commenter and either an address or whether the commenter is a city resident. Written communication received by that time will be shared with the City Commission and appropriate City staff for consideration during the agenda item, and, will be so noted in the official record of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

PUBLIC COMMENT

(Public comment on agenda items or any matter that is within the jurisdiction of the City Commission. Please keep your remarks to a maximum of five (5) minutes. Speak into the microphone, and state your name and either your address or whether you are a city resident for the record.)

WORK SESSION ITEMS

1. Neighborhood Council Update - Neighborhood Council #7.
2. Library Master Plan --
Susie McIntyre, Library Director
Jill Baker, Library Foundation Board Director
Whitney Olson, Library Board Chair

DISCUSSION POTENTIAL UPCOMING WORK SESSION TOPICS

ADJOURNMENT

City Commission Work Sessions are televised on cable channel 190 and streamed live at <https://greatfallsmt.net>. Work Session meetings are re-aired on cable channel 190 the following Thursday morning at 10 a.m. and the following Tuesday evening at 5:30 p.m.

Wi-Fi is available during the meetings for viewing of the online meeting documents.

UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE

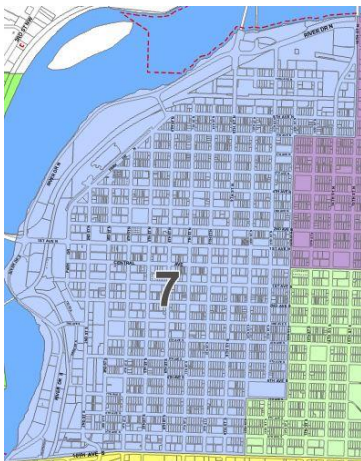
Work Session -- Tuesday October 18, 2022 5:30 p.m.

Commission Meeting -- Tuesday October 18, 2022 7:00 p.m.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL 7

We walk for the history and stay for the future

LOCATION & MEETING SCHEDULE



Neighborhood Council 7

Civic Center Gibson Rm.

2nd Monday of the month at 7 pm

Neighborhood Council 7 Boundaries

The northern and western boundaries are the Missouri River, the southern boundary is 10th Avenue South, the eastern boundary is 10th Street South from 10th Avenue South to 7th Avenue South, then east to 12th Street South and north to 7th Avenue North, then east to 15th Street North and north to the Missouri River.

WHO ARE WE?

- Neighborhood Council #7 represents the historic areas of Great Falls: the original Northside townsite, the historic Southside, and Downtown.
- If one shops the Central shopping district, they are within the boundaries. Historic homes include the Northside walking tour and the Southside houses relocated from Smelter Hill.

- NC7 has the most diverse mix of residential homes and apartments, retail shops, and industrial works of any Great Falls area.
- We believe in the revitalization of the original townsites and commercial centers while passionately preserving and promoting the history that makes Great Falls a place to call home for years to come.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Lisa Meyers, Chair
- Troy Lane, Vice-Chair
- Sandy Rice, Secretary
- Linda Daggett
- Trevor Mikkelsen



HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD #7 OUTREACH, INFORMATION, AND INVOLVEMENT

- We are creating a place where people enjoy seeing our community's roots and history while providing a family-oriented area people are proud to say they live.
- We believe that we can make a positive difference in our Neighborhood by connecting neighbors to the historic value of our district. We can improve the safety of our Neighborhood, help our neighbors keep the Neighborhood clean and presentable and to take pride in where we live.

NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH

- Each Council member has committed to contacting five neighbors a month throughout the year.



OUR WHY

We are creating a place where people walk for the history and stay for the future.

COMMON ISSUES

Abandoned Vehicles
 Neglected Properties
 Parking
 Crime
 Garbage
 Clean Up Efforts
 Current Improvements

INTRODUCTION

I/we am/are part of your neighborhood council. We want to create a place where people enjoy seeing our community's roots and history, while providing a family oriented area people are proud to say they live.

