

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council

General Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2013

The meeting was brought to order at 7:00 PM, with President Gary Schumacher presiding.

The officers introduced themselves: President Gary Schumacher, Community Assembly representative Marilyn Lloyd, and acting Secretary Sally Phillips.

Teresa Fuller, Spokane Police Dept, gave a presentation on the Photo Red program. Highlights:

- The object of the program is to reduce dangerous red-light running behavior in a way the city can afford. The program uses cameras to record motorists running red lights. Ten intersections in Spokane have photo red cameras. American Traffic Solutions partners with the City to provide the cameras, and handles most of the processing of the tickets. Officer Fuller reviews the tickets for accuracy and provides the final approval for issuance of the ticket. Motorists can contest their ticket. The ticket is treated like a parking ticket, with no violation recorded on the motorist's driving record. If someone other than the recorded vehicle owner is driving, the vehicle owner can notify the City, get their citation cancelled and have it reissued to the correct driver.
- The program has been phased in starting in 2008. Statistics for the monitored intersections show a decline in collisions. The reduction is anywhere from 23 – 50%. Of the motorists cited, 95% are not cited again. The system also keeps track of traffic volume in locations, which can be used for traffic planning. Note: Division and Sprague has been listed as the second-most dangerous intersection in the country.
- Cost of the program is supported by fines collected from violators. The program generates additional funds, which the City Council allocates.
- More info on the program is located at: <http://www.spokanepolice.org/leftnav/photored/>

Jon Snyder, District 2 Councilman, discussed how the Council will be using Photo Red funds. Based on previous years' experience, the City expects to collect \$470,000 in excess of the cost of funding the program. Their current proposal:

- \$300,000 for neighborhood traffic calming projects
- \$100,000 to add an additional traffic policeman to the existing 6 traffic officers
- \$50,000 to help with CopShop infrastructure needs
- \$20,000 for graffiti abatement

This proposal is being reviewed by the Community Assembly.

We discussed photo red projects in Lincoln Heights. One project is being completed – providing sidewalks on Freya from 18th to Ben Burr Blvd. It was noted that there is still a gap below Ben Burr. A second project was slated to start this summer, adding sidewalks along Freya from 36th to 37th. This

project has hit a delay, as the City has reconstruction plans (left turn lane, light) planned for 37th and Freya. This extensive work would wreck any Freya sidewalk that could be installed now. The result: it makes more sense to see if the sidewalk gap below Ben Burr can be remedied at this time rather than continuing with the 36th – 37th sidewalk. The Council suggested making this change. *Note: Subsequent to the meeting, City Engineering did make this adjustment, and is now adding sidewalk in the vicinity of Ferrall and Freya.*

Tim Burns, Spokane Police Ombudsman, delivered a summary of his office's annual report. See the full report at: <http://www.spdombudsman.com/documents-and-reports>

About half of citizen complaints against police came through the Ombudsman office. Of those, 4 were sustained. There was one non-fatal officer shooting. Tim said he has proposed the Spokane Police use body cameras. This proposal is waiting on negotiation with the Spokane Police Guild. Currently the police are working without a contract. They are in mediation with the City, and will probably end up in arbitration. Proposition 1, which passed with 70% approval by citizens, gives the Ombudsman office the authority to do independent investigations of police activity. This proposition is also waiting for implementation on police contract negotiation. Tim has also pushed for internal investigation reports being posted online, and this happened. See the reports at the address above under the heading - *Ombudsman Received Complaints - Closing Reports.*

Dwight Hume spoke on behalf of a comprehensive plan amendment (regarding two lots located at 29th & Fiske. Comp plan amendment is for a zoning change from medium density residential to commercial (Centers and Corridors 2, same as the rest of Lincoln Heights business district). The traffic department has weighed in concerning traffic on Fiske and shielding adjoining residences from glare. At our meeting, attendees expressed concern about traffic on Fiske and about the need for buffering between a commercial development and adjacent residences. See the comp plan amendment documents at: http://www.spokaneplanning.org/comp_plan_amendments.html. Look for amendment Z1200045. The plan commission is considering all the amendments, including the reduced-scope Sonneland amendment, at its meeting on August 14th. Interested residents may attend the meeting and comment.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Submitted by Sally Phillips, Acting Secretary