

## Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council Extra Meeting

Zoom

April 20, 2021

6-7:30 pm

### **Welcome**

Announce record meeting. No disagreement.

### **Virtual Sign-in**

Sally Phillips, Makaya Judge, Marilyn Lloyd, Carol Tomsic, Ofc. Jake Willard, Ben Stuckart, Marcia & Chuck Milani, Kandy Brandt, Julie Honekamp (SNAP), Annika Tohlen, Colin Martin, Diane Birginal, Vanita & Glenn Davis, Theresa & William Bidowski, Marilyn & Hank Reimann

### **Neighborhood Updates**

#### Officer Jake Willard –

He is still working on homeless camps through the homeless encampment program (POD program). They are no longer citing them in community court, but they are going in and getting them resources to try and move them and get the area cleaned up. The enforcement part is still in legal review. Please continue to call 311 and code enforcement though because they can still address those camps.

#### Ben Stuckart – Director of Spokane Low-Income Housing Consortium

- The housing consortium distributes housing dollars to help transition people from the street into housing.
- We have a housing crisis in Spokane.
- When it comes to low-income housing (subsidized housing), the wait lists are **three years long**.
- It is nearly impossible to find employment if you don't have housing. As an advocacy agency, they are seeing over a dozen calls a day for help.
- The median price of a home in Spokane in March of this year was \$340k (it rose %20 in the last 12 months).
- A home is how you build generational wealth.

- Rent is rising by double digits each year. There has been an eviction moratorium during COVID, but that means that people aren't able to pay rent and the tenant, and the landlord are hurt by this. There will be massive numbers of evictions when that moratorium is lifted. The need for funding for this issue is double what the city has been given with relief money.
- There is no mortgage moratorium. The mom-and-pop landlords are selling their homes. Those who are not selling are steeply increasing rent.
- Minneapolis had housing crisis similar to this. The mayor of that city talked about looking at housing holistically. It is like a three-legged stool. The three "legs" to the issue are SUBSIDY, RENTER PROTECTION, & REGULATION (Zoning management).
- We must foster mixed-income neighborhoods and deal with red zoning. Housing is a huge issue that systemically impacts everything.

On the issue of regulation, Kendall yards is an example of a neighborhood with a variety of resident types. That was a planned unit development, so there can be small lawns and houses that touch each other. The general code in Spokane doesn't allow houses to touch, or for those small sized lawns. Our Code also says that your home must be fronted on a city street.

- If you make street environments more inviting, they will last longer.
- Densifying neighborhoods, such as the Perry neighborhood, would increase business success.
- Economic segregation is closely tied to racial segregation. Single family zoning maps overlay with old racial boundaries. What needs to change to make our communities more just?

- Julie Honekamp - CEO of SNAP

- Community development financial help for those who might not have access to traditional banking resources.
- Julie suggested that we all need to think about the question; what does a healthy community look like?

- She talked about the need to switch out paradigm from NIMBY (not in my back yard) to YIMBY (yes in my back yard) <http://www.slihc.org/yimby-network.html>

- A healthy community has a range of different types of housing. We need homeowners and renters.

Housing is crucial for mental and physical health.

- We can't *just* build our way out of this problem. Part of the goal is to preserve what we have.
  - Snap helps to preserve homes where people already live (building ramps for people who have become disabled, replacing sewer pipes for those who can't afford it, etc.)
  - Snap also helps with first time home buyers.
- SNAP received 6 million dollars in aid that was distributed in just a matter of weeks for rental assistance.
- Marilyn asked how we get the changes that are being discussed. Ben answered that we would have to change the COMP plan, and can be a decades-long process. We can get rid of single-family zoning but then you have to wait for homes next to one another to go up for sale and developers come in to buy and build there.
- There was discussion about various properties in Spokane and ideas about what could be done to help work on this.

### **Standing Updates**

#### Marilyn Lloyd – vote/update on Community Engagement Funds

- In the past, we have used the money allotted to us for business cards, a banner, etc. The funds are to be used to make the Neighborhood Councils more visible and attract people to the meetings. This year, we are proposing that the \$800 allotted to us be used as follows;
  - \$164.24 for Zoom fees
  - \$250 for Dump passes (the City offers these online, but not everyone has that capability)
  - \$350 for logo development to have a LHNC logo
- There was a discussion about the logo, the artists, and the potential for a neighborhood mural.

VOTE-

Yes:11      No:0      Abstain:0

Members who voted: Makaya Judge, Venita Davis, Glenn Davis, Marilyn Lloyd, Theresa Bidowski, William Bidowski, Sally Phillips, Diane Birginal, Marilyn Reimann, Hank Reimann, Carol Tomsic

**Adjourn 7:30**