FOCUS

1. What are your concerns as a member of the neighborhood?
2. Everyone in the neighborhood is encouraged to attend our meetings. (2nd Monday at 7pm, Civic Center, Gibson Rm)
3. We are trying to build a network of people and information; would you like to be on an e-mail list that would provide information about neighborhood issues?

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



- Supported Whittier School with fund-raising for the Radio Readers and invited students to present math and reading programs.
 - Hosted a Neighborhood Ice Cream Social in Carter Park with over 100 participants.
 - Council member Sandy Rice helped update and rewrite the Downtown Safety Alliance Safety Plan for 2021 and has committed to introducing the Plan to all nine Councils in 2022.
-
- Nuisance Property ideas were forwarded to the Citizens' Council (Council of Councils) which is moving forward with them.
 - Several Conditional Use Permit requests were presented, asking for NC7 support. Some received full support, some conditional support and some were not supported after careful consideration. NC7 strongly supported the NeighborWorks Great Falls Baatz Building supportive housing project.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERNS

- Nuisance Properties – forwarded to Council of Councils
- Graffiti and vandalism in Gibson Park – Speeding and Crosswalks on Park Drive – requested a Transportation Study
- Fireworks – City and County ordinances need to be reconciled – forwarded to Council of Councils
- Homeless gatherings, especially at 6th Street and 2nd Avenue North - this major discussion is ongoing; we brought the area churches together to encourage discussion.

2022 GOALS

- Host a 2nd Ice Cream Social
- Continue Neighborhood Outreach
- Encourage and host discussion around the homeless problem
- Institute Neighborhood Watch programs



GREAT FALLS PUBLIC LIBRARY MASTER PLAN

Great Falls, Montana

22.004 | 10.03.22



Importance of Library Services

Communities with strong libraries show **increased student performance**.

Communities with strong libraries show **greater resiliency to disaster**.

Communities with strong libraries have **better social infrastructure** and more **community cohesiveness**.

Library provides:

- Access to enriching resources and programming
- Access to quality information and skills
- Resources to reduce the digital divide and all to succeed.
- Access to community resources.
- Improved connections and social function
- Place of refuge—families, parents, students, and others

Master Plan: Process

Stakeholder Engagement

- Community, Staff, and Board Discussion Sessions
- Survey

Data Analysis

- Demographics and Demographic Mapping
- 10-year Usage and Funding Trends
- Comparison Benchmarks
- Collection Utilization Analysis
- Space Needs Analysis

Professional evaluations of facilities (structure and space)

Master Plan: Operations and Funding

What We Learned

- Community values the library, but it isn't financially supported at that level of value (and is shrinking)
- Parking is a key issue also impacting library usage
- Some residents don't feel comfortable/safe coming to the library

Recommendations to Address Issues

- Develop multiple pathways/strategies to increasing library funding to a minimum goal of getting up to the average MT library of similar size.
- Use part of this increased funding to address parking and safety concerns.

Master Plan: Vision for the Future

Increased Hours: Open 7 Days/week (61 hours/week)

Increase Bookmobile Service: Run 6 Days per week

Expanded Staff for Safety:

- Contract for part-time social worker
- 2 full-time safety specialists

Free Parking for Patrons

Master Plan: Vision for the Future

Expanded Services:

- Digital Cards for all Cascade County Students
- Expanded digital resources for all patrons
- Expanded Homebound Program coordinated with Meals on Wheels
- College Readiness Program for teens (test prep and application assistance)
- Audio/Video Recording resources for podcasting, Internet videos (YouTube & TikTok), and oral histories
- MakerSpace/3-D printing resources for DIY
- Expanded adult educational and recreational programming
- Computer & Technology classes
- Expanded support for businesses & entrepreneurs
- Expanded support for job seekers

