

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council Meeting

September 17, 2019

6-7:30 PM

Southside Community Center

Carol Tomsic, Council Chair, led the meeting.

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

Event Update- Our neighborhood event was a big success. Neighbors were asked to put it in their calendars for next year because we will need volunteers.

Approval of Minutes- March Minutes were approved.

Neighborhood Updates

Council members were unable to attend this meeting.

While Detective Mosman was unable to attend, Carol reminded us about the story from last meeting where the grandmother was charged with assault for putting her hand on a child when she pulled her aside to talk with her. It was discussed that the stories from the Police Department brought to the meetings are helpful lessons.

Community Garden- Dennis Anderson

- Dennis Anderson has decades of experience with the community garden in the Lamont area. He shared with us about the Thornton Murphy water project community garden, going in next spring. Lori Kinnear helped to line up funding that provided us with WSU students from the landscape architecture program to design it. The city has agreed to put in spigots for use to hand water the gardens, and they are providing the water. The community will need to raise an additional twenty thousand dollars or so in order to provide the fencing and materials for the raised beds. There is room for approximately 50 4x8 beds. People will be able to rent boxes for \$25 per season. They are looking for volunteers to join the planning committee, as well as volunteers for gardening and fundraising. If you are interested, you can contact Dennis at dennis_anderson@mac.com. The committee meets at the Southside Community Center on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 4:00 pm.

- Carol asked about the potential for theft, and Dennis assured us that with the fencing around the area provided by the water department in addition to the community garden fencing, there is little likelihood of that.

Laine suggested that Dennis contact the Girl Scouts for possible volunteer work to earn badges.

-A neighbor expressed concern over soil quality and sourcing. Dennis let us know that it would be safe for growing food.

Comp Plan Update-Bob Turner

-Bob shared with us what traffic operations does. They collect data about roads (such as the number and type of collisions that occur and the use of the land around roads.) He also shared with us that the arterial system has not had an update recently, and that there are a few changes that are going to the City Council for decision. These are not done deals, and the public comment time is now. October 11th is the cutoff for public comment and the commission hearing is scheduled for October 23rd. Please contact Inga Note at inote@spokanecity.org.

-We discussed the differences between an arterial and residential streets. Arterials have a higher volume of traffic (over 1,000 cars per day) and have more frequently posted speed signs. The speed limit on an arterial isn't necessarily higher, they can be lower limits such as 20 mph in school areas. They can receive maintenance funding from federal and state budgets. They are prioritized for maintenance as well as plowing. Residential streets are the streets that just get people to and from their homes. They typically have under 1,000 cars per day and have a speed limit of 25 mph. They have less signage and can only receive city funding for maintenance and repair.

-Some of the streets that are being considered for arterial designation include our neighborhood. These are 17th Ave from Ray to Havana (the "End Arterial" signs would be removed E of Ray and stop signs would be added at intersections. On-street parking would remain and no striping would be added. The second street that would become an arterial is 27th Ave from SE Blvd to Ray. This street has grown so much that they are seeing nearly 4,000 vehicles per day. A center line would be added on 27th.

-A neighbor asked if we could take steps to decrease traffic rather than designate an arterial. Bob explained that no matter what we do, people drive this street because the land use has changed to become so commercial. People have to drive that street to access businesses.

-A neighbor asked if we can do something to reduce speed by the park during the summer, and asked if something can be done about the intersection at Ray. Bob responded that the city is aware of the issue and they are looking at solutions.

-A neighbor asked about the traffic issue at 17th and Freya and the lack of visibility. Bob responded that the speeding cars do make that a challenge. The city is aware of the issue. Adam suggested a blind corner mirror. Bob explained that if a mirror shifts and there is an accident, the city has created liability for itself.

-Sally asked about 27th getting a bike lane, since it is a designated bike route. Bob said that they are aware of the designation but that he is not sure what the plan is. The city is leaning toward using the shared routes option at this time. Many neighbors expressed concern that the shared routes signs don't work or protect riders.

-A neighbor discussed concerns that the ball fields going in and new developments are creating even bigger traffic problems. Bob said that the city is aware of this and that they look at these trends when calculating their six-year plan.

-Some neighbors discussed parking issues as well as vegetation blocking line of sight. Bob said that these are code issues that should be reported to 311.

-There was a discussion about speed bumps and if they could help with traffic calming. Bob reminded us that speed bumps on arterials make snow plows disposable. Other big cities that have to plow snow and also use speed bumps spend tens of millions of dollars more annually on their plow budgets. There is a trial speed bump, actually a speed table, going in by Hutton so we will see how that works down the road.

-Rumble strips were also suggested and Bob explained that those are quite loud and, while they can work in rural settings for the County, they are not recommended in urban areas because of the noise.

Standing Updates

Proposed Resolution- Carol Tomsic presented us with a proposed resolution requesting crosswalk improvements at various locations.

-A suggestion was made to re-order the proposed improvements as such; (1) 29th & Rosauers, (2) Intersection of 29th & Mt Vernon, (3) Intersection of 29th & Fiske. The rest would follow in order.

-A suggestion was made to add a crosswalk between Pittsburg and SE Blvd.

-A suggestion was made to add an "s" at the end of the word intersection.

-There was a motion to approve as amended. The motion passed with 15 yes, 0 no, and 1 abstain.

Traffic Calming Committee Update

Presentation by Gonzaga Students

- A team of three Gonzaga students, led by Mitchel Stephan have taken on helping our committee for a senior design project.

- They will be gathering data, doing traffic studies, meeting with our traffic calming committee, and helping us to submit our traffic calming proposal for Lincoln Heights. Traffic calming includes improving safety and functionality for vehicles as well as pedestrians and bicycles.

-A neighbor told them that we are worried about bike accessibility and safety along 37th, and the students said that they would look into it.

Altamont Loop Update

-While it seemed to some on the committee that stop signs would be the most effective solution, they have been asked to come up with some alternate plans.

-11th to Fisk seems to be the biggest concern. A car recently ran into a home there. Some ideas to help include:

- N. Altamont & 11th could be narrowed into a sharper turn, causing vehicles to slow down before taking the turn.
- A section of Altamont could be made into a one-way.
- Bike paths could be better marked with better signage, and the bike route could be extended.

Bike Route

-Sally updated us on the Children of the Sun path, which is a bike route that would extend parallel to the North South highway from Hillyard to the river. This is being funded with highway funds. The city is asking for input about extending this path South, and there are some exciting options.

Appliance Pickup- Sally Phillips

-The appliance pickup went well. 60 appliances were picked up and another 40 people were turned away, so there is definitely a need.

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:30

Next meeting will be held on November 19, 2019