

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Extra Meeting

January 15, 2022

6-7:30 pm

Zoom Meeting

Welcome

Chair, Carol Tomsic, welcomed everyone to the extra meeting.

Virtual Sign-In

Guests – Tami Palmquist, Luis Garcia, Patrick Striker

Officers – Carol Tomsic, Marilyn Lloyd, Sally Phillips

Attendees – Annika Tohlen, Colin Martin, Marilyn Reimann, Hank Reimann, Diane Birginel, William Bidowski, Theresa Bidowski.

Tami Palmquist, Principal Planner - Presentation on Subdivisions and Land Use Permits

Tami said land use permits start with a predevelopment meeting to make sure regulations are followed by the applicant. The next step is community meetings where the developer will share ideas. Tami used the Garden District PUD as an example. A 28-day review will determine if the application is complete which includes a review by agencies, including neighborhood councils. Then, a notice of application is issued within 14 days of the application being complete which includes a 14-day public comment period. Then, depending on the type of application, a director or hearing examiner will have a decision 10 days after the date of record is closed. Tami also discussed subdivisions, which include short plats. Tami said development and design standards are used, including open space, impact on other lots, pedestrian and bicycle pathways on cul-de-sacs, impact to safer routes to schools, access to existing bicycle networks, multi-modal and vehicle connections. Tami said people have large lots and are selling their land to supplement income, retire or as a revenue stream. It also helps people stay in the community and connected to the neighborhood (with more housing in neighborhood). Tami answered questions, including existing trees on private property are not regulated but street trees in a public right-of-way can be regulated, vacated streets are handled by Eldon Brown and City Council has the final say, traffic circles serve as an engineer function. There was also a discussion on the streets in the Garden District PUD. Tami shared a pdf of the presentation.

Luis Garcia, Enforcement Supervisor -Presentation on Code Enforcement

Luis said common violations are solid waste such as, outdoor storage and furniture not meant to be outside. He said he tries to attempt voluntary compliance and educational opportunities. He

said violations include right-of-way obstructions like vegetation, debris, and basketball hoops. A person should not have to walk around obstructions on a sidewalk. Land use is another common violation, including front lawn parking, illicit home occupation (example/construction trailers) and recreational camping. He said recreational camping is limited to 14 days in a calendar year. Luis said graffiti is also a problem. He said property owners can be cited for keeping graffiti on their property even though they are the “victim” of graffiti. Unlawful camping is also a code violation. It is unlawful to camp on public property (private property has the 14 days limit in a calendar year). But *Martin v Boise* created limitations in enforcement because of inadequate shelter space. He said unlawful camping creates garbage and litter debris. Luis said there are three ways to make a code complaint: dial 311, an online complaint form and a mobile app on the phone. He said you can choose to be identified or not when you file a claim, but you might be unmasked in a court proceeding. He said when he writes the ticket, he become the complainant so he will not share who filed the complaint. Luis said C.O.P.S is a good partner. Luis answered questions including a response to a sign blocking a sidewalk on 57th/Regal. He said he will establish a responsible party (most often on the signs) and encourage dialog. He said if a public records request is made, the name of the person who made the complaint is redacted if non-disclosure was chosen when complaint was made. He said if a resident goes to a C.O.P.S shop a report can be made with the name of the person at the shop. He said education and voluntary compliance is sought first, then a written ticket. Luis also said a code complaint made on fences depends on the development standards. He said Spokane is one of only a few cities that require a building permit for a fence. Other jurisdictions do not require a building permit unless the fence is over seven feet. Luis said RVs on private property are a challenge. RVs cannot be in a front yard setting and a code violation is present if there is occupation, illicit black water on ground or utility hook-ups.

Patrick Striker, Executive Director of C.O.P.S -Presentation on C.O.P.S

Patrick gave an overview of the C.O.P.S programs and said to refer to their website for lots of good information. He said there are nine C.O.P.S shops around Spokane. He said you can enter your address on the website and see which shop is in your neighborhood. (Our shop is in the Lincoln Heights Shopping Center). Patrick said you can report a crime at the shop and their staff can provide education on what to do if you are a victim of crime such as calling your insurance company, reducing risk of identify theft, having a Block Watch in the neighborhood, and getting neighbors together to come up with a game-plan. Patrick said the neighborhood resource office focuses on neighborhood issues and you can sit down with our neighborhood resource officer at a shop. (Our neighborhood resource office is Jake Willard). Patrick said volunteers run the shop and he is looking for more volunteers. He said crime prevention and getting the neighborhood involved is important. He said everyone has a role to play. He said there is more response to a drug house if more than one person reports it. Patrick said the shops have retired squad cars and have fostered relationships with the cars. He encouraged residents to use the cars and even park the cars in front of their houses or businesses as a deterrent to crime. He said there are 70 horses and riders in the mounted patrol program and just the presence of the horses in the community act as a deterrence to crime. He said Paws on Patrol has over 100 volunteers who are trained to pay attention to what’s going on in their neighborhood. Patrick said the Off-Road Patrol makes parks safe for residents to use. The shop also has a Bike Patrol Unit, Operation Family ID and offers bicycle registrations. He said the Spokane Police Department sells too many unclaimed

bicycles in Post Falls. The shops also hand out free bicycle helmets and give ice cream coupons to bicyclists wearing helmets. Patrick said the shops work alongside Code Enforcement. He said the shops have helped solve nuisance property complaints by working with up to ten residents and taking the complaint to small claim courts. He explained a broken window effect by saying pride of ownership makes a neighborhood safer and graffiti and broken-down cars are a magnet for crime. Patrick said there is a two-day crime-free rental property class on April 21 & April 28. His time ran out and he said to check the website for more information on their great programs: <https://www.spokanecops.org/>

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm

Next Meeting 3/15/22 at 6-7:30 on Zoom

Email Updates

Our next traffic calming meeting is 2/16/22 at 6 pm on Zoom. We will have an update on the 2021 Mobile Speed Sign program and City Council President Breean Beggs will join us. The City's neighborhood traffic calming program has been revised and will include issue-identification workshops. This meeting will help us prepare for the workshops. We will send you an email reminder and Zoom invite.

Dennis Anderson gave us an update on the Thornton Murphy Community Garden at our meeting last month. Here is the information on the Nosh and Learn Vegetable Gardening and Canning Basics luncheon at Southside Community Center on 3/24/2022 at 10:30-2:30 pm. \$20 for Southside Center members and \$25 for non-members includes lunch and two in-depth gardening seminars by local experts Jan Baker, master gardener and Anna Kestell, master preserver. Masks required. All proceeds benefit Thornton Murphy Community Garden and Southside Community Center.

The community garden at Grant Park has some boxes available. If you are interested send an email to gpcg.spokane@gmail.com

A public hearing has not been scheduled yet on the City's seven code amendment changes. Here is a link to the Shaping Spokane Housing webpage to learn more about upcoming opportunities to make a written comment. <http://shapingspokanehousing.com/>

Annica Eagle, our Office of Neighborhood Support liaison who helps our council and attends our meetings, has a new District 2 video update. Here is a link to the video. <https://vimeo.com/671331837>

