

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council
Minutes – July 21 2015

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Rae-Lynn Barden
Attendance sign-up was passed around.

Free City Trees

Sally Phillips informed us that the City has given away all the free trees that were available for April. A sign-up sheet was passed around for those interested in receiving vouchers for the second half of the free trees that will be available October 1st. These are 6' trees from local nurseries, and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Minutes

Minutes of the May 19 meeting were approved.

Guest Appearance

Paul Schneider, candidate for the Spokane Public Schools Board, Position 4, introduced himself and welcomed questions.

Community Assembly, Marilyn Lloyd

Marilyn passed out a report from her attendance at the July 10 Community Assembly Meeting. She gave us information of a Proposed Ordinance, from Ben Stuckart, City Council President and Grant Wencel, Assistant Planner. The ordinance is a response to neighborhood comments about demolition of old homes, cell tower infrastructure, and situations like Target in the Southgate neighborhood, where more adequate community notice and influence is desired. It proposes modifications to the Spokane Municipal Code to ensure that: when land use applications and permits are submitted to the City, they will be forwarded to the pertinent neighborhood councils for review and comment; the City departments will provide a written response to neighborhood comments received; and will also forward those comments to the project applicant; and an appeal process will be included.

The proposed Commission Hearing will be on July 22, and will return to the Community Assembly at their August meeting.

Spokane Police Department Presentation, Kathy Armstrong

The Department of Justice (DOJ) is providing technical assistance to the Spokane Police Department on collaborative reform. SPD asked DOJ to work with us and confirmed that all organizations were willing to participate. Beginning in November 2013, a DOJ conducted a survey and interviews during an onsite visit, looking at our policies with a view to doing a better job. The SPL felt their relationship with the community was strained, especially concerning use-of-force. DOJ did not find prejudice on this issue, but had 42 other recommendations, to be completed within an 18-month window. DOJ worked within the SPL with 4 ombudsmen and 38 others. A report on these recommendations, and where we are on them, can be requested in an electronic version from Kathy at: karmstrong@spokanepolice.org .

One example of results is the crisis intervention training. All Spokane Police have received 40 hours of training about dealing with mental health issues and other disturbances. DOJ recommends a refresher be given in a timely manner, and it is being developed with Frontier Behavioral Health.

SPL will work for the next year to complete all recommendations, and wants the process to be transparent, with public information readily available. We can request a monthly update of SPD training events.

The Spokane Police Department's work with the Department of Justice was requested by us in a commitment to collaborative reform, and involved the entire Spokane Police Department. Spokane is the second city in the U.S. to undertake this, and leads the way in "collaborative reform." Currently there are a total of 9 cities involved in "collaborative reform," and Spokane is sharing our experience with them.

Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency, Julie Oliver, Exec. Dir.

Julie shared information about the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency. While, in the past, large industries were the biggest polluters, now their equipment and tests are improved and they make up only 15%, with individual home choices making up the rest. Within the last year there were 630 complaints about dust, odors, etc., with 275 receiving written complaints and 75 notices of violation. The main pollutants are particulate matter (dust, mostly, with some combustion issues), and ozone in the inner atmosphere (hurts the lungs, especially in children, and they are watching it closely). With both sources, we are experience serious effects at continually reduced levels. For more information check their website:

<https://www.spokanecleanair.org/>

South Perry Street Fair

On July 25th, we are invited to visit the South Perry Street Fair, which will include a parade, booths

Night Out Against Crime – Lincoln Heights

Rae-Lynn invites everyone to the Lincoln Heights celebration of the national Night Out Against Crime, at, and in cooperation with the South Senior Center, on 27th & Ray, 4-7pm. There will be ice cream, representatives of the Spokane Police Department and Fire Department, and a chance to meet with neighbors. Watch for more information.

Spokane Planning and Development, Tirrell Black

Tirrell reports that the Urban Land Institute conducted a Lincoln Heights business center workshop on June 17-18, pulling in experts on real estate, business, planning and development. We asked them to focus on the busy Lincoln Heights business area – they conducted a day of field trips, talked with City staff and local property owners, and then gave a presentation in the City Council chambers, which is available online. You can view this presentation:

<https://my.spokanecity.org/news/stories/2015/06/23/building-a-vision-for-the-lincoln-heights-district/>

In August a written report will be issued, and in September the City will work with Studio Cascade to develop a recommendation of what to do with the ULI recommendations. They will then go to the neighborhood meetings for input and recommendations. *We will be discussing them at our September 15 Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council meeting.*

Traffic Calming

At our September meeting we will have more information about our request for a “hawk light” (pedestrian-activated stop light) on 29th.

CDBG Grants, Jackie Caro

Community Development Block Grants are currently under discussion for the new funding year. We will be able to choose to put more money into projects we’ve already funded, fund new projects, and we’ll also have a new choice: all neighborhood council grant projects will be listed online, and we will be able to add some of our money to other neighborhoods or have other neighborhoods add to our projects. By August 31st we should submit our intentions for use of our money, but should be able to make a final decision at our September 15th neighborhood council meeting. The focus of all projects is contribution to low income neighborhood areas. Projects application deadline will be 10/30/15. We expect to have around \$27,000 to spend on these projects in the new funding year.

Current projects under consideration are:

- Altamont and 9th intersection project – funding of phase II, as described in application.
- MicroLoans project -- Committee formed (Tim Behrens chairs) and plan being developed in conjunction with SNAP and Spokane Federal Credit Union representative. Will receive use of money for first year on July 31, 2015, and a second year of work is anticipated.
- Froggy Pond – Eagle Scout project (Sally Phillips)

Dump passes were distributed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Submitted by Kandy Brandt, Secretary