

## Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council

### General Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2013

The meeting was brought to order at 7:00 PM, with President Gary Schumacher presiding.

The officers introduced themselves: President Gary Schumacher, Community Assembly representative Marilyn Lloyd, and acting Secretary Sally Phillips.

Kyle Twohig, City Engineering Operations Manager, presented information on a proposed enhancement to the Ben Burr Trail. The Trail is .9 mile, running from Liberty Park to Underhill Park on a former railroad bed. The City has obtained a federal transportation grant to pave and widen the Ben Burr Trail as well as provide some safety fencing. A requirement of accepting this grant means accepting federal standards for trail width and safety. Additionally the grant would provide the funds to extend the trail from Liberty Park to the Centennial Trail and to the University District. This extension would be partly on trail, partly on minor city streets. Kyle indicated that many East Central residents were opposed to the work between Liberty Park and Underhill Park. They are concerned that required widening and paving would make this 'woodland' trail more like a street. At the meeting, an East Central rep mentioned concerns about destruction of the woodland character, as well as destruction of native brush. Concerns were expressed about speeding by cyclists on a paved trail. Someone wondered if the paving would be durable, as there are natural springs crossing the Trail. Others at the meeting felt that the project would improve Trail walkability and safety. They thought that increasing the number of people on the Trail would reduce illicit activity – squatting, drug dealing, and dumping. Kyle agreed to post his slideshow of the project on the city's site. Kyle said that a decision about the project would be made by the end of January.

Jackie Caro, Office of Neighborhood Services, made a presentation on a web-based social media tool called nextdoor.com. Nextdoor is a private site open to neighbors who live in a certain locality. Nextdoor neighborhood boundaries are set up. Participants are invited to join via postcard or email. Nearby neighborhood postings can optionally be viewed by Nextdoor neighbors. Private groups can be formed inside the Nextdoor neighborhood (as a way of reducing the amount of emails generated by the site). Common uses: snow removal info, crime issues, lost pets, etc.

Jackie said a decision has not yet been made concerning which traffic calming projects have been approved for 2013. Decision is due soon.

An attendee expressed concern about high speed traffic on 30<sup>th</sup>, between Fiske and Regal. She also noted a continuous effort against graffiti in that area.

An attendee mentioned concerns about disorderly, possibly unlawful behavior at Mt Vernon and 19<sup>th</sup>, adjacent to Lincoln Park. We advised calling Crime Check and getting a case number, followed by calling the Cop Shop with the assigned incident number. Get license numbers or take pictures if possible. Street lights in the area are sometimes broken. We advised contacting Avista. We expressed sympathy

for the ongoing effort that has to be made to control this behavior. Gary agreed to mention to Mt. Vernon area concerns to our resource officer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

- Submitted by Sally Phillips, Secretary