

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council

General Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2014

The meeting was brought to order at 7:03 PM.

The officers introduced themselves: Sally Phillips, Secretary, and Marilyn Lloyd, Community Assembly.

Jonathan Mallahan, Director of Office of Neighborhood Services, spoke about upcoming changes to the allocation of federal community development funds. Starting 7/1/16, a new method will be in use, one that focuses on yearly data collection of income information, and which allows allocation of funds by block rather than by neighborhood. This is an acknowledgement that almost all of our neighborhoods have some low income areas that can benefit from CD funds.

About \$3 million in CD funds comes to Spokane, for distribution to low or moderate income households. The money must be spent on eligible activity: housing rehabilitation; improvement to public facilities; sidewalks. Housing rehab dollars are available to low income families, and are handled on a first come/first served basis. Sidewalks can be funded only in areas where a block has 51% or more low/moderate income households. Public facility improvements (parks, communitycenters) can be funded, if located in an area that meets the income criteria. The Community Assembly is working on guidelines for the new rules. Details at:

<https://static.spokanecity.org/documents/blog/2014/05/02/cdbg-neighborhood-taskforce-makes-recommendation/cdbg-taskforce-options.pdf>

Dallas Hawkins presented information on a potential City of Spokane bond levy. This proposal is responding to the fact that our 2004 bond levy is expiring this year. Using the 2004 program, 1/3 of Spokane arterials were repaved, with borrowed funds that we will be paying on for an additional ten years. The new bond proposal is to continue the current assessment of 91cents per \$1000 home evaluation, extending it for another 20 years. Of that amount, 57 cents will be devoted to streets: 29cents will be applied to current debt and the remaining 28 cents to new work. Parks will get 34 cents, with 12 cents paying of existing bonds and 22 cents funding a new master plan for Riverfront Park. Details at: <https://beta.spokanecity.org/blog/2014/05/15/maintaining-streets-and-reinvigorating-riverfront-in-an-affordable-way/> Feedback on the proposal, or nominations for 'worst street' can be emailed to streetsandparks@spokanecity.org

Under the new levy plan, the City expects to be able to double its residential street work, also upgrade arterials and maintain them at a 'good' level. The levy will pull in \$25 million annually for streets, including the match money from state and federal sources.

This bond proposal will be presented to the City Council on 7/28. If approved by the Council, it will be sent to the voters this fall. The ballot will allow voters to vote separately on the bond issue for Riverfront Park and the levy for street work.

Alicia Powell talked about the **Forest Spokane** project. Neighborhoods, through their council, can apply for up to three grants of \$5000 each, to plant trees on public land, to beautify the neighborhood. Deadline for applying is 8/29/14. Applications must include a commitment to water the planted trees. Details are at: <https://beta.spokanecity.org/blog/2014/07/16/help-your-neighborhood-beautify-spokane/>

Projects that win approval will be evaluated next May, and the one deemed most successful will entitle the neighborhood to an additional grant of \$5000. IMPORTANT: LH Council officers have a couple ideas for applications on SE Blvd, and 35th Ave median. If you have another idea, please let Sally Phillips know (448-6271 or phillips1948@comcast.net). Applications will take time to complete, so pass any ideas along SOON.

Dump passes were distributed to attendees who requested them.

Meeting concluded at 8:50 pm

--Submitted by Sally Phillips, Secretary