Master Plan: FACILITIES

What We Learned

- Overall, the library is undersized. The layout and space allocations of the library aren't aligned with current needs/usage and lack accessibility
- Youth space(s) are VERY undersized for the library/community
- Park to the rear is too disconnected from the library and has lots of issues related to resident behaviors
- Much of the buildings infrastructure is at the end of its useful life and in need of replacement

Recommendations to Address Issues

- Remodel Library
 - Update critical building systems including electrical and mechanical systems
 - Increase accessibility through improved stair/elevator access and updating restrooms
 - Redesign Library spaces to align with community needs
 - Increase energy efficiency
- Reconfigure front plaza and park bandshell to address security concerns and create a more welcoming environment

Master Plan: Vision for the Future

Remodeled Library

- Vibrant anchor for a thriving downtown
- Energy efficient, sustainable building that will last for another 50 years
- Enhanced social infrastructure that builds community connection

Total Estimated Construction Cost: \$15,000,000.00

Master Plan: Vision for the Future

Accessibility (Approx. Cost \$765,000.00)

- Replacing the two original existing elevators with one **multi-sided modern elevator** and relocating and **reconfiguring the existing stairs** to provide a clear means of access from the basement up to the third floor. Upgrading and **reconfiguring restrooms** that allow for full access by all members of the public to each restroom and on each floor.

Visibility, Connection and Safety – Library Park Entrance (Approx. Cost \$2,065,000.00)

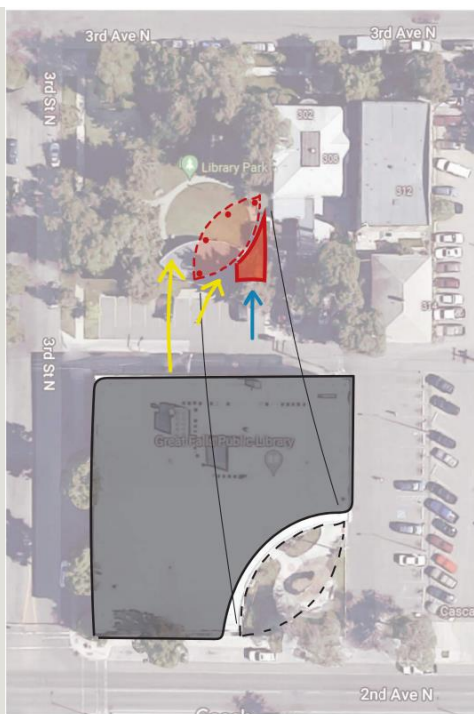
- **Adding North public entrance** facing the Library park. **Reconfiguring the Library Park** to make the park a safer, more accessible space. **Replacing the existing entrance vestibule** closer to the parking lot and reconfiguring the entry plaza into a safe programmable space. **Replacing the glazing** in the existing storefront to improve thermal performance and adding new storefront to increase daylight and visibility.

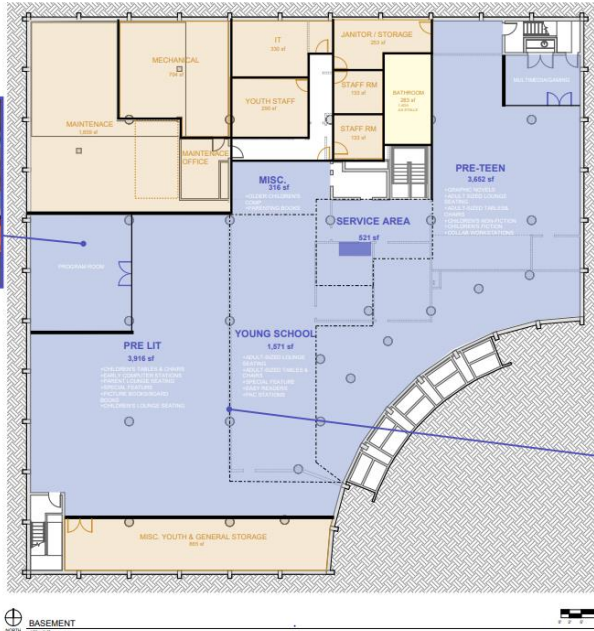
Critical Infrastructure—(Approx. Cost \$2,735,000.00)

- Replacing all the **existing wiring and electrical equipment** in the building, as well as **updated fire alarms and city connections**. **Replacing the original 3rd floor air handler** with a modern, up-to-code air handler and **upgrading the associated chiller and ducting**.

