

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council Meeting
Zoom
January 19, 2021
6-7:30

Welcome- Carol Tomsic
Announcements

The executive board met on 11/30/2020 to discuss a Preserve Hamblen resolution to oppose development in Hamblen Park or any other city park for non-park uses without a vote of the people. The requested deadline to sign the resolution was 12/10/2020. It was before our next regularly scheduled meeting on 1/16/2021 and deemed urgent. We discussed the resolution and water tower location selection criteria and decided not to sign the resolution or take an official stand on the location of the water tower in Hamblen Park.

We have Tim Sigler, director of the city's Community, Housing and Human Services at our extra meeting on February 16 at 6 pm to address the homeless in our neighborhood and would like us to give him our questions ahead of time. Send me questions, comments, and concerns.

Virtual Sign-in
Sign-in via chat.

Approve Minutes – Poll Vote

July, August, September, October, November, December were approved (5 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain)

Neighborhood Updates

City Councilmember Betsy Wilkerson

*Re-assignment of council duties. She is now finance chair

*She is supporting crosswalk signage

*They are setting up the structure of how they will disperse 1590 housing dollars

*Vaccine info- They are working on getting vaccine roll-outs into neighborhoods with mobile clinics in East Central and the Emmanuel Center (so there is an alternative to the clinic at the Arena)

*Giacobbe mentioned that he and Council Member Kinnear are working on updating the water conservation plan. They are working with a volunteer stakeholder group to form proposals to bring to council.

*Carol added that crosswalk signage Betsy was referring to was that in September of 2019 we passed a resolution for signage in the crosswalks at 27th & Fiske, 29th & Fiske, and 29th & Mt. Vernon. Unfortunately, since the change in speed limit, that project seems to have lost momentum. Carol

reiterated how important it is to find a way to alert drivers that they do need to stop at those locations for the crosswalks. She thanked Betsy for the support.

*Carol asked about appointments for vaccine clinics. You have to check to see what priority group you are in and then sign up for the vaccine. In the next few weeks, we will have a supply for tier 1A.

Clint Price/Cindy Coleman – School District Levy

*Clint Price is the executive director for elementary schools in SPS, and Cindy Coleman is from business services for SPS. They shared a presentation with us about the replacement levy.

*SPS is one of Spokane's largest employers with 4,195 employees. They are the 3rd largest school district in WA State with 29,115 students. 58% of those students qualify for free/reduced lunches and 36% are students of color. SPS students speak a total of 79 different languages.

*We have more than ten special choice programs including language immersion, highly gifted programs, virtual learning academy, and Montessori.

*LEVY= Learning, BOND=Building ; This levy funds things like staff (such as nurses, librarians, and school counselors), special programs (special education services and interventions), smaller class sizes for grades 7-12, and activities (such as afterschool programs, highly capable programs, music).

*The state of WA only funds 5 nurses, whereas our local levy funds 36 of our nurses. These nurses are crucial to our Covid safety plan.

*13.6% of our revenue will come from our levy, coupled with our LEA funds (local effort assistance which is a levy equalization program).

*Upcoming reductions in state revenue are projected to be a loss of over \$40 million over the next three years. The levy will help close that funding gap.

*The levy is an increase from this year, but lower than our previous levy that was up in 2018.

***Summary- this is a replacement of the expiring levy to cover 2022-24 that requires a simple majority to pass. Our schools are funded in part by local levies, which are voted on every three years. In 2018, the levy rate dropped significantly. While this replacement levy will be a higher rate than we are currently paying, it is a lower rate than the one from 2018 and previous to that. Election day is Feb 9th, 2021.**

* Carol mentioned that the high school students who presented during the City Council meeting did a wonderful job explaining how important these levy dollars are to their programs and their learning.

*Cindy mentioned that if the levy doesn't pass, there is another opportunity to prepare a modified plan for an April ballot. If that happened, then SPS would have to make adjustments to their budget and there would be significant layoffs (non-renewal of contracts) that would leave teachers hanging until another ballot measure was passed. Clint added that after the McLeary decision we had to cut \$20 million from the budget, which caused huge layoffs and closed our school libraries. If this levy doesn't pass, we would have to cut \$64 million in the first year. It would be a significant budget impact.

