

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council
Jan 16, 2018, 6 – 7:30 PM
Southside Senior and Activity Center

Carol Tomsic, Council President, led the meeting.

Approval of Minutes – November minutes were approved.

Neighborhood Updates:

South Hill Library Relocation – Andrew Chanse

The current South Hill library was built in the 90's. More space is needed for modern library offerings, such as: interactive learning, maker space (3-D printing, virtual reality), collaboration, big event space, teen center, business center, etc. Parking at Perry is also in short supply. Shadle Library also needs more library space.

The Library is considering relocating the southside library to undeveloped space in Thornton Murphy Park, on land immediately south of the Senior and Activity Center. Reasons for favoring TM Park:

- enough land for building and parking lot
- easy transit access
- walkable and bikeable location
- close to where people already cluster for shopping and Senior Center activities
- will encourage business investment
- infrastructure update is planned for this area

A couple empty buildings were explored and rejected: former Hastings space at 29th & SE; former Albertsons at 37th & Grand. In neither case was the land for sale. Additionally, making the buildings suitable for library services would mean a tear-down and rebuild.

The Parks Board has given approval for preliminary planning for a library sited at TM Park. The arrangement would be similar to the existing one at Shadle, where the library is located on park land, adjacent to Shadle Park High School.

A Request for Quote is out now, closing the end of January. A plan will be out in April or May. At this point, it is necessary to do more exploration to determine if the TM site is technically acceptable.

Several attendees expressed a preference for keeping the Perry Library location – it's well-used, close to a school, is in a residential neighborhood that makes access inviting for walkers. Chanse said that operating two libraries, Perry and a new South Hill location, would exceed their operational budget. Several people mentioned traffic in Lincoln Heights business area and the difficulty of getting from 27th onto Ray. It's also hard to cross 29th from the south, due to heavy traffic.

There will be additional meetings regarding the proposal, with information in the library newsletters and calendar, as well as in print publications. When the LH Council receives notice of additional meetings, information will be posted on our website and Facebook page.

Councilman Breean Beggs told us that this project is in the preliminary stages – it's 'not baked'. People

are encouraged to voice their concerns.

Neighborhood Resource Officer - Officer Mosman gave tips on 'not making yourself a victim'. There has been a recent uptick in cars stolen from garages, where the keys were left in the car. He urges people not to leave their keys in the car, not to leave valuables in the car, to lock the car doors. Close garage doors. Don't leave valuables in the yard.

City Council Update - Councilman Beggs. The City budget has been approved, adding 10 more patrol officers. Speeding cameras have been added at a couple school locations. The red light program is a permanent program, no longer in 'pilot' status. Funds from the program can pay for programs as well as buying infrastructure. There will be 4 more traffic officers, focused around schools during travel times.

A preservation ordinance is coming up in February, as well as a tree removal ordinance. A new community court has started in Hillyard. Low-income dental clinic is close to starting at East Central Community Center. A downtown parking study is planned. Riverside St will be redone next year. Angle parking is being considered. There is a proposal to lift the vertical limit for buildings along Spokane Falls Blvd. The parking meter app, for use with smartphones, can issue a warning when time is close to up. It will let you add a grace period to the meter remotely. There is discussion of increasing max time on meters to 3 hours.

High Performance Transit – Ryan Brodwater

The HPT is a corridor from 5-Mile Prairie, through downtown, up SE Blvd, along 29th and up Regal, with a new Park and Ride planned for 57th & Palouse Highway. This route will replace the #44 bus. The route is being designed now, and should be operational in 2019. Following this route will require improvements to the intersection at 29th & Regal. Money has been budgeted, but currently the property owner is not interested in selling right of way. Bus #43 and #45 will continue to use the current Park and Ride at 31st & SE Blvd. More public presentations will be forthcoming as the year progresses.

Traffic calming funds – Marilyn Lloyd

The deadline for applying for funds is 3/9/18, which is before our next neighborhood council meeting. Council members need to provide suggestions via email to the Council chairperson. Each neighborhood can make one residential street application and one arterial street application. Applications for school traffic calming will be accepted all through the year.

Some suggestions:

- Widening sidewalk on the west side of Ray St between 21st and 23rd. Perhaps extend this improvement north to 15th where there is a bus stop. Note that this might fit in with district center plans that suggested a trail from Thornton Murphy Park through water dept land (and away from busy Ray St). It would offer a connecting corridor to Fiske St, which terminates at the north end at the Ben Burr Trail.
- Crestline sidewalk from 34th to 37th.
- South side of 25th Ave leading to Rockwood Retirement Community.
- Missing sidewalk in the vicinity of Franklin School: Cook St between Girard and 17th; Mt Vernon between 18th & 19th; 18th down to Mt. Vernon, with access to Lincoln Park.

- Hawk light pedestrian crossing of Ray at about 23rd where Lincoln Heights Middle School is located.

Neighborhood Programs – Melissa Wittstruck

The City will pay travel expenses for someone to attend the national Neighborhoods USA conference. Carol Tomsic has the application form.

Neighborhood cleanup allocation has been raised to \$7500 this year. Training coming up in February.

Community engagement grant has been raised to \$550 per neighborhood. Training coming up in February.

Each neighborhood needs to decide how it prefers to allocate its CDBG funds. In recent years, funding for this program has declined, with the allocation for all neighborhoods now 400k.

Adjourned 7:30 PM

– Submitted by Sally Phillips