Space Reconfiguration and Updates (Approx. Cost \$1,875,000)

- Reconfiguring the library to accommodate a larger children’s area, creating more public space, improving staff work spaces, and updating lighting fixtures, furniture and finishes.

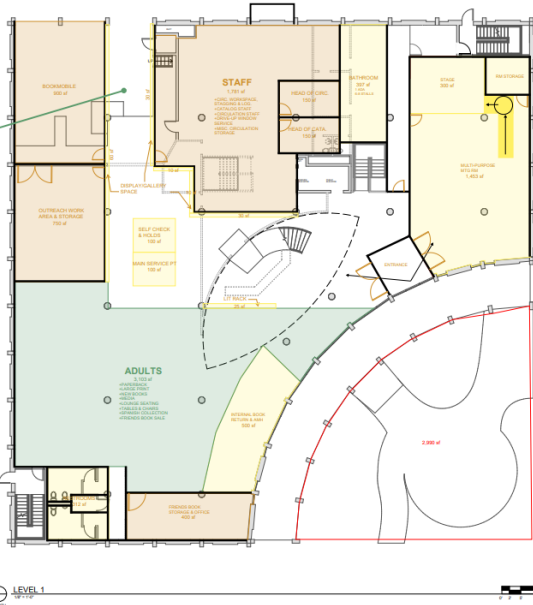




MMW ARCHITECTS The Thinking Living logo

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC LIBRARY - BASEMENT 301 2ND AVE N, GREAT FALLS, MT 59401

22.004 08.24.22



MMW ARCHITECTS The Thinking Living logo

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC LIBRARY - FIRST FLOOR 301 2ND AVE N, GREAT FALLS, MT 59401

22.004 08.24.22



MMW ARCHITECTS THINKING LIVING

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC LIBRARY - SECOND FLOOR
301 2ND AVE N, GREAT FALLS, MT 59401

22.004
08.24.22



MMW ARCHITECTS THINKING LIVING

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC LIBRARY - THIRD FLOOR
301 2ND AVE N, GREAT FALLS, MT 59401

22.004
08.24.22

Master Plan: From Vision to Reality

Facilities Upgrades: Capital Campaign

- Focused on grants and private donations
- No current plan to ask the voters for taxpayer support (other than grants from other programs—CDBG, Infrastructure Funding etc.)

Operations and Funding: Mill Levy Campaign

- Ballot measure requesting increased support for Library services

STATE OF CURRENT LIBRARY FUNDING:

Our community funds the library at \$19/capita. Average support for MT libraries is \$31/capita.

From FY2022 to FY2023, personnel costs went up by \$84,332.52 and our tax revenue increased by \$19,677.10. We made up part of that difference by cutting costs in other areas and increasing revenue by rent space to the Self-Help Law Clinic. Our projected FY2023 budget is **\$(59,969.00)**.

