

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council  
General Meeting  
July 20, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m., by Chair Gary Schumacher.

Introductions were made of all present.

Vice Chair, Gary Dennis, asked that the minutes be read and they were approved as written.

Colleen Dennis, Secretary/Treasurer gave the Treasurer's Report. We have \$860.95 in our account with no expenditures.

### AVISTA

Steve Traban, the Regional Business Manager, from AVISTA came to talk with us about the future of energy in Spokane.

With him he brought the Project Manager, Josh.

They gave us some information on the "Smart Circuit Program" to do with generation and distribution of power and a resource guide to assistance programs. There are several bill assistance programs, such as: Payment arrangements, comfort level billing, preferred due date, energy assistants grants (project share) and senior assistance. If you need help paying your bill, please call 1-800-227-9187.

They also told us their free online home energy analysis. This shows how their homes compare to others of similar size and offers tips on how to improve their energy efficiency.

Our area just received a \$20 million grant from the American Reinvestment Recovery Act. This will help with outage restoration. Substations open up and within a minute problems can be identified, power is restored to 80 or 90% of people within 90 minutes.

Right now, work is being done on the north side, next spring work will be done on the south hill. Work includes new wires, new poles and a temporary extension to allow higher capacity wires.

They will also be installing "smart digital meters" which will eliminate the need for meter readers to come around.

Ways to be green:

- Every little bit counts
- Use energy efficient rebates
- Order a home energy audit (about \$150.00)

Rates: The State Utility Commission takes about 11 months to go through the process of approving rate increases.

### Community Assembly

There are currently 27 neighborhoods involved in the Assembly.

We have been currently looking at a site for a "Community Garden". The committee met in June with the City Water Department. There is a piece of land that is flat and fenced with lots of sunshine and water available.

The city will provide any insurance needed and the rest will be our responsibility.

We need a committee of people who would be willing to take part in the planning now so that the gardens will be ready to plant in the Spring of 2011.

Sally suggested that to defray some of the cost, we would have a community yard sale.

### Closure of Bus Stops

The STA has seen fit to close every other bus stop on Freya and completely eliminate the Glenrose route. A suggestion was made to make the bus run every 20 minutes, instead of every 15 minutes and leave the stops alone. It was moved and seconded that this group should send a letter from the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council.

### Picnic/Potluck

Our annual neighborhood picnic will be on August 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. Just bring your chair, utensils and a dish to share with your neighbors.

### Code Enforcement Ride-A-Long

Gary Schumacher, Gary Dennis and Marilyn Lloyd had the opportunity to ride along with our Code Enforcement Officers, looking for violations. This was a wonderful opportunity for our neighborhood, because Code Enforcement has asked for help identifying violations to keep our neighborhood nice. They were educated as to what constituted a violation and what process follows when a violation is spotted.

### EMT

We have a group of EMT/Firefighters join us for our meeting.

A question was asked of them about a hydrant on 27<sup>th</sup>, between Freya and Rebecca, that a neighbor parks and blocks on a daily basis. If there was need for that hydrant, the trucks couldn't get to it. They said they would go by that evening a look.

Another question was raised about a hydrant at 35<sup>th</sup> and Cook that a neighbor was trying to open and use. A city inspection apparently came out and helped him, which would require a permit. They were going to make sure a permit was issued.

### Cottage Housing

Foundations are poured and 6 units have permits. The land still remains unplatted as far as we know. The development is under appeal.

It is to be understood that the neighborhood is not against development, but there are only 5 tracts that had boundary line adjustments and they plan to build 24 units.

Traffic from this development is a huge issue. The cars must cut through side streets and the only arterial is up on 37<sup>th</sup>.

"Cottage Housing" constitutes "owner occupied" and this will most definitely not be owner occupied. The owner has stated that for the next 20 years, these will be rentals.

It is stated that you cannot build on private AND city property. The neighborhood took this matter in front of Judge Kathleen O'Connor and she ruled for the developers. She stated that none of the land belonged to the city.....not true.

It was suggested that everyone write to the newspapers and their city representatives about the cottage housing.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Dennis  
Secretary/Treasurer