

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council Meeting

Zoom - extra meeting

October 20, 2020

6-7:30 PM

Welcome

Community Engagement funds paid for a year of Zoom, so we do not have to worry about time.

Minutes are online. We will approve minutes at our regularly scheduled meeting in November.

Virtual Sign-in

Carol Tomsic

Sally Phillips

Makaya Judge

Tom Sanderson

Ruth Mincks

Chuck & Marcia Milani

Lori Kinnear, City Council

Vanita Davis

Ryan Kelly

Sally Phillips

Adam Miles

Zack Zappone

Diane Birginal

Patrick Mckann

Neighborhood Updates

City Council Member Lori Kinnear

*Lori talked about the challenges of facing budget planning during a pandemic with a brand-new administration. They are working on it, though, and expect to have the Mayor's budget proposal by Nov 2nd and the Council proposal shortly after.

*She touched on the Goats (which were discussed in more depth last meeting) and how they are a pilot program designed to reduce fire fuel.

*There are new park regulations being considered which will ask groups of more than 15 people to

clean up after park use.

*Carol asked about the property tax increase and Lori explained that this is the automatic annual %1 increase that occurs every year. She said that if you have concerns about your individual rate or property evaluation, you should contact the county for evaluating individual concerns.

*Lori then touched on HB1590, which would create a 0.1% sales tax increase to fund affordable housing which would sunset after 20 years automatically. This would not require a vote from the people.

*Tom asked about the lowered speed limits around the city. It is a two-year pilot program which came about due to citizen concern over increased park use during COVID and school closures. There was some discussion about speeding and passing and unintended consequences of this.

*That led into a discussion about enforcement and the issue of the years-long negotiations between SPD and the Council about increasing the number of traffic officers. They never did reach an agreement, and we are still stuck with only six traffic officers who are spread too thin. Citizens concerned about this can email both SPD and the City Council about this to get negotiations re-started.

Zach Zappone – candidate for 6th district state representative.

*He grew up in Spokane and graduated from NC. He studied education and became a teacher in Tri-Cities and then here with Spokane Public Schools.

*He is running because he wants to make sure everyone has a shot & a job pathway. He wants to expand mental health services. He also wants a better tax code because ours is upside-down.

*Zach asked to hear from us what issues we want him to help us with, if elected. Neighbors discussed gentrification and property taxes as a concern. Zack agreed and said that is why he wants a different tax structure that would be more equitable like a capital gains tax. He hopes to attend more of our meetings to represent us well if elected.

*You can reach Zach at info@zachzappone.com.

Carol Tomsic- neighborhood updates

Hamblen Water Tower – next step is to evaluate and incorporate community input and survey results. There is a meeting on November 12th and there is info on the City website along with survey results.

Speed Feedback Trailer – Done for the season. Some malfunctioned. The city is compiling the results.

Thornton Murphy Park basketball court river design mural installation was postponed to 2021.

Spokane Art is hopeful to make it a fun community engagement activity in 2021.

29th/Ray Comp Plan update – Plan commission voted against the change from residential to office on the northeast corner of 29/Ray. There will be a city council hearing in November.

Questions/Concerns from Neighbors

*Adam mentioned a new housing development going in on 21st between Cuba & Havana. They did not need to alert neighbors since they are not changing the designation as they are putting in single family units (even though there will be many of them).

*Chuck reported back to us about the land use committee and specifically shared with us about regulations about “mother-in-law units” not being allowed to use for rentals.

Shauna Harshman – update on traffic calming program.

*Shauna is with the City Council’s Office as Manager of Neighborhood Connectivity Issues. She will be working on transportation concerns and issues, such as liaising on traffic calming. She has created a neighborhood concern log where she works with 311 on reporting and is working on having the city review these concerns at regular intervals. Longer term, she would like to look into funding and code changes to help with repairing sidewalks. She is also interested in protected bike lane projects. She hopes to bridge the gaps between funding and community concerns and to create more communication and transparency around these things.

*Patrick discussed his frustration with all of the work put into the problems around the Altmont loop, and how he hasn’t seen any momentum or improvement. Shauna said that our applications just made it through Council but that those applications are about a year behind or more. Carol asked “what can we do now”. Some solution ideas that Shauna had were related to the COPS program resources. Makaya mentioned that she could try and connect them with resources as a COPS volunteer.

*Sally mentioned that it would be nice to have a way to see updates regarding the log of traffic concerns. That way, citizens would be able to feel that they were participating or keeping up on things they have brought to the City’s attention.

*Adam mentioned an extensive database with decades of traffic comments and info that may be out there. He also had some funding source ideas.

*Shauna discussed the issue about yearly traffic calming applications, when traffic projects take many years. She would like to change it to a four-year cycle for applications. She mentioned that traffic issues like speeding are really a people issue and we need to work on that.

*Adam mentioned the issue with Altamont loop is that it is so wide because they assumed on-street parking but no one uses it for that. Patrick re-iterated that it has been SEVERAL years of concern and

that there are no interim solutions.

*Because these projects are individually so “small”, they are being pushed off and de-prioritised by engineers. Shauna and Adam both mentioned the benefits of outsourcing some of that engineering work. The City has classically not used outside help with this and it has been somewhat mishandled. Now they are open to outsourcing rather than putting our projects on the back burner.

*Carol asked what we can do right now to put the pressure on. Shauna said there is nothing we can do at this stage.

*Shauna wants to be a conduit for us to the city about these issues and she hopes to be transparent and communicate what is really happening with our traffic concerns. We can reach her at sharshman@spokanecity.org.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:31 PM