

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council

Minutes – March 17, 2015

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Marilyn Lloyd presided.

Lincoln Heights Business Center Planning - City Planner Tirrell Black spoke, with assistance from City Planner Joanne Wright. The City has contracted with two consultants to do the Lincoln Heights business center planning.

Urban Land Institute Northwest will run a charette this summer, that includes ten or more real estate agents, city planning staff. At the end of the charette, they will brief neighborhood leaders. Within 60 days ULI will produce a report of their findings. Neighbors were invited to send questions to Tirrell (tblack@spokanecity.org). At the meeting we suggested some issues: walkability, traffic congestion, and attractive interface between residential and commercial activities.

Studio Cascade will develop a business center plan, based on input from ULI's study. Expect a completed plan by early 2016.

STA levy on April ballot – STA representative Brandon Rapez-Betty presented information about the levy. The ballot issue proposes a sales tax levy of .3 cents on each dollar purchase. Gas and food would be exempt from the tax. The levy would sunset in ten years. Of the amount to be raised by the tax, 45% would sustain current service, with a major portion devoted to replacing aging buses. During our recent recession, STA sales tax receipts were dramatically down, with a loss of \$87 million in expected revenue. STA handled the loss by doing some service reductions, but primarily by delaying bus fleet replacement.

With the new infusion of funds, STA proposes dozens of enhancements to the system, and anticipates a 30% increase in ridership. Examples: increased bus frequency, running later into the evening; establishing transfer points outside downtown to speed up trips that don't have downtown as a destination; adding a park and ride on Moran Prairie. More details are at: <http://STAMovingForward.com>.

Proposed Neighborhood Notification Ordinance – Alexander Scott, from Gonzaga Law School's environmental clinic, presented information. He has been working with Council President Ben Stuckart to address neighborhood complaints about not receiving proper notification on zoning and comp plan changes. New requirements would be to notify neighborhood council chairs and expand notice to adjacent property owners, allowing 60 days for comment. The City would have 90 days to respond to comments. Time to appeal a plan commission decision would be extended to 14 business days. The proposed ordinance will go before the Plan Commission twice, then before City Council. *Note: neighborhood councils should add any notices they receive to their council websites.*

Forest Spokane 2015 – Sally Phillips reported. Last year the City began a program to reforest public land around town. The program continues this year. Neighbors can make applications,

which are to be submitted to the neighborhood councils for approval. Each council can submit up to 3 projects for funding. This year, there is extra weight given to tree installation, rather than shrubbery. Extra points will be given for involvement by neighborhood groups, either through volunteer labor or funding. Applications are open now. The Council will decide which projects to move forward after taking input at the May meeting. Deadline for project submission to the city is June 30th.

Neighborhood Council Officer Elections- Nominations are open for neighborhood council officers. Elections will be held at the May council meeting. Officers include: President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, Community Assembly Rep, Community Assembly Alternate. Marilyn and Sally emphasized the importance of getting more board members to cover the many activities the City encourages us to undertake. We passed out a document outlining officer duties. Here is a copy of the officer duties:
<http://lincolnheights.spokaneneighborhoods.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Lincoln-Heights-Neighborhood-Council-Elections.pdf>. Please consider becoming a Council officer.

Note: The current officers, Marilyn and Sally, were heartened to receive 5 offers of help for different Council tasks. Many thanks to our attendees for stepping up. We will be following up with volunteers early in April.

Community Assembly –Marilyn Lloyd presented. The Community Assembly received a briefing from the Community Development Block Grant subcommittee, which has been working on rules for how block grant funds will be distributed to neighborhoods. It appears the Lincoln Heights will be getting about \$27,000 in funding from this program in 2016. Once the distribution model is finalized at the April 3rd Community Assembly meeting, the neighborhood will need to start working on best uses of the funds. There are lots of rules for use of the funds, based on the HUD intent of providing assistance to low to mid-income households and neighborhoods.

Traffic calming – 23 grant requests were received. City engineers will be evaluating projects and doing speed and pedestrian counts through July. They will provide results to the neighborhood councils and will present project evaluations to the City Council in September.

- Submitted by Sally Phillips, Secretary