

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council Meeting

September 18, 2018, 6 – 7:30 PM

Southside Community Center

Carol Tomsic, Council Chair, led the meeting.

Roll Call- Neighbors and Guests introduced themselves around the table.

Votes

Carol Tomsic proposed a motion to vote in secretaries Laine Lambarth and Makaya Judge. A neighbor seconded the motion and it was passed by voting members.

Carol Tomsic proposed a motion to vote to approve the minutes from July. The motion was seconded by a neighbor and passes unanimously without corrections.

Neighborhood Updates

City Council Member Lori Kinnear began the updates.

- We will be getting a walking trail in the Touchmark development area of 32nd and Napa.
- Property Crime is trending down, and city hall has a group focusing on that.
- There are two measures coming up on the November ballot that she wants us to be aware of: a library bond and a school bond. She reminds us that it is important to please vote.
- House of Charity has reduced its bed capacity by ½ in an effort to disperse homeless populations to multiple facilities so that we don't have the problems that come with such a large population of people needing services in one location. The city is still looking for providers to help fill this need and shelter smaller numbers of people.
- The City is working to open the EnVision Center- which would be a centralized hub for people to access services that help with problems such as housing, jobs, and substance abuse.
- The City is continuing to disperse homeless camps around town, but they can only disperse a camp when beds are open and available at shelters to house those being dispersed.
- Boise and Salt Lake City were mentioned as cities that were good models in dealing with homelessness.

Det. Bob Mosman gave the NRO update.

- He focused on a specific crime story to highlight tonight.
- A man left his golf clubs outside at the Manito Golf Club and placed his wallet and phone in the bag (as many people do when golfing).

- Two criminals pulled into the parking lot of the club and drove up to the bag and tossed it in their car and left.
- An hour later, after the victim finished eating and went back outside to find his things gone, the criminals had already racked up a spree of spending up and down Sprague avenue from Walmart to Home Depot to restaurants. (each of those vendors now became victims as well)
- The victim called his mother who immediately canceled all of the cards and pulled the records from the card companies. She visited each vendor and asked that they pull and take a copy of the surveillance video during the time of the crime. This proved to be key as Det. Mosman told us that by the time a detective gets there the video is sometimes looped over and gone.
- Other highlights he mentioned were that people need to know to cancel cards immediately, not to ever leave belongings unattended, that swift action on the part of the victim really helps, and to thank your vendors when they ask for ID when you use a credit card because they are helping to prevent identity theft and fraud.
- The criminal traded the things he purchased with the stolen cards for meth and money. The crimes include theft, forgery, and identity theft. They will charge as many counts as possible so it doesn't get pleaded down to nothing.
- A neighbor asked Det. Mosman if he knows whether there should be security cameras at city golf courses. He replied that while that would be great and helpful, the city would likely not prioritize doing that, as there isn't enough crime in those areas to warrant the money it would cost. Carol said that she was putting it on her list as an issue she would look into.
- A neighbor asked if it was legal to video people from your front porch walking on the street. Det. Mosman said it wasn't prohibited, but that a lawyer would know more specifics for advice about that.

Marcia Davis talked to us about the new water reservoir of 31st and Napa.

- A new reservoir is needed in the high system pressure zone to maintain pressure throughout the system because of expansion and population growth.
- There are some concerns from neighbors, including the preservation of trees, the shadow it will make, construction impacts, etc.
- The trees should not be a problem but they will update us more as the analysis comes in and the project becomes clearer.
- The needs of the project- It must have a top water elevation of 2470 to match the other reservoirs in the system to maintain pressure, it must have a minimum bottom elevation of 2449, it must hold about 20 million gallons, and it must have low maintenance costs.
- It will likely be made of steel and be one of three types- hydropillar, standpipe, or water spheroid.
- The next steps-

- Cost comparison of reservoir types
- Geotechnical info for foundation
- Selecting type and foundation site
- Creating and sharing of graphic renderings
- Creating a project page on the City's website
- The design phase should last 2018-19 and the construction should take place 2019-2020
- Any questions or concerns can be directed to-
 - Marcia Davis, PE (509)625-6398 mdavis@spokanecity.org
 - Dan Buller (509)625-6391 dbuller@spokanecity.org
- A neighbor brought up concerns about the impact on homeowners in the area and their home values. Were neighbors upset in previous water tank projects? Is there a way to compensate home owners? Lower taxes perhaps? Davis responded that she would look into that more, and that it was a good question and a good time to ask it.
- A neighbor asked why it had to be a 90 foot tall tank instead of a shorter tank that is wider. Davis explained that the top water level for all tanks in the Zone must match in elevation in order for there to be adequate pressure.
- A neighbor asked if moving the tank lower on the slope of the bluff area would mean that it would need to be a higher tank so the top elevation stays the same. He asked if that might help with the shadow problem and have less of an impact on concerned residents. He also asked when we would get more specific information. Davis responded that we will know a lot more in about a month when the analysis is completed.
- A neighbor asked about the city mandating access or an easement for the PUD and Davis said that, yes, we would require maintenance access.

Ryan Brodwater from STA gave us a routing update.

