

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council Meeting

November 19, 2019

6-7:30 Southside Community Center

Carol Tomsic, Council Chair, led the meeting.

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

Approval of Minutes-September Minutes were approved.

Neighborhood Updates

Detective Bob Mosman- Det. Mosman gave us some crime stats. Crime overall citywide is down in the areas of violent crime (down %15) and property crime (down %60). However, in our neighborhood there is a concerning uptick in one specific area. **Garage burglaries are up** (nearly tripled from last year). Det. Mosman gave us some good tips to bring that trend back down. Property crime is often just a crime of opportunity. Don't give these thieves the opportunity.

- LOCK your manddoors
- Take things inside from your car.
- Take your garage door opener out of your vehicle if parking on the street.

Another reminder that Det. Mossman gave us was that **package theft** spikes during this season. Thieves follow delivery vehicles around town and grab anything left out in the open. Here are his tips to avoid being a victim.

- Track your packages
- Know your neighbors. Ask them to watch out and alert you if packages are waiting.

A neighbor asked about the police contract and the additional traffic officers. Det. Mosman referred the neighbor to ask a council member later since that was something they were in the process of. (**Later in the meeting Council Member Beggs did confirm that council was able to fund new contracts for four new traffic officers with an extra incentive of \$1000 per half-shift when patrolling near schools. There was also funding allocated to the C.O.P.S. program "safe routes to school" where volunteers help patrol and maintain school walking routes.*)

Det. Mosman also touched on a neighbor's question about repeat offenders and he reiterated what he has told us before about the need for better criminal justice solutions to the revolving door of property crime offenders here in Spokane County.

Gabby Ryan (Community Programs Coordinator for the City of Spokane)

Gabby came to talk to us about the snow plan for this year, which is similar to the plan from last year. Here are some highlights, and, if you need additional information, you can direct questions to the Neighborhood Council officers who have been given some FAQ packets for reference.

- DOWNTOWN there is NO street parking from midnight-6:00 AM when there is snowfall.
- The city plans to plow more frequently to avoid build-up. Plows will begin priority routes as soon as snow begins to fall.
- Whenever there is more than 3" of snowfall, there will be a 24/7 full city plow. This will be completed within 72 hrs. If your street hasn't been plowed within that 72 hrs, you can call 311.
- Neighbors are being asked not to snowblow towards the street, but towards their yard.

- Sidewalks need to be cleared (it is the property owner adjacent to the sidewalk's responsibility) by 9:00AM after snowfall. Plowing 36" wide allows for wheelchairs and strollers to have access and keep everyone safe. When neighbors work together, cities have the best snow management.
- Get to know your neighbors. See if there are elderly or disabled neighbors that might need additional assistance (especially in the event of a power outage). If someone needs help with resources for snow removal, they can contact 311.
- ALL RV's/Boats/Trailers need to be moved off the street and into a garage or yard after 24hrs.
- Remember to park on the ODD side of the street after a snow event for plows to have better access.
- Curbs, ramps, storm drains, and hydrants should be cleared of snow for safety.
- Report any issues to 311. Sometimes, the city uses outside contractors for snow removal. They want to know about any problems so that they can educate everyone about fixing them.

A neighbor asked her about windstorm debris. She said that if it is city property, then call the city for removal.

Altmont Loop Update- Ryan/Patrick/Shirley

Some of their goals have been to try and lower speeds and dissuade shortcutting. Fisk & Ben Burr are bike paths, so they are exploring how to tie this into traffic calming. Ray & 11th seems to be the start of the problem, so they are hoping for a crosswalk there with a stop sign and possibly a pedestrian island. It was noting that while collecting signatures for this project volunteers had to actually stand in the road. They also mentioned N. Altamont and 11th as a problem spot.

Traffic Calming Project Update- Gonzaga Students

The students from Gonzaga who have been working on our traffic calming project presented us with a comprehensive packet of our problem spots with potential solutions, as well as data they collected about collisions, speed, and average use. We were asked to look these over and rank our three highest priorities and three lowest priorities. Those packets are available to look at through contacting the officers of the council. A neighbor asked about why we couldn't get an additional left turn arrow at 29th and Regal. Adam explained about avoiding what is called a "yellow trap" that would happen because of how narrow the lanes are there.

South Hill Library- Dana

- There are now storytimes every day at the SH Library branch
- There are some great events for Native American Heritage Month
- Mondays there is a crochet group that meets
- Because of the bond that we approved in 2018, there are three new libraries being built next summer.
 - The new East Side Branch, going in adjacent to the aquatic center in Liberty Park (which will replace the tennis courts).
 - The new joint-use facility (not a traditional branch) going in adjacent to Libby School on Sprague. This facility will be called "The Hive".
 - The new joint-use facility with SPS on the Shaw Middle School Campus.

- There are also many remodels happening. Downtown and Shadle branches will be closing in 2020 for remodeling. The South Hill branch will be housing more books as a result and new shelving is going in now. The SH branch will have it's own remodel in 2021.

City Council Update- Breean Beggs

- There is a tree ordinance that he is excited about proposed by Council Member Kinnear called "PLANT" (Protecting Leaves & Adding New Trees). There will be incentives for tree conservation and planting which aim to increase our canopy cover to %30 by 2030 (Although Beggs hopes to increase that goal to %40).
- Council Member Beggs also discussed the question from earlier related to traffic officers and school radar funding. The contracts have been approved.
- Since Initiative 976 passed, revenue will be reduced for streets. Beggs hopes to replace this funding with a property tax that would exempt homeowners that are low-income or seniors.
- We have a new mayor, and she has many offices to fill. A change in administration comes with some retirements and shifting in city hall staff.
- Council will re-fill Beggs' seat (hopefully by the end of January). They will take public input, and the interviews will be public.
- Landlord/Tenant issues are still in the forefront for city council. Many meetings have taken place to address these concerns from both sides. Spokane's low vacancy rate is challenging. New legislation will be debated on December 9th. One law that Council President Stuckart put forward deals with "just cause evictions" so look for discussion on that at the December meeting.
- Budget season is here and Mayor Condon has sent a budget proposal to Council. This will be debated on December 16th.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30

The next meeting is scheduled for 1/21/2020

Submitted by Makaya Judge, Secretary