

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council Meeting
November 16, 2021
6-7:30 pm
Zoom

Virtual Sign-In

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

[Neighbors] Jim VanderMeer, Annika Tohlen, Colin Martin, Adam & Nikki Miles, Diane Birginal, Bill & Theresa Bidowski, Chuck & Marcia Milani, Richard Sola, Hadley Morrow

[Guests] Betsy Wilkerson, Annica Eagle, Joy Peltier, Jim Sledge, Torney Smith

Approve Minutes

September and October minutes are approved.

Neighborhood Update

Carol Tomsic – ECNC N/S Corridor Amendment vote

- What we learned was that there was not really a good access to the N/S freeway on South Hill. It was proposed that there be an interchange and traffic circle at Altamont along with other additions. Our council was asked to pass a resolution about this. We had emails from neighbors who agreed, and also from neighbors who had concerns.
- LHNC spoke to Bob Hilmes who informed us that they are still in the planning phases.
- Carol suggests that we wait until we can have Bob come to a meeting and explain the other side to us before we decide on a position.
- Adam Miles commented on the plan and explained that the proposal included too many elements that wouldn't work well together. It sounds good in theory but it would likely end up bogging us down. One or two elements should be chosen from the proposal.
- There was conversation between neighbors about potential ideas and about how the access points could look.
- It was agreed upon that we would wait to make a comment as a Council until we can have further presentations and discussion.

Council Member Betsy Wilkerson

- She has received some emails regarding homelessness in Lincoln Heights. They have a plan to bring on a new sergeant and some mental health personnel to address this issue.
- The City is having trouble financially. The goal is to preserve current employees and avoid lay-offs.
- The old East Central library building is now available City property. Council will be asking for

input from the community as to what it should become.

- Council hopes to have a budget finalized in the next few weeks. They hope to address public safety, community engagement, homelessness, and the housing crisis.
- There are 16 vacancies on the police force, and concern for additional vacancies due to retirements.
- There were questions regarding street maintenance crews given the staffing shortages and how we will ensure street plowing. She will look more into this and follow up with us.

Annica Eagle- City Updates (aeagle@spokanecity.org)

- C.O.P Shops will be distributing “Neighbors Drive 25” signs.
- City-wide plow is initiated after 4 inches. Snow season has officially begun. She will update us more later regarding staffing shortages.
- Here is info about the City street leaf pick-up
<http://www.my.spokanecity.org/streets/maintenance/leaf-pickup/>
- Green Bins will be suspended for the winter at the end of November, but it will be picked back up in March.
- Openings in many positions with advisory committees with the City. If you are interested, reach out to your Council Member. <https://my.spokanecity.org/bcc/vacancies/>

Joy Peltier – American Rescue Plan (arp@spokanecity.org)

- The City of Spokane was awarded 80 million dollars. We have until the end of 2024 to use the funds.
- Eligible uses include;
 - Responding to Public Emergency
 - Responding to Negative Economic Impact
 - Infrastructure
 - Equity-Focused Services
 - Premium Pay (Providing premium pay to essential workers for heightened risk)
 - General Government Services (Excluding debt payment, deposits to pensions, replenishment of financial reserves, or revenue reductions from legislated action)
- The application process begins with submitting an ARPA (idea) form. The ARPA work group will select project ideas for consideration, and then Council will approve or reject project ideas. A vendor will be hired by the City to sort through the ideas and assist in the process. You can find more info here [American Rescue Plan Act \(ARPA\) - City of Spokane, Washington \(spokanecity.org\)](http://www.spokanecity.org/arpa)
- Last Thursday, the first set of ideas were sent to Council for feedback. Ideas put forth so far include housing crisis issues, refugee community support, participatory budgeting to be allocated per district, childcare, arts funding, and more.

Jim Sledge, DDS & Torney Smith - Community Water Fluoridation

- Smile Spokane is a network of health care, public health, and community organizations collaborating to transform oral health in Spokane.
- In Spokane, 1 in 3 seniors is missing all teeth, %5 of the county adults have lost all teeth, and more than %30 of adults are missing at least one tooth.
- For children, a Kinder-aged child is more likely to have rampant tooth decay than the average WA child. Almost half have had a cavity already.
- Fluoride is believed to improve oral health. Some dental providers call fluoride nature's cavity fighter. Some amount of it is in all water other than distilled water. The critical thing is the amount of fluoride. Spokane had 1/10 of a part per million and that is well below the level that would be beneficial in enamel structures of teeth.
- Oral health can have impacts on health beyond the mouth. It can impact diabetes, heart disease, stroke, and pregnancy. Dental disease is the leading chronic disease of childhood.
- Oral disease is higher among people with low incomes, populations of color, people with disabilities, and older adults. In the presenter's opinion, CWF can be important for health equity. Preventing cavities can help youth stay in school, and can support long-term success.
- The CDC calls CWF one of the ten greatest public health achievements of the 20th century.
- Makaya asked about the potential health risks, specifically regarding the risks mentioned on the American Cancer Society website regarding bone cancers.
- Neighbors expressed concern and support. Neighbors can express support or opposition to water fluoridation to their Council Members.

Adjourn

7:32