

## Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council

### Agenda/Minutes – January 20, 2015

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Marilyn Lloyd presided.

November meeting minutes were accepted as written.

*See action items and volunteer opportunities at end of this report.*

George Dahl gave us a status update on our **Community Development Block Grant proposals**. All 3 have been accepted. Funding will come available on or before 7/1/15. Discussion of the funding distribution rules for future application (2015 funding, etc.) will be held at the West Central Community Center on Tuesday, Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>. Up for discussion is how well the distribution worked in 2014 and whether to continue using the same formula, or consider other options such as focusing funding on certain projects and areas rather than distributing it widely as was done in 2014. About \$725,000 is distributed each year in this neighborhood grant program.

- Tim Behrens, who is heading the SNAP-affiliated youth microloan project we funded in 2014, reported that he needs a couple more volunteers to help with outreach to potential young entrepreneurs. If you are interested, let your LH co-chairs know and they will pass your contact information to Tim.
- Shirlee Roberts-Downey summarized the CDBG realignment project we are pursuing at 9<sup>th</sup> and Altamont. She will be seeking additional funds through traffic calming grants in 2015.

**School District 81** - representatives Mark Anderson and Linda McDermott provided information on the Feb 2015 school bond and levy votes. Neither request will increase property or sales tax rates, but rather continue what we are already paying. The bonding request will allow the District to continue its plans for cyclical replacement and renovation of school buildings and equipment. The six year building bond funds will be augmented with \$34 million in savings from the last 6-year building bond. The levy will provide 22.7% of the schools operating funds. The bond levy must pass with 60% approval. The maintenance levy requires only a majority to gain approval.

**Short-Term Rental Ordinance** – Tara Zeigler presented information. Short-Term rentals are for room or home rentals of less than 30 days, such as Air BnB's. The City is estimating 150 property owners are doing this, but zoning codes currently classify short-term rentals as retail services and do not allow it in residential neighborhoods. Councilman Mike Allen has taken on the task of coming up with acceptable ordinance and licensing for this activity, attempting to make it legal, and regulated in the same way that existing Bed and Breakfast facilities are currently run. Under the proposed ordinance, owner-renters would pay taxes and be licensed. There would be requirements to record the names and drivers licenses of renters. There are regulatory problems due to state law, i.e. all rental units, even ones renting 1-2 rooms, are required to have fire sprinklers and meet ADA requirements. Councilman Allen is working with local legislators to propose a state bill that would relax these requirements. We don't know if

that will happen. The Short Term Rental Ordinance will be presented to the Community Assembly on 2/6, to the Plan Commission on 2/11 and to the City Council on 2/28. Tara passed out an opinion survey re: this ordinance. People were invited to complete it right away or pass along to Marilyn Lloyd, our Community Assembly rep, prior to the 2/6 CA meeting.

**Neighborhood Cleanup** – Jackie Caro explained that each neighborhood receives \$6500 per year for solid waste cleanup. Customarily, our LH neighborhood has done one spring cleanup at Thornton Murphy Park, then used the remainder of our funds for dump passes distributed spring to fall. Another alternative used by some neighborhoods is a special curbside pickup. Large items that don't fit in garbage cans could be discarded in this way. Households without hauling capacity could then take advantage of the cleanup. There was no consensus from the group about which method was preferable, though discussion brought out several ideas: a less-crowded location than Thornton Murphy Park might be found (Ferris, Owens Auction, LH shopping center??), so that the operation could spread out a bit. We have a neighbor who has a bucket loader to help with getting trash from vehicles into the dumpsters. Some neighborhoods make a community event out of the cleanup, gathering contact information. Some provide assistance with getting trash out of houses. Some have dumpsters located in several spots around the neighborhood. Training, where the City discusses options and past successes, will happen on February 18<sup>th</sup>. **Volunteers are needed, both to help decide our cleanup process for this year, and to help man the cleanup. Contact Sally or Marilyn if you are interested in helping!**

**Traffic Speed Feedback signs** – Jackie Caro explained that the City has mobile signs that each neighborhood can use for two weeks. Three locations can get signs. These signs let drivers know how their speed compares with the posted limit. It also allows City Traffic to collect data on auto speed. We are looking for suggestions on where to place the signs. Suggestions were: 29<sup>th</sup> between Grand and SE Blvd; Altamont & 9<sup>th</sup>; Freya in the vicinity of 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>; Ray St. Signs can't block sidewalk. If on private property, owners must OK placement. Freya is *probably* not a potential site, as the steepness would keep the sign from being aimed properly. **Please send your site suggestions to Sally or Marilyn.** Deadline for getting our sign request to the City is March 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Traffic Calming/Photo Red funds** – Sally presented information. All six southside neighborhoods will share \$100,000, to fund neighborhood projects that improve traffic safety. Each neighborhood can nominate two projects, one arterial and one residential project. Applications are due by 3/2/15. The applications are competitive and there are usually more worthy projects than funds.

The City is offering a workshop on scope of projects and the application process. The workshop will be Thursday, Jan 29<sup>th</sup>, 6-7:30 PM at Wilson School's library, 911 W 25<sup>th</sup>. **Please come, if you have a project/location in mind.** After the workshop, we will work closely with helpful folks at Office of Neighborhood Services to advise us on feasibility. More details are available at the City's blog site: <https://beta.spokanecity.org/blog/2015/01/20/2015-traffic-calming-workshop/>

**Lincoln Heights Business Center Planning** – Sally reported. The City has issued contracts to two

planning outfits:

- Urban Land Institute will do an initial analysis of the LH shopping area, evaluate market opportunities, decide if form-based code is appropriate, and **conduct a planning charette 1-2 days in length. The public will be invited to the charette, which will probably happen in April.**
- Studio Cascade will do the master plan for the LH Center.

**Greening Grants/Forest Spokane** - Community Assembly reports that the City will be taking applications starting 3/1/15. If you know public land which would benefit from planting of trees or native shrubs, please let the Council know about it. The Council can nominate three projects. In 2014, Lincoln Heights was awarded 36 trees, planted along Southeast Boulevard and 35<sup>th</sup> Ave. Let's continue the good work this year!

**Summary of Action Items** (contact Co-chairs Sally Phillips 448-6271, [phillips1948@comcast.net](mailto:phillips1948@comcast.net) or Marilyn Lloyd 448-0609, [mdlloyd@comcast.net](mailto:mdlloyd@comcast.net) to offer your assistance)

- Volunteers are needed to help with outreach for MicroLoan program.
- A series of meetings are scheduled for the City's Short Term Rental Ordinance. Opinions can be passed on to Community Assembly Rep Marilyn Lloyd, or expressed at the City Council hearing.
- Planning will start in February for spending our neighborhood cleanup funds. Volunteers are needed both to plan our event(s) and to help man the cleanup effort.
- The Council is seeking input on good locations for temporary traffic speed feedback signs. Deadline is 3/16/15.
- The Council can nominate one residential and one arterial site for traffic calming. Workshop on completing application is 1/29 at Wilson School. Deadline for application is March 2.
- Lincoln Heights business center planning will kick off with a workshop/charette tentatively scheduled for April.
- Starting March 1, the City is taking applications for 2015 Forest Spokane projects. Please advise us on locations where we should apply this year.

Whew - lots is happening! This is a great time to get involved in improving our neighborhood. We welcome your ideas and assistance.

- Submitted by Sally Phillips, Secretary