*Dennis asked how this would impact the Institute for Science and Tech at NC. Clint answered that the program would not likely survive these budget cuts.

*Marilyn mentioned that our levies usually pass and asked if since we are a good district for supporting schools isn't it likely to pass again. Clint informed us that there is an active no campaign this time, which is different, and that the current economic situation is making it difficult for households to vote on more taxes. He cautioned that if people assume it will pass and are complacent about voting it might not pass.

Giacobbe Byrd – Water Service Extension Project

*The City is required to review applications to amend the retail water service boundary on an annual basis.

*If the application is within city limits, we are required to service them. We have a water service boundary that extends beyond city limits due to decisions made by previous councils. We provide service to over 200k residents within the city, but also an additional 1800 residents in the county. We get applications from within the city, outside of the city but within the service boundary, and also outside of our service boundary.

*When we are trying to be good water stewards within the city, is it a good idea to extend service outside of the city? Council will consider this when making these decisions since once approved, there is nothing which binds the applicant to the use outlined in the application. Inside of the city boundary, we have some say over conservation measures. Outside of the city, we do not. Water use approval stays with land after being sold, which is also a consideration.

*Marilyn asked how this relates to water towers. Giacobbe stressed that while not directly connected, we need to be mindful of how we will continue to need more towers if we keep extending ourselves.

*Carol pointed out that one of the applicants is the sports field on 37th & Glenrose who will likely need a lot of water. This will impact our South Hill water infrastructure. Giacobbe said that we are past the point to stave off the Hamblen park water tower, but the idea is to stave off the next one with better water conservation goals.

*Chuck asked if customers outside of the city pay a higher rate than Spokane residents. Giacobbe answered that while there was a city ordinance requiring this almost a decade ago to require a flat rate fee, we have never actually collected on that. There is an administrative hang up because the county has threatened not to collaborate on other things if we collected the fee.

*Marilyn asked Carol about the water tower issue and if the 31st & Napa site is back under consideration. Carol said that they actually want to put a park there and make the open space of the Garden District larger.

Annica Eagle – Mobile Speed Sign update

*Mobile speed sign data was collected for our neighborhood. There are also permanent speed feedback signs that are paid for with traffic calming funds from the neighborhoods, which we can request for our neighborhood as well.

*The Office of Neighborhood Services has 6 mobile data collecting units. They also have some additional feedback signs that don't collect data but show the speed to drivers.

*They collected data at the following locations;

29th near Havana (6/30/20- 7/10/20)

Posted Speed	30
Average Speed	30
85th Percentile	36
# of Vehicles Tracked	17,990

37th Ave near Rebecca St. (8/19/20- 8/21/20)

Posted Speed	30
Average Speed	30
85th Percentile	35
# of Vehicles Tracked	2,503

29th near Havana (8/25/20- 9/3/20)

Posted Speed	30
Average Speed	26
85th Percentile	33
# of Vehicles Tracked	27,052

33rd Ave near Ray (9/22/20-10/2/20) *note that this trailer required a factory reset due to technical issues that may affect the data..

Posted Speed	25
Average Speed	16
85th Percentile	24
# of Vehicles	6,014

Tracked

* There were also some blue trailers that give speed feedback but don't collect data placed at 22nd & Havana, and 18th & Martin.

* RCOVID impacted these figures since many people stayed home and off the roads, and those driving were sometimes faster since they didn't have those who were more safety conscious on the road to slow them down a bit.

* The trailers have lights in them that flash red and blue which have the pavlovian effect of making drivers think of police officers which makes people slow down.

Standing Updates – Poll Votes

Carol Tomsic – Thornton Murphy Park Community Garden Letter of Support vote

Approved Unanimously (9 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain)

Marilyn Lloyd – bylaw virtual meeting text vote.

Approved Unanimously (9 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain)

Carol Tomsic – NCDP preference vote

The option to split the funds based on raw votes was approved unanimously
(10 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain)

Adjourn 7:30