

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council Meeting

May 21, 2019, 6 – 7:30 PM

Southside Community Center

Carol Tomsic, Council Chair, led the meeting.

Roll Call- Neighbors and Guests introduced themselves around the table.

Approval of Minutes- March Minutes were approved.

Event Update- Our neighborhood event will be held on **August 17th at Thorton Murphy Park**. The Mounted Patrol has been booked to attend from 11AM-1PM. It was suggested that we contact Cona Ice to be there as they give a 25% donation of their sales to us. Also, Shriners was suggested for face painting talent.

Neighborhood Updates

Det. Bob Mosman gave the NRO update.

- * He gave an update on the rock-thrower from last meeting. The case was sent to the prosecutor and he is hopeful that a conviction will include treatment for mental health at Eastern State Hospital.
- * He discussed the two shootings on 5th avenue this month. One victim was killed and one was injured severely. It is believed that he is likely to be a former Ferris HS student who may have been involved in the group destruction of a vehicle a few years back. Det. Mosman stressed that this is why we need to **take juvenile crime seriously**; it can be a precursor for more serious crimes.
- * He told us of a residential burglary recently. A woman who works nights was leaving her back slider unlocked to go in and out on her lunch breaks in the middle of the night. Her roommate was sleeping when a suspect came in through the unlocked door and robbed them. Det. Mosman used this incident to remind us how we can prevent crimes like this. Burglars check doors all the time to see where they can get in. **Always lock your doors at home and in your vehicle.**

City Council Member Lori Kinnear gave an update.

- * Property crime in Spokane is trending down (except in the area of downtown). She reiterated what Det. Mosman said about helping yourself not become a victim.
- * The good news; The COMP plan passed 7-0 for no arterial designation on Crestline.
- * Crestline will go through, but it will be narrowed and it will be slow. We have plenty of time to be involved in the planning process to create necessary traffic calming.
- * The 29th Ave traffic study will help to inform us about traffic calming going forward.
- * Some neighbors expressed concerns about this decision, and Council Member Kinnear assured us that there is plenty of time to help develop a calm traffic situation. She also mentioned that the density plan changed in that the apartments are now closer to 29th and there are only

single-family units on the South end of the development (across from the existing single-family homes).

- * She also told us about a pilot program that is proving very successful in reducing illegal campgrounds in the city. **When citizens identify a campsite, they can call 311.** A team will post a notice and clean the site 48hrs later. If people are still occupying the encampment, the interdepartmental team will find them resources. Illegal camping is not safe for anyone. Forty camps have been cleared so far.
- * She updated us on the four traffic officers that City Council is working on funding. We have to make sure to provide adequate funding for not just salary, but equipment and gear as well. Ideally, these officers will patrol 300 yards around school zones. We currently only have six traffic officers so this would be a huge improvement.
- * A neighbor reiterated that he has called 311 for an illegal campsite and it did work. The camp was cleared within a few days.
- * A neighbor was concerned about the traffic study recommendation about removing the Pittsburg barrier, as there used to be many accidents in that area before the barrier went up. Carol said that we would be following that issue closely and talk about that barrier going forward.
- * A neighbor suggested a light at Pittsburg and 29th. Council Member Kinnear said that there is plenty of time to make suggestions before any traffic calming happens.

Greg Francis- Land Use Committee

- * He spoke about the nature of the Land Use Committee. They are able to review Comprehensive Plan and tentative changes to it. There are too many changes to review well. He would like if all the neighborhoods were represented on the committee to review the interests of their neighborhoods. Councils need to get involved earlier in the process when there are issues like the one we had with the Crestline designation.
- * Mr. Francis also shared with us that we could use notifyspokane.org and sign up to get notifications when permits are proposed in our neighborhood.
- * He stressed that every neighborhood has a seat at the table, and that we should all be a part of the **Land Use Committee. They meet on the third Thursday of each month from 5:30-7:30 at the West Central Community Center.**

Doug Greenland- SpokaneScape

- * He spoke about an incentive the City offers when you replace turf with native, water tolerant plants. The City will reimburse your costs at 50 cents/sq ft (with a cap at \$500).
- * They want to put a focus on front yards and other highly visible areas. You can even make raised beds and grow some food that qualifies. Check the list of qualifying plants. You can find more information at Spokanescape.org.
- * A neighbor asked how much you can save. Mr. Greenland said that the average customer can save around 80% on their bill and also save in fertilizer and maintenance costs.

