

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council Extra Meeting
Zoom
December 15, 2020
6-7:30 pm

Welcome

Virtual Sign-in

Sign-in via chat - provide address/phone/email if new

Approve Minutes

Deferred to regularly scheduled meeting in January – minutes are on website.
Need to approve minutes for July, August, September, October, November

Presentations

Officer Jake Willard – Neighborhood Resource Officer update

- Ofc Willard introduced himself to the neighbors. He has been an officer since 2005, having served his first three years in Phoenix. He has been with SPD since 2008, and is currently serving as the South East Neighborhood Resource Officer. He works out of the COP shop in the Lincoln Heights complex. He is very familiar with the City's work on homelessness as he has worked on the POD teams that respond to reports of encampments.
- He discussed crime in our area, citing property crime and burglary as the biggest issues. Some advice for neighbors is to pay attention to crime prevention through environmental factors;
 - Don't warm up your car by leaving it unattended
 - Make sure that your shrubs are cut back and your property is well-lit so it doesn't attract criminals.
 - If you are expecting a package, alert neighbors and have them keep an eye out for you when you are not home.
- Neighbors asked him about what to do when you encounter a panhandler. His advice- **Don't give \$**. Spokane has many, many resources available. If you call 311, or suggest that they call 311, they can be connected to services including shelters, food services, Frontier Behavioral Health, and senior wellness checks.
- Contact info for Officer Willard was put in the chat. You can email him at jrwillard@spokanepolice.org.

Marlene Feist, Public Works Director – Water and Solid Waste/New Rates

- Marlene gave us an overview of the rate-setting approach
 - They adopted 3 yrs of rates to give predictability
 - They will maintain support for vulnerable citizens
 - Work towards limiting rate increases to no more than 25-yr average CPI

- Try to make changes that allow services to pay for themselves
- She explained how residential bills are broken down and gave us rate comparisons with other big cities in WA (much higher rates) as well as some closer areas (closer to the same cost)
- She gave us a rundown of water rate changes.
 - There is a 2.9% general increase, and a revised water use tier structure.
 - This will help with water conservation, and will help support residential needs.
 - Things that will be maintained
 - Wastewater credit for low indoor water use (\$5 per month for lowest %20 of users)
 - Credit for low-income seniors and persons with disabilities
 - U-help program
 - Interest-free payment programs to assist those affected by the pandemic
 - SpokaneScapes rebates up to \$500 for putting in native plants instead of turf
 - We learned that a small percentage of customers drive demand- 26% of residential customers use 45% of water. New consumption tiers will help incentivize customers to stay under 25 units per month. A new tier was added.
 - Customers will have more choice about usage. 50% of customers will not see an increase during peak seasons. The median increase would be \$11 total over summer months.
- She gave us a breakdown of Solid Waste changes
 - 2.9% rate increase for three years in annual collection & disposal
 - Manage recycling impacts (the City is currently losing \$1.4 million per year from recycling) through change in collection schedule for residential customers (every 2 weeks)
 - Processing costs are up do to improper use by customers (mixed plastics, broken glass, and bagging recycling instead of putting it in blue bin loose)
 - Commodity prices are down (other countries not buying our recycling)
 - Adopt a \$2 self-haul transaction fee at the WTE facility
- They will still support these ongoing priorities
 - Neighborhood cleanup and litter control (money not used due to the pandemic this year may be rolled over to next year's cleanup effort)
 - Discounts for low-income seniors and disabled individuals
 - Downtown business cleanup & support for illegal camping pod cleanup and river cleanup.
- The department strives to meet the principles of Simplicity, Stability, Sustainability, and Equity & Affordability

Lisa Woodard, Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency – Air Quality Presentation

- The WA state Clean Air act of 1967 gave the ability for counties in WA to form agencies. Spokane's agency formed in 1969. It is separate from the City and County. It is governed by a board of directors and a volunteer advisory council made up of industry leaders as well as representatives from the public health and science fields.
- Funding for the agency comes from federal & state grants, fee-based programs like

- permits, civil penalties, & local assessments. The budget is \$2.4 million per year.
- They are an enforcement agency, but only issue around 75 citations per year, as they prefer to try the education route first.
 - They are here to protect public health & welfare, taking into account our most vulnerable citizens.
 - Currently, our region is in attainment with all health-based air quality standards, but it was not always that way. Our region used to be high in carbon monoxide, but improvements in vehicles and fuels helped to correct that.
 - Now, our main pollutants are ozone and particulates.
 - Some of the agencies key programs include
 - Air quality monitoring & 2-day forecasts
 - Burn restrictions
 - Permitting
 - Residential complaints and enforcement
 - Education and outreach
 - 6 Key Actions to Help Improve Air Quality
 - **Drive Less**
 - **Avoid Idling**
 - **Keep tires properly inflated**
 - **Hold off using gas-powered equipment on hot days**
 - **Upgrade old wood stoves**
 - **Properly season (dry) firewood**
 - Visit www.SpokaneCleanAir.org for more info

Neighborhood Discussion

- There was a question from a neighbor about why the LHNC decided not to take a formal position regarding the Hamblen Park Water Tower proposal.
 - Makaya, Secretary of LHNC, explained that since residents of Lincoln Heights approached us first about taking a stand against the use of the 31st and Napa location, we could only fairly represent all of our residents by not taking an official position regarding location. More information about the proposed sites and the City's next steps can be found on the City of Spokane website.

Adjourn