

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council

Agenda/Minutes – Sept 16, 2014

- Call to order/Introductions.....Sally Phillips, Co-chair
- Traffic Issues in Lincoln Heights Business District.....Bob Turner, City Traffic Engineer
- Community Development Block Grant.....Sally Phillips, Council Officer
George Dahl, Community Housing & Human Svcs.
- Forest SpokaneAlicia Powell, Neighborhood Services
- Graffiti Reporting Tool.....Jackie Caro, Neighborhood Services
- Community AssemblyMarilyn Lloyd, Community Assembly Rep

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. Sally Phillips presided.

Bob Turner discussed traffic issues around Lincoln Heights Shopping Center. Many attendees expressed concern about the closing of a left turn lane from 27th north onto Ray St. People found it inconvenient, and testified that it created many unintended consequences:

- Motorists making u-turns to get round the barricaded lane.
- New traffic on 28th st.
- Round the block traffic on unpaved Thor St, as motorists did a loop to get back to a northbound lane.

There were complaints that the change happened without public notice or input. Bob emphasized that it was a temporary revision to collect data about how street volumes would change on 27th, if 27th could not be used as a route onto Ray going north. He plans a report soon, recommending that the left turn barrier be removed as soon as possible.

Other comments about 27th: Traffic data shows traffic is speeding, but modestly at 4-5 mph above the limit. Traffic volume averages 4500 cars per day, which is huge for a nominally residential street. He notes that 80% of properties along the street are commercial or multi-family dwellings.

People had questions about how decisions were made to install traffic lights and stop signs. Bob indicated that there are many requests for these traffic tools. The City used speed and volume counters to measure where traffic control measures are needed. Four-way stops are called for when an intersection has 800 cars an hour for at least 8 hours. He mentioned that a traffic signal costs \$750,000 - \$1,000,000 installed. The City seeks federal dollars in a 5 to 1 match. Federal grants prioritize fixing safety issues.

Other misc complaints – speeding on Ray; speeding on 37th, close to Hamblen Park.

Someone mentioned the lack of left turn signal from Regal into Lincoln Heights Shopping Center. Bob indicated that wiring to allow that signaling can't be installed as the conduit is full. Fixing the traffic light (to add left turn signals) will have to wait until there is a complete revamp of the intersection. Also work on that intersection is complicated by the quirky fact that the street runs right into the shopping center, which is private land.

Long range, Bob said traffic signals are planned for 37th & Freya and 37th & Ray. He emphasized that these are long-range projects.

Bob asked that people report street issues to him at 232-8800 or bturner@spokanecity.org. The SPD traffic unit takes calls regarding speeding.

CDBG – Sally and George Dahl spoke. Due to changes in how community development funds are distributed, all neighborhoods in the city will receive some community development (CDBG) funds. Lincoln Heights has an allocation of \$29,000, as its share of 2015 funding. The neighborhood must submit a completed project request to the City by Nov 24th. The projects must primarily benefit low to moderate income (LMI) neighbors, and, with a few exceptions, must be in LMI-designated areas. We are fortunate that George is in our neighborhood and has agreed to participate in the subgroup. Sally asked for volunteers to form a subgroup to come up with ideas for projects and to help with the application process. (Note: 13 people signed up to help!). A meeting will be scheduled next week to brainstorm.

Forest Spokane -Alicia Powell presented. She discussed the benefits of street trees and landscaping. Studies have shown that trees reduce the volume of stormwater that flow to sewers. Trees also reduce the amount of energy consumed in homes. Over an 25 year period, these two benefits recover 60% of the tree cost.

The Forest Spokane project has two parts – donations of trees for public lands, and donation of trees for private land. Application for publicly placed street trees closed 8/29. Lincoln Heights was approved for 3 public tree projects, along SE Blvd extension and also on 35th Ave Parkway. In all, the neighborhood will be receiving 36 substantial trees from this project. Tree planting will occur in Oct-Nov.

Graffiti – Jacki Caro presented information on a new internet tool that allows reporting of graffiti online. See the link at: <https://beta.spokanecity.org/neighborhoods/codeenforcement/graffiti/>. Code enforcement follows up with a notification to the unlucky owner, requiring the owner to remove the graffiti within 10 days. Compliance has been high – 93%. Office of Neighborhood Services has some help to offer owners, with a few colors of paint that can be used to cover graffiti, or pressure-washing to clean it off. Jackie emphasized that it is most helpful to law enforcement if a picture is taken before doing any cleanup, with a report being provided to Crime Check. This helps the police build a case against vandals.

Calendar:

Oct 8th, 7 PM - South Hill Coalition Candidate Forum –at ESD101, 4202 S. Regal

Nov 18, 7 PM - Next LHNC meeting

Nov 24th - Deadline for Community Development Block Grant application(s)

- Submitted by Sally Phillips, Secretary