

## **Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council**

November 20, 2018, 6 – 7:30 PM

Southside Community Center

**Carol Tomsic, Council Chair**, led the meeting.

Note of agenda change - Clarke Brekke from the Goodwill on 27<sup>th</sup> will not be able to attend meeting as planned. Carol let us know that hopefully he will be able to attend the next meeting to discuss the expansion of the Goodwill to the neighboring lot and in the meantime if anyone in the community has concerns or complaints to let Carol know and she can put you in touch with Clarke Brekke.

Note of attendance of South Perry Business & Neighborhood Association (SPBNA) President, Emily Wenzel, whom let the council know that they meet from 6:30pm to 8:00pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month at the Emmaus Church located at 1317 E 12<sup>th</sup> Ave.

### **September meeting minutes approved**

#### **Neighborhood Updates:**

**Bob Mosman, Neighborhood Resource Officer** confirmed that crime thus far in 2018 is down in the South Hill area across the board compared to 2017, except for simple and domestic assault.

Officer Mosman gave a recent case example of a 16-year-old man who was stealing thousands of dollars' worth of liquor from grocery and department stores and then selling it at Rogers High School. He was charged with trafficking of stolen goods and felony assault for an altercation with Target loss prevention. He was also charged organized retail theft which allowed for the aggregate total stolen from multiple stores to meet the minimum felony dollar amount. Officer Mosman has been visiting stores and encouraging them to lock up their liquor or locate it behind front counter.

Officer Mosman asked attendee's what we think should be done with young repeat offenders such as the example case. Some of the suggestions included; for schools to start intervention while they are children and for punishment be in school suspension instead of traditional suspension and keeping them in prison.

Officer Mosman concluded by reminding everyone to be aware of the increase in package stealing that happens during the Holidays, and to try and make accommodations to have packages delivered while you are home or to have someone you trust pick them up for you.

**Lori Kinnear, City Council Member**, as a follow up to officer Mossman's case example and question mentioned the police department youth programs and the cops mounted patrol which are volunteers with their horses that ride in parks and engage and deter. Thus far they have raised \$5,200 this year. Money raised goes to the training of the volunteers and their horses.

There was some questions and discussion about the process of the Garden District PUD and possible Crestline extension. Currently it is with the Hearing Examiner, comments were due to him by November 16<sup>th</sup> to be part of the record, but comments can still be sent in. Once the Hearing Examiner's decision is made an appeal can still be made which would then be decided by the City Council, which is why they are not supposed to comment on it at this time.

Lori reviewed the amendment, she sponsored, to reverse the 2017 City's Comprehensive Plan change that extended Crestline's designation as and arterial to Southeast Blvd that was approved at the July 9<sup>th</sup> city council meeting. She also mentioned the traffic study on 29<sup>th</sup> being done by independent engineering firm that should be complete by the end of the year or the beginning of next year, and a traffic study being done on the Regal corridor.

Lori discussed a new resolution on comprehensive housing and rental protections policy which is to help with protecting citizens during this tight market of only 1% vacancy in rentals. They are looking into possible rent control and making sure a just cause is given for evictions and that people have more than 20 days upon eviction. They are looking for participation and comments whether you are a tenant, home owner, or landlord.

Question was raised to council members regarding the city's preparedness for wildfires considering the fires happening in California. Lori verified the city is working on it, that it is high on their list as there were 101 fires last year in the city limits. They are working with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in the natural areas such as the bluff to limb up the tress and cut wild grass. They are also starting a new Urban Forestry Council.

**Breean Beggs, City Council Member**, discussed Lime Wire Scooter evaluation. He let people know If damage is caused by a scooter that the riders home owners' insurance should cover. He also verified that in Spokane it is illegal to ride scooters on the sidewalk and they must be wearing helmets and riders are to be 18 or older. Laws will need to be updated as part of this evaluation and they are looking into putting an extra fee on the providers to help cover additional infrastructure and law enforcement cost. Also, looking into whether they would be allowed to run in the winter.

As previously discussed at prior meetings that the city is trying to address Spokane's increases in homelessness. Approximately 1300 are chronically homeless in Spokane. The City reduced the 300 beds a night at the House of Charity to 150 in September, due to concerns over homeless density around the House of Charity the City. Thus far the 150 beds have not been replaced but they are working on it. The hope is to have smaller 30-50 bed shelters throughout the city. With new federal ruling, Martin v. Boise, police cannot force homeless from illegal camping on sidewalks and under bridges unless there is a shelter for them to go to.

Question was asked of Breean regarding a letter Touchmark sent out to local neighbors saying that they have lost their employee parking rights at the LDS church across the street, so employees will be parking on the residential streets which include Martin, 30<sup>th</sup> and Pittsburg. Breean in response said that the streets are public and not owned by the homeowners, but that

the employees should be following the snow removal guidelines of parking on the odd side of the road, and if they were not to call 311 and report them. He also reminded everyone to make sure that any recreational vehicles parked on the street need to be moved as part of the snow removal policy and that these can be reported as well.

### **Standing Updates:**

**Marilyn Lloyd** – Discussed the Community Development Block Grant. Lincoln Heights was awarded \$15k. There was only a small portion of the LH neighborhood eligible for us to use the grant money on things such as sidewalk repairs, which those neighborhoods do not currently need. The other choice was to donate the money to one of the development program charities, Marilyn handed out a list of the options. Carol will also send out a link to where on the city website additional information can be found on these. At the next council meeting in January we will take a vote on how the money should be dispersed.

**Carol Tomsic** – notified the group that the Neighborhood Council Board met and made a formal comment to the Hearing Examiner in regard to the Garden District PUD. The comment was passed out to attendees and reviewed. This was done because comments were due on 11/16/18 prior to the next council meeting. Comments were based upon concerns documented in minutes of previous meetings. If anyone had questions or concerns about the comments they were encouraged to let Carol know. Carol will be attending the public hearing regarding the Garden District PUD on 12/12/18.

**Melissa Wittstruck with the City of Spokane** gave the following updates:

- Confirmed that the building going on 35<sup>th</sup> and South East BLVD is town houses and that they had permission to cut down the trees on South East BLVD as part of their building permit, but they are to replant trees upon completion. Group questioned whether the townhouses were going to egress onto SE BLVD, and she said she would check and let us know at next meeting.
- Also pointed out that as previously discussed the city 2018-2019 snow response plan has been released and reminded everyone the official snow season runs from Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> to March 15. She provided handouts for attendees. For more information go to [My.SpokaneCity.org/Streets](http://My.SpokaneCity.org/Streets).