- He asked if we had gotten their mailer, as they sent info out to people recently. Some neighbors raised their hands.
- He showed us the routing map plan and mentioned that the 44 is losing a few stops.
- Starbucks has applied for a permit on 29th and Regal that may help with the corner problem because the city has asked for a right of way.
- Carol asked if that spot is zoned for the building to be in the corner. Brodwater said that, yes, that is correct. And that is what Starbucks wants.
- A neighbor asked if it would make traffic worse to put a stop on 29th/Regal. Brodwater said that should not be an issue as the city plans to put a right turn lane to help mitigate that issue.

- A neighbor asked if this plan will affect the 43. Broadwater said that, yes, and that will be addressed by Kathleen.

Kathleen Weinand from STA showed us some of the proposed route plans.

- There are four proposed route maps for this change. STA would love our feedback. There will be a survey sent out to all neighborhood council chairs during the first week of October for citizens to vote on the route changes.
- Route 34 will experience changes in all 4 scenarios due to low ridership.
- Alternatives A-D that we saw will be posted on spokanetransit.com. Go to the “PLANS” tab and select “2019 PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL”.
- A neighbor asked if STA could help get the city to improve pavement in the event the route changes to go up Regal. Brodwater responded that no, that isn’t something they will ask for.
- A neighbor asked if Route 5 is replacing the 45. The response from Brodwater was that yes, and you can find out more about that on the project page.
- A neighbor asked if there will now be a bus that goes on 17th and serves SCC in one of the proposals? Yes, there is one alternative where that happens. However, that alternative “D” is more expensive.
- Carol asked if the cost to ride will increase with the route changes. Weinand said that no, not that she knows of. The board votes on changes to fare about every five years or so.

Kelly Keenan (Director of Community, Housing, and Human Services Department) Talked to us about Hope Works.

- The City is pushing for people to consider giving to services that help homeless people rather than giving directly to panhandlers.
- There are two boards working on this issue- Community Housing and Human Services and the Continuum of Care Board.
- Hope Works is a collaborative pilot project between Goodwill, Catholic Charities, Downtown Spokane Partnership, and City of Spokane. It is an 18-month pilot that started in spring of '18. It is based on a model from Albuquerque, NM. They take a van donated by STA and drive around offering people who are actively panhandling the opportunity to do volunteer work in exchange for a \$50 gift card and lunch. Participants are connected with services and data is collected which helps to assess the circumstances of people who are panhandling in town. The van goes out 2x per week. 6/7 participants engage in 4-5 hours of volunteer activity during which case works are able to actively engage with them. Lunches are provided. 58 unduplicated panhandlers have been engaged during the last quarter. The volunteer projects they work on are identified by the City, in conjunction with Goodwill and Code Enforcement. They include graffiti, trash pickup, and maintenance of city planters.
- A neighbor pointed out that it sounded less like volunteering and more like work that these people were paid less than minimum wage for. Keenan answered that the \$50 gift card was an

incentive to participate and not payment. The program was not designed to provide temporary employment.

- A neighbor asked where they could use the gift card. Keenan said that they could use it anywhere and that was another data collection point because they do ask participants where they plan to spend it.
- A neighbor asked if this volunteer work was ongoing. Keenan clarified that, while there are some repeats, it was mainly unduplicated panhandlers.
- A neighbor asked about reporting panhandlers that are aggressively panhandling. Keenan said that they could call 311.
- A neighbor asked how long the program will last. Keenan responded that it will end in the summer of 2019.

Brean Beggs arrived and gave us more City Council updates.

- He spoke about the integrated social services plan which will be a 5 day per week program located temporarily out of the WorkSource offices. Thirteen agencies will be there as a one-stop-shop for services. This will begin in the end of October or early November. The long-term plan is to move this to be located near the courthouse.
- We got money from the legislature for a 16-bed medical facility for officers to take individuals as an alternative to taking them straight to jail if they show signs of mental health issues or intoxication. The officers will make the decision as to who goes to this facility on a case-by-case basis.
- We did also get a consultant identified for the 29th avenue traffic study and it will be from Grand blvd to Ray.
- The Garden District project is in process, and they are being delayed with typical development proposal issues. The application is still not complete.
- Makaya asked about the status of the contract issue between the City Council and SPD regarding ten new traffic officers. Beggs said that the issue is that the funding is coming from traffic cameras in school areas, so some feel the money should be specifically used for traffic officers in school zones. We hope it will be resolved soon.
- Beggs told us about a recent trip to Denmark (paid for by an outside organization) where he and other city officials learned about bike infrastructure and renewable energy.
- A neighbor asked what is being built on 35th and SE. There are open ditches and heavy equipment that is not locked up and there is someone living in a camper outside of it. Other neighbors mentioned that they have seen trees being removed from the strip in front that is city property. Mellissa recommended that they call the city building inspectors.
- There was a discussion about dog parks and the city is considering using upper Lincoln to make a fenced area designed specifically to be a dog park.

Standing Updates

Sally Phillips told us that the large appliance clean-up has been such a success that it is full and we are no longer able to accommodate additional people. We exceeded funds during the first clean-up this year and the city was kind enough to cover the cost and give us additional funding for this smaller fall pick-up. She also mentioned that we have dump passes available and to see her after the meeting.

Marilyn Lloyd shared with us a brochure we had made from a community engagement grant and asked for help passing them out.

Melissa Wittstruck mentioned that it is almost time to start paying attention to parking on the correct side of the street on snow plowing days.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40

The next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 20, 2018

Submitted by Makaya Judge, Secretary