Pearl Bouchard- Resources for the Disabled and Elderly

- * Our neighborhood ranks high for demographics on ageing. Luckily, WA ranks number one in the US by AARP for serving the elderly while keeping them in their homes.
- * The State of WA is very motivated to help families and friends care for the elderly and disabled because it is financially and socially beneficial for the elderly to be able to remain at home, rather than in care facilities.
- * Sometimes, it can take many different phone calls for the elderly to find services. Aging & Long Term Care of Eastern Washington (www.altcew.org) provides a number for them to call and get directed to services. **Their local number is 509-458-2509, and their regional crisis line is 1-877-266-1818.**
- * If a call is too complicated to explain what to do over the phone, ALTCEW will provide a free options counselor to meet with the individual and their family.
- * A neighbor asked how some of the in-home care facilities for the elderly are regulated. Mrs. Bouchard recommended that people choose facilities that accept Medicare, because they are more strictly regulated.

Standing Updates

- * There was a discussion on Spokane Matters, which is an interdepartmental team working through solution-oriented committees. The program allows the City to engage and partner with citizens on projects that matter most to them. Right now, the group is working on some exciting things including getting some dog park designations in underused areas of South Hill parks.
- * Carol Tomsic proposed an ad hoc committee to brainstorm and research traffic calming in order to be prepared to apply for traffic calming projects in our neighborhood. A sign-up sheet was passed around and neighbors joined the committee.
- * Makaya Judge talked about the COPS “Paws on Patrol” program which trains citizens about what to look for when out walking your pets that can help with crime prevention. She also talked about other COPS programs, such as Block Watch, and encouraged people to volunteer with COPS to help keep our streets safe. **If you would like to attend a “Paws on Patrol” training, you can contact the COPS shop at 509-625-3326 or copsse@spokanecops.org.**
- * Emily Wenzel talked about the **Perry Street Fair, which will be on July 20 at 10:00 AM- 10:00 PM**. There are more details to come, but it will have great music, lots of food, and good neighborhood fun. She also encouraged anyone in the neighborhood to attend the next SPBNA meeting on June 11 at 6:00 pm at Emmaus Church. There will be a potluck BBQ before the meeting and families are welcome.

City Council Member Breean Beggs arrived and gave us more updates.

- * He spoke about the rule they made a few years back that gives developers “bonus points” towards applications when they engage with the community. He commented about how that worked during this Greenstone process. He also gave an example about a North side

neighborhood becoming engaged about a project to use land around a water tower that the city wants to sell, but that citizens would like turned into a park.

- * A neighbor asked why the Garden District area wasn't turned into a park. Council Member Beggs said that it would have been way too expensive, since the City would have had to buy the property (the City already owns the property in question on the North Side). He did comment that there is a fund available for the purchase of land for park use.
- * A neighbor asked if we can make the owner of the property on 29th and Regal clean up the mess there. Council Member Beggs said that we could insist on buying it for fair market value if they continue to leave it undeveloped and uncared for, and then we could resell it to a developer who would build something. However, that is politically tricky and isn't likely. The City can take part of the corner using eminent domain, however, in order to make the corner bus-accessible. That would be a decision for STA to make. Laine commented that citizens can call 311 when they see graffiti or garbage and the owner of the property is required to clean it up.
- * A neighbor asked if the pilot program that Council Member Kinnear mentioned earlier for cleaning up homeless encampments would be continued passed its pilot period. Council Member Beggs said that he wasn't too familiar with the program but that he would look into it, and take our comments as advocacy that we would like it to continue.
- * A neighbor asked about clarification on the Limebike regulations. Council Member Beggs listed the following;
 - * In the downtown core, they are not allowed to be ridden on the sidewalks, and must remain in the street.
 - * They are not required to be used with helmets, but people will be encouraged to use them, for safety. There are free helmets that Lime pays for.
 - * The law states that you must be 18 or older to ride.
 - * They may not be parked in a right of way.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40

The next meeting is scheduled for 7/16/2019

Submitted by Makaya Judge, Secretary