

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council

General Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2013

The meeting was brought to order at 7:05 PM, with President Gary Schumacher presiding.

The officers introduced themselves: President Gary Schumacher, Community Assembly representative Marilyn Lloyd, and acting Secretary Sally Phillips. There were 60 visitors in attendance.

Scott Chesney, City Planning Director, discussed plans for redeveloping the Lincoln Heights business district. He showed a power point presentation used by the Mayor at the Mayors Institute on City Design in March 2013. The Mayor introduced our city by saying that Spokane provides services to an extended region of 2 million people. Parks define, and potentially, provide links between neighborhoods. We are distinguished by our interest in outdoor activities ('Near Nature, Near Perfect').

The bulk of the Mayor's presentation focused on ideas for redeveloping the LH shopping center.

Highlights:

The Lincoln Heights business district is enormous, actually physically the size of downtown Spokane. It was built with a code requirement of massive parking, which surrounds the shopping center. These facts make it hard for people to move as pedestrians through the shopping area. There are only a handful of property owners in the business district, and the district has lots of viable businesses. There is a large population of housing both in apartments and in retirement facilities, close to the LH shopping center. All these facts make LH shopping center being a likely candidate for redevelopment - building up, creating a parking structure, developing coordinated signage among the businesses. Spokane Transit may move its Park and Ride into the LH district center, to better deliver customers and workers to LH business district. LH business center planning will be starting ...soon... and the neighbors will have a chance to comment on planning ideas. *(Note from the secretary: We will be posting updates on the LH website, as more information comes in regarding this planning schedule.)*

As Scott discussed these ideas, neighbors expressed concern about additional traffic both because of congestion and because the roads are crumbling. He suggested that some help can be provided by traffic signal changes, and restriping. The city has little money for maintenance, and street plans will focus on partnering with developers to share funding for improvements.

The Comprehensive Plan is being redone in 2013 and 2014. Neighborhoods will get a chance to voice their wishes. Staff will then add their ideas. City officials will decide which ideas can move forward. *(Once again, the LH council will be looking for details and will post them when they become available.)*

Comprehensive Plan Amendments:

- 29th & Fiske – Dwight Hume was slated to attend, but did not show up.

29th & SE Blvd – Stacy Bjordahl presented information. The property has 4 owners, with the Dr. Sonneland being the largest owner. The comp application was noticed for rezone of the entire 30 acres. The application was asking for a zoning change to high density/mixed use, with a view to being able to cluster homes and provide more open space elsewhere on the property. There was concern by the property owners that there would be a city requirement to extend Crestline to 29th Avenue to handle traffic in the development. Upon reflection, the developer has decided to modify the application to include only the 5-8 acres at the SE corner of the property. This includes land roughly bound by 31st avenue, SE Blvd, 29th, and Martin. **This change to shrink the rezone area was very popular with the meeting attendees.** Ms. Bjordahl expects to get amended request to the City within the next week.

Marilyn provided a community assembly report on paper. It will be posted on the website.

Marilyn and Sally reported that the South Hill Coalition planning effort has restarted. We currently have a professional consultant, MIG, which is reviewing all the city planning efforts ongoing or on the horizon. They will help us integrate city efforts into the plan focus developed via our neighborhood surveys. The next stakeholder meeting, **to which all neighbors are invited**, will happen on June 18th. Details will be posted on our website.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Submitted by Sally Phillips, Acting Secretary