

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council Meeting Zoom

September 15, 2020

6-6:40 pm

Meeting began at 6:00 PM

Roll call was taken through the Zoom participant list and chat box.

Neighborhood Update

Hamblen Park Water Tower

- There is a meeting planned for September 22nd at 6:00 PM
 - More information and a link to join can be found here_
<https://my.spokanecity.org/projects/high-system-water-tank-hamblen-park/>
- If they decide not to put it at Hamblen, the city may reconsider previously considered sites (such as 31st & Napa)
- Marilyn asked why the City doesn't consider more options for sites such as higher spots near Touchmark similar to the site on 37th and Stone.
- Carol wrote that down and suggested that people bring questions like that to the September 22nd meeting. She also mentioned that the Parks Department will require that more parks space be created if the City decides to allocate space in Hamblen for the tower.
- Henry asked if the tower was for emergency water use. Carol clarified that it was a required addition according to the Department of Health.
- When writing letters, make sure that you write to the Parks Department as well.
- Even though it is in Southgate, it affects our neighbors as well.

29th & Ray Comp Plan Amendment for Office Space Designation

- City staff did not recommend it
- It is in the planning commission, but it doesn't meet criteria in the Comp plan.
- It will go to the planning commission on 23rd and then the City Council after that.

Dump Passes

- There are two ways to get dump passes:

- City has an ongoing dump pass program_
<https://my.spokanecity.org/neighborhoods/programs/clean-up/form/>
- Our LHNC dump passes are near expiration. Please call Sally at 448-6271 if you need one.

Bob Mossman submitted an email update

“Rapes, Robberies-person, assaults-non-domestic violence, and assaults-domestic violence are all down, which is good. Robberies-commercial are up only by a couple so that is not a huge concern.

Residential burglary, thefts, and vehicle thefts are down, which is fantastic. However, garage burglaries, commercial burglaries, and arson are up. The garage and commercial burglaries are our normal culprits and the arson just increased by 2 actual incidents which isn't too concerning.

It's those darn garage and commercial burglaries we can't seem to shake. Please remind everyone to lock all their doors and close their garage doors. The number increase is not huge but I don't like the pattern.

Good news, the overall crime rate for the first set of crimes is down 13% and the second set of crimes is down 9%, I like those numbers.”

Betsy Wilkerson

- There is a lot going on in City Hall. Overall, it is status quo.
- No conclusion has been reached regarding the Police Contract.
- Make sure to **complete your census**.
- City received another 3.3 mill in CARES funds- Greatest needs are around support for schools, scholarships for daycare, daycare slots, tech for daycares, assistance for small businesses, and the community centers.

Giacobbe Byrd (Legislative Assistant for Council Member Lori Kinnear)

- Update on the goat project to have them do vegetative management and fire prevention.
 - They will begin with Hangman park.

- They come with a shepherd who stays with them 24/7 while they graze (for 5-7 days) while they make a fire break. The shepherd makes prevailing wage. It is about 1/3 the cost of human labor.

- **Parks Rules Updates**

- Lori has been hearing about drug paraphernalia/garbage/etc left in city parks. More rules are needed for regulating large gatherings.

- Common sense guidelines have already gone to the Parks board and Council committee hearing, and is back with Parks for approval.

- They are also working on getting WIFI in the parks to level the playing field for distance learners (this will be funded with some of the CARES funds). Each district should get a park that will be piloted (they are looking at Thornton Murphy for our district).

- Carol asked if the WIFI can get worked into Grant park so that it can help with our Library Kiosk application. Betsy said she will look into it.

- Carol asked about the issues around feeding wildlife. Council Member Kinnear has been looking into this and they are at the early stages at looking at what other cities do in terms of education and enforcement.

- Marilyn asked about fire suppression planning. Are the City and County really looking into what happens if a wildfire blows in.

- Giacobbe replied that the County has a regional plan but it is pretty old. We did just hire an emergency planner (the Mayor did) and she has been working on emergency response plans for many situations. He isn't sure what strategic comprehensive plan there is yet, but we can be doing more. Betsy suggested that we have the emergency response planner join us for a meeting.

Neighbors discussed the Hamblen Water Tower

- Carol asked about the Hamblen water tower proposal. Betsy reiterated that Hamblen looks like the best location at this point but it isn't a done deal yet. Marilyn reiterated her concerns about that location. Betsy explained that many properties were looked at and Hamblen is just the best option they have found. Mary mentioned that the city has a website which outlines the thinking. She also shared information about the "Preserve Hamblen".

Betsy mentioned that some of the CARES money may be able to be used as grant money for neighborhood infrastructure projects. She will look into that for us.

The Meeting Adjourned at 6:40 pm.