

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council Meeting

November 21, 2017

South Side Senior and Activity Center

Council Chair Carol Tomsic called the meeting to order at 6pm. Attendees introduced themselves. The minutes of the July and September meetings were approved.

Neighborhood updates:

Detective Bob Mosman

Bob introduced the fact that statistics don't lie and crime statistics do show trends. He asked each present to give his/her opinion on what is/are most prevalent crimes in Spokane. All members answered car and/or property. Percentage is 92-93% property. He emphasized that more bodies are needed for solvability of crime. It would take 10X the force to work on all reported cases (there are ½ million reports per year). Only a portion can be responded to because of insufficient manpower. Spokane staffing is below other cities of our size.

Most crimes are drug fueled or due to mental problems. He urged that we check the police crime website to find crimes in our community. Bob encouraged all to lock their cars and homes. He encouraged use of new technology - such as the RING door system. This was followed by a discussion of neighborhood incidents. He emphasized that major crimes require higher attention, which may result in delayed response for smaller crimes.

Councilman Breean Beggs

Councilman Beggs agreed with Detective Mosman. He is particularly concerned with safety and that there will be many retirements in the next few years. More officers result in decreased crimes.

The budget will be passed in approximately 3 weeks. Property taxes can only be increased 1% a year despite increases in property value. He reported that sales taxes are up and that Spokane is one of the poorest cities in the state. The tax issue will address public safety next year. State tax levels will be raised over much of the State; Spokane's will be decreased.

Homeless: Spokane has worked on 24/7 beds at decreased expense. A member commented on potholes that she reported and was asked what the measurements of those potholes were. Potholes are a large problem with the street department. Breean stated that residential streets are funded differently than arterials. There was concern expressed that there is not a light on Freya at 29th. An ongoing study of Freya 17th to 37th and Regal is being conducted. Citizens are urged to call the street department when improvements are needed (at #311). Emails to the Mayor and Council members are encouraged.

Special Presentations

Steve Tammaro – President & CEO of YMCA of the Inland Northwest

Steve discussed the Gold Gym facility now occupied by the YMCA. It is the goal to have a Y within 12 minutes drive time of citizens. Airway Heights and South Hill have been considered and a market study of the south hill showed positive results. Pricing was also tested in the survey and response was found positive. A full facility is being studied and various land sites are being looked at in south Spokane. Cost will be approximately \$50,000 to \$55,000.

The YMCA has a broad mission of community service including a day camp; meals (30,000 served last summer), cancer survivor programs and teen programs.

Melissa Wittstruck – Spokane's new snow removal plan

Snow season is November 15th to March 15th. When there is city snow event parking must be on the odd side of the street. Arterials are plowed first followed by residential. She reported that there will be more plows more often

and that some plows do have gates for driveways. All residents are required to keep their sidewalks cleared (by 9am). Snow should not be plowed into the street and it will be ticketed. Street storage of RVs, boats, and vehicles will be also be ticketed. Report violations to 311.

To help there is Community-Minded Enterprises (which needs additional help) to aid over 60 year olds and over 18 years with a disability.

Standing Updates

Sally Phillips – Spokane Matters, District 2

Sally reviewed the program, which is a pilot and includes citizens and a number of city departments. Several projects have been undertaken: improved safety at Lewis and Clark; Bernard and Wall LED lighting; Perry Street District off street parking and improved safety; north south arterials including Regal and Freya; surface CSO tanks. The Libraries have held workshops with related topics.

Carol Tomsic - Community Assembly

www.srtc.org/horizon-2040/ is the site for the long-range transportation plan for Spokane County. It is aimed at meeting the needs of the Spokane region through 2040. Myspokanebudget.org has information on the upcoming budget considerations and the mayor and city council are working together.

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood plan – no update. Progress is going forward on the Quail Run development.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.

Submitted by Marilyn Lloyd