

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council Meeting
Zoom
November 17, 2019
6 to 7:30 pm

Welcome

Virtual Sign-in Carol Tomsic, Annica Eagle, Marilyn Lloyd, Sally Phillips, Ruth Mincks, Chris McJimsey, Tom Sanderson, Chuck and Marcia Milani, Dennis anderson, Betsy Wilkerson, Jake Mccarthy, Makaya Judge, Lisa Rosier, Diane, Chris McJimsey, Adriano Eva, Bill and Theresa Bidowski, Ginny Toland, Danny Pearson, Annika Tohlen, Kathleen Weinand, Dave Gingrich

Approve Minutes

Put off until next meeting when everyone has ample time to review.

Neighborhood Updates

City Councilmember Betsy Wilkerson -

- New park rules are being put in place to reduce illegal activity and substance abuse around City parks. The Parks Dept will be enforcing these rules. Groups of 15 or more people need to simply notify the department when planning to gather. There isn't a charge, this is to help hold people accountable when damage is done or garbage is left.
- A new Cannon Street homeless shelter is opening. There will now be more beds available when officers are enforcing no camping rules.
- Housing needs are a big concern for the city. The City Council is taking testimony at next Monday's meeting (November 23rd) to look into a sales tax increase from 8.9% to 9% to help with funding for solving the housing crisis.

Detective Bob Mosman – E-mailed update read by Carol

“The overall stats actually look decent at this point. Major crimes in our district are down 16%, citywide they are down 11% as of year to date. Property crimes in our district are down 10%, citywide they are down 9% as of year to date. However, the nagging garage burglaries are up in our district 12% and the commercial burglaries are up 38%, for some reason we are having a hard time bringing these numbers down. Please remind everyone to be extra cognizant of securing their properties, especially during the holidays, because we always see the end of the year spike from the criminal element.”

STA bus route changes – Kathleen Weinard

- Voters approved the STA project “Moving Forward” back in 2016 in order to increase transit options and many of these projects are now complete.

- Looking forward, the 2022 projects included improving new routes and frequency and the implementation of the City Line.
- However, when the pandemic hit ridership was down significantly and some adjustments of course needed to be made.
 - Projects were placed on hold, and the board adopted the new path of growing, but not as fast.
- The new timeline included revisions to the assumptions in July of 2020, revising the preliminary proposal in October of 2020, drafting new recommendations in Feb of 2021, creating a final recommendation in May of 2021, and beginning implementation in May of 2022.
- The routes that would be affected in our neighborhood are 43 & 34. There will be no change to routes 4 or 45 proposed.
 - Route 43- some reduction in route, cutting off the route along 37th ave.
 - Route 34- reduction in service by reducing evening and weekend service, and elimination of holiday and sunday service.
- There will be an addition of routes 144 and 146 that will pick up the route being dropped along 37th avenue. This will be an express-type service which runs on weekdays only but runs every 15 minutes.
- Carol asked whether the routes might change back after COVID. Kathleen indicated that there is room for increased frequency when ridership is up again.
- There was discussion with neighbors about the area of the Lincoln Heights shopping center being underserved. Kathleen indicated that they are willing to look at that and brainstorm solutions. Lisa from the community center indicated that it would be helpful for her staff and patrons to have better bus access down on 27th. Dennis agreed that it would be helpful to have service along 29th in general because there are some gaps in service all the way down to the areas between Bernard and Grand.
- Tom asked about the use of the term “express” and wanted to make sure there would not be a reduction in stops. Kathleen said that it is an express only in that it will run frequently with the 144 and 146 overlapping. There won’t be a limitation in number of stops.
- Betsy asked about Title 6 (which prohibits discrimination in access of public services that receive federal funds). Kathleen said they are going to have the usual Title 6 review and that an outside consultant is hired for this purpose.

Stroll and Roll Challenge – Adriano Eva

- The Parks programs had a real challenge with the pandemic. How do you get people engaged?
- They realised that we have a city canvased in parks, so they created routes connecting parks and are offering a Wellness Challenge. You can find the routes and other info here <https://my.spokanecity.org/recreation/outdoor/stroll-and-roll/>
- There is a \$15 participation fee which will act as a fundraiser for the non-profit services the department offers. And... you will get a cool patch to commemorate your experience.
- When you log in, you will find fun facts that you might not know about our favorite landmarks, and you will also be able to enter your mileage in the hall of fame.

Community Garden update – Dennis Anderson

- The new garden will go in behind the fence on the North end of Thornton Murphy Park.
- The Parks Department has agreed to provide irrigation & the Water Department to provide some of the prep work.
- The design was provided to us by WSU, and Carol will email out a link to take a look at that.
- The concept is a universal design which will be ADA accessible and inclusive for everyone. It will have over 100 4x8 boxes and will be multifunctional and be used for educational purposes as well as gardening.
- Dennis talked about the use of the garden in cultivating indigenous foods and having cultural cooking experiences partnered with the Community Center.
- There are large fundraising needs associated with this endeavor, so Dennis welcomes ideas for that next step.

During Dennis' presentation there was a tiny glitch and the Zoom meeting ended, but was restarted moments later.

Dog Park proposal – Lisa Rosier

- Lisa proposed the idea of a dog park at Thornton Murphy which one could book ahead of time online. This would eliminate the fear of using a dog park where other dogs can cause injury or harm to dogs and owners.
- In her vision, the City could help host the payments and bookings and perhaps make some revenue this way.
- She is going to continue looking into this, and would love the blessing and support of the LHNC.

Proposed Bylaw virtual meeting text – Marilyn Lloyd

- Since we need to have virtual meetings due to the pandemic, Marilyn is working on an update to our bylaws which would state that this is an acceptable alternative to an in person meeting.

Snow Updates

- Carol updated us on remembering to park on the odd side of the street and also taught us that if you shovel your driveway to the right side (when looking out at the street) it can help avoid your driveway being blocked in by snow plows. Also, if you mark your driveway clearly it can help the plows to avoid it.
- During this conversation, we were introduced to our new Liason to the Office of Neighborhood Services, Annica Eagle. She mentioned that if you need help with shoveling or know someone who does (senior, disabled, etc), then call 311.

Neighborhood Updates

Ray/29th Comp Plan zoning change from residential to office Final Reading and City Council Hearing is November 23 at 6 pm. All comment letters and emails will be forwarded to council members. Verbal comments will be accepted at meeting.

Thornton Murphy Park 20 mph speed limit – added to 2-year pilot project Oct 26

Mobile Speed Signs update – will send in email

Snow update – in utility bill and driveway markers.