

## Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council

### General Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2014

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.

Gary Schumacher called the meeting to order.

- Neighborhood cleanup will take place April 26<sup>th</sup>, from 8 am until 1 pm. Lincoln Heights households can dump trash at our central collection point in Thornton Murphy Park. Additionally, Gary has dump passes available for distribution to LH neighbors.
- New developments in Lincoln Heights include a large tower expansion at Rockwood Manor and a combined sewer overflow tank at 21<sup>st</sup> and Regal.
- Marilyn Lloyd gave a Community assembly report.
  - The City is encouraging volunteerism during the week of 4/12- 4/19. [SpokaneGives.org](http://SpokaneGives.org) has a list of volunteer opportunities. Rod Minarik in Office of Neighborhood Services also has a list.
  - Marilyn passed around a survey where we were asked to rank priorities for projects to help low-income residents.
  - Two mobile speed signs will be available for rotating use by neighborhoods. We discussed placement on 27<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, Ray, or 30<sup>th</sup> & Fiske. The signs make motorists aware of how fast they are going and may cause them to moderate their speed.
  - March 31<sup>st</sup> there will be a town hall meeting at East Center Community Center. Gary will present a report on Lincoln Heights Council activities.
  - Marilyn asked for comments on a Community Assembly statement that the CA should be considered an 'equal partner in government'. We decided that a more accurate description is that the CA is a 'citizen advisory group'.
- Police report – Officer Mason reported that the City is hiring 6-7 additional officers, with the aim of getting police department staffing up to 300 officers. The new officers will be functional in a month or two as they are former law enforcement officers. With the increase in officers, the Police Dept can fill detective spots for property crimes investigation. Crime stats for our area are low and crimes are down from last year.
- Sally Phillips reported that the South Hill Coalition is finalizing its South Hill neighborhood plan, including a project list and map of desired South Hill projects. The list will be discussed at a neighborhood stakeholders' meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup>. She passed around a one-page profile of Lincoln Heights that will be included in the South Hill Coalition plan. (See attachment below).

- City of Spokane is sponsoring a walkability study around the Lincoln Heights shopping area on March 20<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 PM. All neighbors are invited to attend. Representatives from many City departments will be there: engineering, neighborhood services, planning.
- Juliet Sinisterra from City Parks made a presentation on Riverfront Park's new master plan. This is the first comprehensive planning for Riverfront Park since Expo 74. The Park loses about \$2 million dollars per year. However, it is also a tourist draw. Elements of the plan include:
  - Close Imax which has been a big money loser for the last 3-4 years.
  - Use landscaping changes to connect the North Bank more thoroughly with the Park via Howard.
  - Replace event shelters on the North Bank. Add a restaurant, skate park. Add an 80000 sq ft, privately funded, Spokane Regional Field House adjacent to the North Bank of the Park. Integrate private developers where possible, including coffee shops and a climbing wall.
  - Create an events center with outdoor amphitheater where the Pavilion is now located. Aim to double the events hosted in the Park.
  - Replace the Carrousel building, which is too small for proper customer flow. The new building would be set further back from the river, in accordance with current land use regulation. It could include a Loeff museum, and restoration gallery where ride repairs could be observed.
  - Light up the Pavilion. Project movies in the Pavilion.
  - Add a sculpture garden featuring Eastern Washington artists
  - Modify paths and shrubbery to give better views of the river, and improve safety.
  - Build a new skating rink close to the runners next to Spokane Falls Blvd.
  - Have a bus route stop next to the Clocktower.
  - Make bathrooms and utility buildings unobtrusive by berming them.

More info is available at [riverfrontparkmasterplan.org](http://riverfrontparkmasterplan.org). The goal is to make enough improvements to the Park that it can attract enough paying events to make it self-supporting. Planners think the bulk of the plan can be implemented for about \$60 million dollars.

This meeting was sparsely attended – two neighbors were there, aside from the Council officers. One attendee pointed out that there is little notice going out to neighbors regarding meetings. We discussed being limited to two mailings per year, and our efforts using the newspaper 'Voice' section, as well as digital notifications via email, Facebook, and Nextdoor. We discussed asking the Southside Senior Center to include a meeting notice on its electronic sign board.

Dump passes were distributed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

- Submitted by Sally Phillips, Secretary

## Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Profile

In Lincoln Heights, native pine trees, wetland areas, rock outcroppings and diverse topography define its character and have shaped its development. Wetlands still exist in at least three locations. Pond frogs can be heard croaking from blocks away during the spring. Birds are abundant in our wetland areas. It's common to see quail in the neighborhood and occasionally deer are spotted.

Lincoln Heights is bounded by 11th, 13th and 14th on the NORTH; generally by Havana St on the EAST; Southeast Blvd and Perry on the WEST, and 37th St on the SOUTH. LH has about 5000 households and 13,500 residents. Of its residents, about 40% are renters. Rental units concentrate around Lincoln Heights Shopping Center, 29<sup>th</sup>, and the S. Regal corridor.

### History

LH was platted in 1909 and sidewalks were installed, long before most homes were built. Lincoln Heights was primarily an agricultural area, perceived as far from Spokane's core. Sewering and residential housing developed slowly. There is still much open land, inviting development and making neighborhood planning very timely. Lincoln Heights Shopping Center was constructed in 1954, expanded in 1979, and is undergoing renovation now (2014).

### Assets:

- The neighborhood has two parks, Lincoln Park and Thornton Murphy Park. It also has bonus greenspace in a 6 block 35<sup>th</sup> avenue parkway. A 5-acre natural stormwater drainage area, 'Froggy Pond', doubles as a recreational area for hikers and bird-lovers.
- The neighborhood retains many of its original natural features – basalt outcroppings, mature pines, native birds, wetland ponds.
- LH has 4 schools, and is adjacent to Ferris High School which is completing a two-year comprehensive renovation. There are also 11 churches, 3 parks (including the 50-acre Lincoln Park and the Ben Burr Trail), a COPS shop, fire station, and the Southside Senior & Community Center.
- The Lincoln Heights Shopping District is a walkable distance for many residents, especially those living in the large apartment clusters surrounding the business district.
- The LH District Center is being planned by the City at this time.

### Priorities:

- Retaining trees and other natural features that make our area distinctive
- Calming traffic through neighborhoods. Lincoln Heights has many high volume streets traversing it – 29<sup>th</sup>, SE Blvd, Perry, Regal, Ray, Freya.
- Improving walkable access to Lincoln Heights Shopping Center and to our parks
- Improving the interface between residential and business properties