

DRAFT Minutes – to be approved at November meeting

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council
Southside Senior and Community Center
September 20, 2016 - 7:00 p.m.

Meeting was brought to order by Sally Phillips, Council, board member.

People introduced themselves, and were asked to sign in. Twenty people were in attendance.

Minutes from our last meeting (May) were approved.

Lincoln Heights District Center Plan - Tirrell Black, City of Spokane planner.

Tirrell noted that the Plan is high-level, focusing on improving commercial viability and walkability around the Center.

Some of the main elements:

- A more pedestrian-oriented 27th, with safer access to Thornton Murphy Park, and between TM Park and the business district.
- Many apartments exist around LH, which means lots of potential customers for the Center.
- Taking advantage of a proposed high frequency transit link through the area
- More pedestrian amenities on 29th – perhaps restriping to 2 lanes and a center turn lane, street trees, wider sidewalk.
- Developing support group for the plan, composed of local businesses as well as neighbors and local groups.
- Most attendees at Plan open houses were supportive of a plan to make LH business center and 29th more of a 'go-to' destination rather than a 'pass-through' one.
- 'Baby steps', easy first steps to take to implement the plan, such as improving pedestrian crossings on 27th for better access to Senior Center and Thornton Murphy Park; designating the street as a collector arterial in order to get access to grant money to improve the road, street trees along 27th to make sidewalk use more appealing.
- Longer term projects – high frequency rapid transit, reworking 29th Ave.

Our Council was asked to approve the concept embodied in the plan, while realizing that many of the ideas will require further study to determine their viability. After discussion, the Council decided to wait on voting on approval until November. Members are assigned the **homework** of reading up on the plan, to be prepared for discussion and voting at that time. The report is located at: _

<https://my.spokanecity.org/projects/lincoln-heights-district-center/>. Click on the 'Lincoln Heights District Center' link. The document is large– take a look, at least, at the executive summary, and the Actions Table.

Spokane Edible Tree Project – Kate Burke

This program gathers fruit from backyard trees, old orchards, and fruit leftover, after practicing orchards have completed their sales season. Large amounts of fruit are donated to Catholic Charities. Smaller pickings go to Second Harvest. Some manpower comes from Americorp/Vista workers.

Volunteers are welcome to help. They are offered a 2-hour orientation which includes a safety class. Picking is a fun family event.

Classes to instruct people on tree-pruning, spraying, cider-making are offered. The structure the group is working on is to have a neighborhood leader who organizes picking for his locale.

People can notify the Project, via the website, if they want to donate fruit from one of their trees. Contact info: 509-209-2890, info@spokaneedibletreeproject.org. Program details at: spokaneedibletreeproject.org. Take a look at the calendar for fun events the group has planned.

Community Assembly – Melissa Wittstruck

- Office of Neighborhood Services maintains a calendar of neighborhood activities. Find it at: <https://my.spokanecity.org/neighborhoods/>. Click on the 'Calendar' tab.
- Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan are being reviewed at meetings around the city. People can also get information on the web via the link to 'Virtual Open House' and offer comments in a brief survey:

<https://my.spokanecity.org/shapingspokane/virtual-open-house/>.

- The CA and City Council discussed infill housing and came to the conclusion that small apartments are OK, but larger ones are not necessarily welcome.
- The CA is accepting nominations for individuals who have made outstanding efforts in their neighborhood. Pass ideas to your CA representatives (Carol Tomsic, carol_tomsic@yahoo.com and Brian Hamm, Bdhxyz@gmail.com)
- Each neighborhood is being allotted \$500 for neighborhood council outreach. Applications, which specify the project wanted, must be submitted by Nov 1. Uses in the past: movie night in a park, Council banners and brochures.
- Design review board is looking for a liaison from the CA group. If interested in volunteering, contact Melissa Wittstruck (625-6087) or Paul Kropp, a CA member.
- CA rep Katherine Alexander attended the national Neighborhoods USA convention, expenses paid by the CA.

Community Assembly Reps

Carol Tomsic has offered to serve as Lincoln Heights Community Assembly Representative. Brian Hamm has volunteered to act as CA alternate. Voting members unanimously approved them for these positions.

Froggy Pond – Sally Phillips

Lincoln Heights Garden Club is planting in the Froggy Pond stormwater drainage area on Saturday, October 1 at 10 AM, 32nd & Cuba. This is part of a continuing effort to make the dry section of the drainage area more attractive, by planting bulbs, and native, drought-tolerant bushes in the area. **If you have time to help with the planting, it would be much-appreciated.** Donations are also welcome. The group is looking for: bulbs – daffodils, crocus, hyacinth, snowdrops; iris, and other drought-tolerant, deer-resistant plants.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) & Traffic Calming Programs– Shirlee Roberts-Downey

The road reconfiguration projects on Altamont are being bid and will happen next year. Shirlee is also working with the City to add center-line striping and speed signs on 9th between Altamont and Perry.

Youth Employment Program – Tim Behrens

Disbursement of the grant funds has been extended to 1/31/17. So far, no applications have been made for funds, despite an extensive outreach program.

For 2017, the LH applied for traffic calming signage on 17th, close to Franklin School. City engineers are suggesting a flashing '20 MPH When Children are Present' sign. This project has not yet been approved by the City Council. A City Council study session on 2017 projects is coming up soon. Funding for 2017 projects will be diminished somewhat, as the program overspent previously. Also the red-light fund, source of these funds, is bringing in less revenue (yeah, less speeding).

CDBG funding for the coming year:

Detail were not available at our meeting. There is information online on what projects qualify for CDBG funding. See: <https://my.spokanecity.org/neighborhoods/programs/cdbg/>. Applications, indicating how we want to spend our funds, are due by the end of the year. There is some discussion of neighborhoods pooling their funds, so a larger project can be accomplished.

One neighbor's suggested we post on our website information about what funding decisions the Council can make each year, so people can be thinking about relevant projects through the year.

Bylaws – Marilyn Lloyd

Marilyn discussed the bylaws revision, which has been online since August 1. Major changes: eliminated mentions of obsolete subcommittees; extended board terms of service from one year to two years. Voting members voted unanimously to accept the revisions, which will be posted on our website.

– Submitted by Sally Phillips, board member