

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council
General Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chair, Gary Schumacher.

Introductions were made of all present.

City of Spokane Police Department

Our Command Staff Liason, Eric Olson, was in attendance at our meeting to ask if anyone in the neighborhood had any problems he could help with. He did say that our crime rate was better than surrounding areas.

A question was asked about the May 29th take over, at our McDonalds. He said that, as far as he knew, 1 or 2 young men were arrested and, during interrogation, they told on the others.

The 2013 budge for the police department was going to be the same as the 2012 and staffing should not change.

Three or more people will be retiring and the City may be hiring up front to keep up staffing.

The new Police cheif, Frank Straub, is doing well. He is saying what the police and public want to hear and is proving to be a strong leader.

City of Spokane Planning Department

Ken Pelton, from the Planning Department, talked with us about Lincoln Heights Business Districts. There has not been any planning for us since the early 1990's. There is lots of planning to be done in Lincoln Heights. Our business centers are very healthy with not a lot of vacancies.

South Hill Coalition

The 5 nighborhoods on the South hill have joined together to for the South Hill Coalition. We will be going through the neighborhood planning process together.

We all have 29th Avenue in common, plus the traffic problems we all face and we would like improve connectivity between the neighborhoods.

Each neighborhood has been given \$21,000 for planning and that money will be put in to one pot for planning. Southgate Neighborhood Council just finished their planning. Each neighborhood has approximately 2 years to do planning and Southgate had many issues to deal with so their planning took 4 years to do. Some leaders from Southgate will be giving us advice and help us through the process.

Surveys were mailed out less than 1 week ago and already are coming back. The feedback from these surveys will be used in our planning.

We are looking for people who would be will to serve at Stakeholders. The first meetings will be held June 6th asd 7th at Sacajewea, in the cafeteria. The first night we will brainstorm and list all concerns that people have. The second night will be a problem solving session.

It isn't very often that the City asks us for our opinions and concerns. JoAnn Wright, our designated person, from the Planning Department will be on hand to answer questions.

Please attend one or both of these sessions if you can.

An issue was brought up concerning the Froggy Pond area. It seems that people are using the area as a dumping ground for stolen vehicles, appliances and garbage. Young people have also been partying in the area and leaving

their trash behind.

This area belongs to the City. Avista went in and upgraded their substation that is next to the wetlands area.

The gate that Avista installed was ran through by a car a couple of times. There is a security light in the area, but the neighbors complained and it was turned off.

Stormwater Management brought in jersey barriers and it did help but now the vehicles are being driven around them to get in to the area.

Code Enforcement does come and get the trash, once it has been drug out to the road.

Community Assembly

Marilyn Lloyd, our CA Representative, handed out a report of what happened at CA at the last meeting.

Some highlights that she wanted to bring to our attention were that Ann Bergman from the CA Land Use Committee wanted to let us know that the City Plan Commission has set June 13 as the date for a public hearing on recommendations for revisions to the Spokane Municipal Code, related to improving options for the development of infill housing.

Traffic Awareness and Pedestrian Safety Week is June 2nd to June 10th.

The Summer Parkways program is Sunday, June 3rd from noon to 3 p.m. in the Gief Garry/Logan Neighborhoods and Wednesday, June 20, from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Comstock/Manito Neighborhoods.

Annual Neighborhood Clean Up

Our clean up is scheduled for May 19th from 8:00 a.m. to noon. We will be having a work crew from the Department of Corrections to help but we need to have more helpers.

Spokane Police Department

Sgt Zac Stirment from the Spokane Police Department came to speak with us about crime and to answer any questions we might have.

He reported that lowest area of crime is Lincoln Heights, however, the area around Regal and 29th is slightly higher and is a cluster for crime. A team of anti-crime people have been in the area more. It is usually kids from the neighborhood. Parents just need to be more diligent about where their kids are and what they are doing.

Our residential crime is the lowest in Spokane.

Commercial areas are higher.

When asked about stolen cars, Sgt Stirment answered that most stolen vehicles in Spokane are used to drive to make a drug deal, then the car is dumped.

If the cars are kept, they are usually stripped and sold for parts.

If we see a suspicious vehicle, we should take a license number and the car's description and call it in to the police. Neighbors talking to one another is a great deterrent.

When asked about firing a BB gun in the city limits, Sgt Stirment said that the BB guns are not included in the "discharge of a firearm" law. It could be considered malicious mischief if windows are broken. He said to call Crime Check at 456-2233 and file a report.

A question came up about what number to call for reports. He said that the COP Shops are good for answering questions, but Crime Check needs to be called for non-life threatening questions and, of course, 911 needs to be called for life threatening things.

A questions was asked about strange things happening on 17th, in front of Thornton Murphy Park. The officer said that he was not aware of any reports. He said that some parks have security patrols and that it is less expensive that having the police some. He suggested that neighbors taking care of neighbors is a great deterrent to crime.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Dennis