

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council Meeting

September 21, 2021

6-7:30PM

Held via Zoom

Welcome

Sign-in via Chat

[Officers] Carol Tomsic, Sally Phillips, Marilyn Lloyd, Makaya Judge

[Attendees] Annica Eagle, Lawrence Stone, Lori Kinnear, Jan Jecha, Marcia Milani, Annika Tohlen, Colin Martin, Marilyn Reimann, William Bidowski, Theresa Bidowski, Trey George, Martha Lagerstrom, James Jewett, Diane

Council Member Lori Kinnear

Crime Report- Crime is down, with the exception of DV. That was expected as an unfortunate consequence of the pandemic making people stay in dangerous situations. We did have some gang-related shootings which have tapered off. Of concern to the neighborhoods is that SPD has absorbed the traffic unit into patrol.

Neighbors are concerned that there is more speeding and road rage as a result. All SPD officers are able to pull over traffic violators, but they are understaffed. They currently have 11 vacancies which they are working on filling. Council has prioritized funding additional officers since 2015.

Council is gathering information about priorities for the new budget. Our economy is doing well, and we look to be above last year's budget by %3 so she feels optimistic about our future. The City currently has 41 million dollars of pandemic recovery funding. There is a sub-committee working on allocation plans. They will hold public meetings regarding this.

The 20 mile per hour park speed limits trial period is coming up and Council Member welcomes your comments and opinions about this. Please email comments to Council. Carol commented that signage should be more visible so that drivers can see the limit.

Larry Stone- North/South Freeway Discussion

Larry is a longtime Spokane resident has concerns about how the new freeway is going to impact the South Hill. It is now fully-funded and work is fast underway. From Francis all the way South is still not yet built. The elevated portion will stretch from the river all the way to I90. The bridge over the river has begun this fall and will be a three-year project. In the next few years construction will move South and have a large impact on the existing stretch of I90.

From the South hill, under the current plan, access to the North/South Freeway will be very limited. We would be able to get on/off at I90 or at Trent. On Trent, you would have to contend with frequent train traffic. Under the new plan being looked at, there would have been traffic circles to increase access and help reduce congestion. The highway department is now saying that as the freeway moves South, they are running out of funds and plans for the South end of the freeway are beginning to cut corners. This could have a negative impact on South Hill residents. Since this presentation was scheduled, the good news is that the highway

department has put on an on-ramp and an off-ramp near Third Ave.

Mr. Stone is asking for traffic reduction measures to increase South Hill access while also mitigating congestion during rush hours. His group is asking us to consider a resolution recommending (a) An exit into the East Central Neighborhood, (b) Four-Way Altamont Interchange, (c) Four-Way Thor/Freya Interchange. Carol will email this information out to us for review and a vote. The final decisions are going to be made soon. Once they put the 2022 work and 2023 work out for bid it will be difficult to get change to happen.

Trey George- Froggy Pond History & Stormwater

Mr. George is the permit coordinator for the Waste Water Department. He talked to us about how our City handles stormwater. **Find more information at spokanestormwater.org.**

Stormwater is the main water Salmon have not returned. We also need to protect storm water because it can take pollutants into our aquifer (our drinking water). In our city we use swales (ditches) where we capture storm water and treat it before it returns to the aquifer. Pollutants can include sediment, solid trash, and oil. Chemical and physical pollutants can both be treated with a swale. Pollutants include deicer, vehicle waste, and construction waste. We need to be mindful of the source of pollution, and practice source control. Apply fertilizer in limited ways, fix leaky vehicles, clean up after pets, wash your car on the lawn and not pavement, and NEVER put anything down storm drains. If you see someone dumping anything in storm drains, please call 311 to help re-education of citizens who might not understand the harm this does. We also need to provide treatment since we cannot mitigate all of the sources. Swales are a treatment plan which use vegetation and soil to filter pollutants out of our water. We can all help keep swales healthy by keeping vegetation trimmed and healthy and keeping drains clear of sediment and debris. If a swale still has water in it three days after a rain, please call 311 so that they know it is filled with sediment and may need some maintenance.

Froggy Pond is a spring and wetland in our neighborhood. Stormwater reaches Froggy pond because spring water comes up through the ground from stormwater that has come through the soil. It is a valuable greenspace in our biota. Frogs are a sign of a healthy ecosystem. When the frogs disappear, that is a sign that an environment is unhealthy. Froggy Pond was set aside as a wetland bank. This means that a developer took over another wetland and Froggy Pond had to be set aside as protected land to mitigate the development of the other space. It is now safely protected.

Traffic Calming- Neighbors touched on traffic issues near Ferris, Franklin, and the issue of bike lanes being broken at times along SE BLVD. Traffic calming discussions are ongoing.

Minutes were unanimously approved for March, April, May, June, & July

Adjourn at 7:15

Submitted by Makaya Judge, Secretary