If revenue and costs continue on this trajectory, the Library budget for FY2024 will be **\$(120,000)** or we will require **severe cuts in services including layoffs and reduced hours.**

LIBRARY BUDGETED REVENUE FY2023:

Great Falls Public Library Operational Budget: \$1,510,150.00

2 voted City Mills: \$199,105.56
 7 City Mills by Agreement: \$696,869.44
 City General Fund: \$350,000.00
 County Funding by Agreement: \$177,000.00
 State Funding: \$32,075.00
 Other Funding: \$55,100.00

Great Falls Public Library Donation/Foundation Budget: \$254,532.00

CANNOT BE USED FOR STAFFING, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS OR GENERAL OPERATIONS

Foundation Approved Projects (materials, technology, eResources etc.): \$138,000
 Donations for specific materials (Grab & Go, Nonfiction, Children's, Westerns): \$26,852.00
 Book-A-Thon for youth services: \$70,000
 Donations for adult programing: \$7,500
 General donations from foundation: \$2,680.00
 Friends of the Library support from Book Sale: \$6,500
 General donations from the community: \$3,000

Master Plan: Vision to Reality MILL LEVY

What type of Mill Levy?

- City Mill Levy
- County Mill Levy
- Multi-Jurisdictional Mill Levy
- Library District Mill Levy

How do we decide which type of Mill Levy?

- Professional polling to determine which has best chance of success
- Negotiations with Belt and Wedsworth Libraries
- Input from City and County Commissions

Master Plan: Vision to Reality MILL LEVY

When do we put the Mill Levy before the voters?

- School District Election May 2023
- General Election November 2023
- School District Election May 2024
- General Election November 2024

How do we decide when?

- Professional polling to determine which has best chance of success
- Negotiations with Belt and Wedsworth Libraries
- Input from City and County Commissions

Master Plan: Vision to Reality MILL LEVY

How many mills do we request?

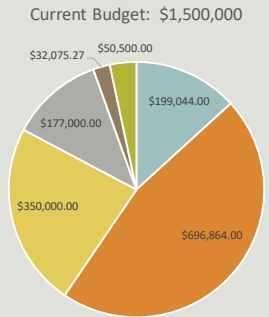
GFPL budget \$2,500,000 + possible funding for Belt and Wedsworth Memorial Libraries.

- Analysis of current funding and needed service levels (completed for GFPL as part of Master Plan)
- Will Mill Levy funding supplement or replace current funding?

How do we decide how many mills to request?

- Professional polling to determine what level of funding voters will support
- Negotiations with Belt and Wedsworth Libraries
- Decisions by City and County Commissions

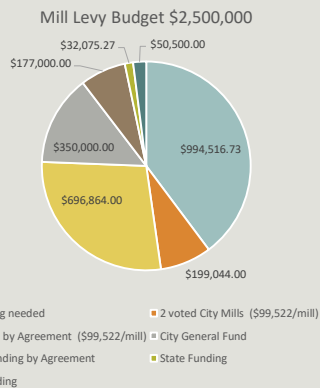
Supplement or Replace: Current Budget



Mill Levy Campaign	
Mill funding needed	
2 voted City Mills (\$99,522/mill)	\$ 199,044.00
7 City Mills by Agreement (\$99,522/mill)	\$ 696,864.00
City General Fund	\$ 350,000.00
County Funding by Agreement	\$ 177,000.00
State Funding	\$ 32,075.27
Other Funding	\$ 50,500.00
TOTAL	\$ 1,505,483.27

- 2 voted City Mills (\$99,522/mill)
- 7 City Mills by Agreement (\$99,522/mill)
- City General Fund
- County Funding by Agreement
- State Funding through Federation
- Other Funding

Supplement or Replace: Mill Levy Budget

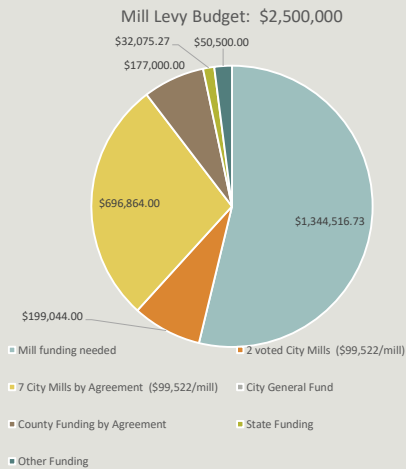


Mill Levy Campaign	
Mill funding needed	\$ 994,516.73
2 voted City Mills (\$99,522/mill)	\$ 199,044.00
7 City Mills by Agreement (\$99,522/mill)	\$ 696,864.00
City General Fund	\$ 350,000.00
County Funding by Agreement	\$ 177,000.00
State Funding	\$ 32,075.27
Other Funding	\$ 50,500.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,500,000.00
# of County Mills (estimated value \$179,579.59)	\$ 5.54

