

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council Meeting
March 15, 2022
6-7:30 pm
Zoom

Welcome

We are recording the meeting. Keep microphones mute unless speaking.

Virtual Sign-In

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

[Guests] Lance Dahl, Ofc Jake Willard, Lori Kinnear, Morgan Rockey

[Neighbors] Annika Tohlen, Marilyn & Hank Reimann, Jim VanderMeer, Ruth Mincks, Diane Birginal, Colin Martin

Approve Minutes

Need to approve January and February meeting minutes.

Carol moved to accept.

Makaya seconded the movement.

Minutes were approved.

Neighborhood

Updates

Councilmember Lori Kinnear

She talked about the troubling driving situation around town. There is a lot of dangerous driving. Council and SPD are working on adding some new traffic officers. We will have more traffic cameras, but the State will take a portion of the revenue. Crime is up throughout the country, not just in Spokane. Council met in person and went well. There is a lot of repair act money that will be going out to the community. She also mentioned that the EMS levy is coming up and is a renewal of a tax we already have (not a new tax) and is crucial for our community to have EMS services. Carol asked about water conservation and Lori reminded us how important water conservation is right now. Sally asked about where we stand with electric vehicles for the police department. Lori explained that the State is requiring that new vehicles are energy efficient for police. The options are not currently working. They are exploring options to figure out what is going to work logistically in practice.

Officer Jake Willard

Our map shows 31st/Regal is where the criminal activity is mostly centered in our neighborhood.

Suspicious activity, vehicle prowling, and vehicle burglary are the main issues with crime in our neighborhood. We have the traffic unit staffed again so you can now call the traffic hotline. Makaya asked about the large homeless encampment off Sprague by Freya. Ofc Willard said that it is DOT property so that is still where we should send our complaints still.

Fire Marshal Lance Dahl – EMS Levy

He showed us a film highlighting how important EMS services are. Over 80 percent of calls to the fire department are for EMS services. April 26th, we will vote on a renewal levy to continue our current tax which funds these services. This levy has been in place for decades and we always have to vote to renew it each six years.

Standing Updates

Sally Phillips – Clean-up Program

Sally shared information about the dump pass program. Dump passes are now available year-round and need to be requested through the City. More information can be found in the email updates below.

Marilyn Lloyd – Engagement Grant

Marilyn talked about our Neighbors in the park event. COPS will no longer cover insurance, so that is something still being worked on. LHNC is excited to put on this event again this year. It will be in Thornton Murphy Park again. Marilyn R. suggested that we use banners at high traffic areas to get attendance at the event! Annika suggested perhaps hand-delivering some leaflets to neighbors. She offered to donate time to this, and Jim is willing to help with this as well. Annika suggested networking with the PTA's in the area to get more involvement.

Carol Tomsic – Elections

We have to re-elect our board. Many of our officers are still willing to serve. To run, you must be an eligible voter. We have elections in May.

Open Officer positions;

Community Assembly Alternate

Vice Chair (if Marilyn transitions to Community Assembly Alternate)

Secretary

Carol Tomsic – Mobile Speed Sign Program

We get two speed sign requests, and the nominations so far are 2001 E. 17th (a dog was hit and there

are a lot of speeders) and along the Altamont Loop. The sign must have adequate sunlight since it uses solar and it can only face one direction. Other site requests may be emailed to Carol.

Carol also updated us that as part of the Thor/Freya reconstruction Thor will be closed beginning on March 28th. Traffic will be re-routed on Freya. It will go up as far as Hartson.

Email Updates

A marked crosswalk on SE Blvd at Lincoln Park driveway will be constructed this summer. The marked crosswalk was a funded Cycle 9 (2019 Traffic Calming Program) project. Cycle 10 (2020 Traffic Calming Program) projects are still awaiting a final decision from the City Council Traffic Calming subcommittee. We should know more by the end of the month.

Disposal passes (formally dump passes) are available year-round now. Residents with access to a smartphone or computer can request a digital pass. Residents with no access to a smartphone or computer can pick up a paper pass at C.O.P.S locations on a first-come basis as the paper passes are limited. Our neighborhood C.O.P.S location is in the Lincoln Heights Shopping Center. Here is a link with more information. <https://my.spokanecity.org/neighborhoods/programs/clean-up/#:~:text=Program%20Information&text=The%20Neighborhood%20Clean%20Dup%20Program%20supports%20the%20broader%20City%20of,Spokane%2C%20and%20promote%20community%20resiliency.>

Dennis Anderson gave us an update on the Thornton Murphy Community Garden at our January meeting. 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 City Council docketing committee has recommended both of the zoning changes amendments in our neighborhood with additional property inclusions. Next, the City Council will vote to accept the docketing committee's recommendations and this is a step that allows public comment. In addition, Fiske St from 27th Ave to 35th Ave, from a Bike Friendly Route to a proposed Neighborhood Greenway, is included as a amendment to the Bicycle Master Plan Map. Our council will keep you updated on the process. Here is a link to the City's Comprehensive Plan Amendments.

<https://my.spokanecity.org/projects/2021-2022-proposed-comprehensive-plan-amendments/>

Our council wants to keep our residents active and informed on proposed changes to the City's land use policies since we have many single-family homes in our neighborhood. We also want to keep our center-core thriving with affordable housing. City planners, Nathan Gwinn and Amanda Beck, gave an update on the City's proposed code amendments at our January meeting. Here is a link to proposed changes.

<https://my.spokanecity.org/projects/shaping-spokane-housing/> And, City Council is considering ways to increase the residential densities, housing supply and affordability in single-family zoning. There is a review of the City's Comprehensive Plan Land Use Policy in the 2021-2022 Comprehensive Plan Amendments. City Council is considering changing the proposed year-long land use policy review to an emergency amendment instead. Our council will keep you updated.

Also, a reminder. Bloomsday will be in-person and virtual this year. We have four neighborhood routes that will cover the Bloomsday route requirements on our website. Here is a link:

<https://lincolnheights.spokaneneighborhoods.org/bloomsday-alternative-routes-in-lincoln-heights>

The Neighbors Drive 25 yard signs are available at City Hall and C.O.P.S locations on a first-come, first-serve basis. Our C.O.P.S location in the Lincoln Heights Shopping Center is not open all the time, so call first 509-625-3326. There will also be a yard sign launch and pick-up event on March 24, at 9:30 am at the Neva-Wood C.O.P.S location at 4705 N Addison St.