Mill Levy Campaign	
Mill funding needed	\$ 994,516.73
2 voted City Mills (\$99,522/mill)	\$ 199,044.00
7 City Mills by Agreement (\$99,522/mill)	\$ 696,864.00
City General Fund	\$ 350,000.00
County Funding by Agreement	\$ 177,000.00
State Funding	\$ 32,075.27
Other Funding	\$ 50,500.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,550,000.00
# of City Mills (estimated value \$99,522)	9.99

- Mill funding needed
- 2 voted City Mills (\$99,522/mill)
- 7 City Mills by Agreement (\$99,522/mill)
- City General Fund
- County Funding by Agreement
- State Funding
- Other Funding

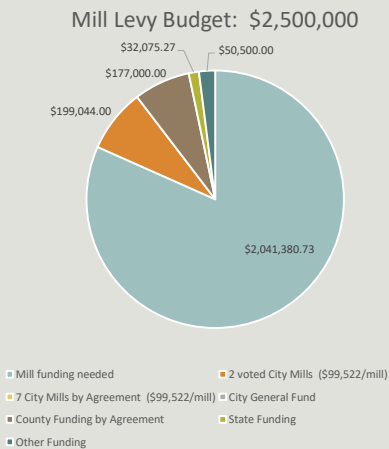
Supplement or Replace: Mill Levy Budget



Mill Levy Campaign	
Mill funding needed	\$ 1,344,516.73
2 voted City Mills (\$99,522/mill)	\$ 199,044.00
7 City Mills by Agreement (\$99,522/mill)	\$ 696,864.00
City General Fund	
County Funding by Agreement	\$ 177,000.00
State Funding	\$ 32,075.27
Other Funding	\$ 50,500.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,500,000.00
# of County Mills (estimated value \$179,579.59)	7.49

Mill Levy Campaign	
Mill funding needed	\$ 1,344,516.73
2 voted City Mills (\$99,522/mill)	\$ 199,044.00
7 City Mills by Agreement (\$99,522/mill)	\$ 696,864.00
City General Fund	
County Funding by Agreement	\$ 177,000.00
State Funding	\$ 32,075.27
Other Funding	\$ 50,500.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,500,000.00
# of City Mills (estimated value \$99,522)	13.51

Supplement or Replace: Mill Levy Budget



Mill Levy Campaign	
Mill funding needed	\$ 2,041,380.73
2 voted City Mills (\$99,522/mill)	\$ 199,044.00
7 City Mills by Agreement (\$99,522/mill)	\$ 696,864.00
City General Fund	
County Funding by Agreement	\$ 177,000.00
State Funding	\$ 32,075.27
Other Funding	\$ 50,500.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,500,000.00
# of County Mills (estimated value \$179,579.59)	11.37

Mill Levy Campaign	
Mill funding needed	\$ 2,041,380.73
2 voted City Mills (\$99,522/mill)	\$ 199,044.00
7 City Mills by Agreement (\$99,522/mill)	\$ 696,864.00
City General Fund	
County Funding by Agreement	\$ 177,000.00
State Funding	\$ 32,075.27
Other Funding	\$ 50,500.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,500,000.00
# of City Mills (estimated value \$99,522)	20.51

Input requested from City Commission

Preferred timeline for Library Mill Levy?

Will funds from the Library Mill Levy supplement or replace current City of Great Falls financial support for the Library?

Questions
