

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council Extra Meeting – Draft Minutes

April 19, 2022

6-7:30 pm

Zoom

Welcome

Chair, Carol Tomsic, welcomed everyone to the meeting

Virtual Sign-in

Officers -Sally Phillips, Marilyn Lloyd, Carol Tomsic

Guests - Kevin Freibott, Kyle Merritt, Giacobbe Byrd

Neighbors - Ginnie Henry, Joan Zimmer, Marilyn Reimann, Henry Reimann. Jerry King, Diane Birginal, Jim Vandermeer, William Bidowski, Theresa Bidowski, Cara

Kevin Freibott, City Planner – Comprehensive Plan Amendment

Kevin said the Growth Management Plan mandates comprehensive planning. Spokane County was required to plan. Kevin described the City's Comprehensive Plan as the "great big plan of everything". It is a long-range plan, 20 years. It covers natural resources and is an over all vision for the city. It can be for 20 years or more. The plan has various chapters or elements. Our city added urban design, economic development, and neighborhoods. Kevin recommended reading the Land Use Chapter 3 and Transportation Chapter 4 for everyday concerns. He said there are visions, goals, and policies in each chapter. The visions are a general description. The goals are the detail to the visions. The policies are how we get there and focus on growth, centers, or corridors. Kevin suggested we read the italics and text. He said there were close to 100 maps in the plan. The maps and chapters work together to achieve the vision. The Comprehensive Plan leads to development regulations and service plans (Municipal Codes) and building permits. There are two processes to update the Comprehensive Plan. A Comprehensive Plan update which looks at the entire plan every eight years (due in 2026 and last updated 2017) and a Comprehensive Plan Amendment which happens once a year. Applications for amendment changes are accepted in September/October. Amendments are small changes and must be consistent with the plan. Anyone can pay (\$500) and request an amendment. The city can request amendments at no charge and a comprehensive amendment update is free to a neighborhood. The first step is the 'docketing committee'. The committee checks to make sure the amendment request is consistent with the current plan, not the same as last year's amendments, appropriate, not the same as a working plan, and there are enough staff/money to work on the amendment. Once the amendment is added to the docket there is a \$4500 fee. A land Use/Zoning amendment changes the land use planning map and the zoning map. If the proposal is significant a traffic study may be necessary. Comprehensive Planning is a legislative action. Changes to policy can have effects city-wide. Changes to maps are typically in certain locations. The process is: staff analyzes, plan commission recommends, and city council decides. We can get involved in the process. There are public comment periods, the plan

commission has workshops with public comments. It is very important to read the 'staff report'. The city council has the final decision and accepts public comments. After the city council vote, the mayor has a procedural step and can veto. All comments stay with the file throughout the process. Kevin answered questions. He said to go to the project page for information and contact staff with any questions. He said verbal comments to staff are not recorded so comments should be written. He said lean on facts and not opinions and gave examples of good comments and bad comments. He said effective comments cite facts. We have many opportunities to engage during the process.

Giacobbe Byrd, Legislative Assistant to Lori Kinnear – Proposed Drought Response Measures

Giacobbe explained the aquifer water cycle and how the city's consumption of water affects the levels of the aquifer, especially during high water uses in the summer. Giacobbe said water is a precious resource. He said we need to build a system for the peak summer months, so we don't have to invest in more water towers. Our city has a high per capita water use. It is common to use 70 gal/per person/per day. Our city uses 202 gal/per person/per day. Spokane county uses 235 gal/per person/per day. He said it is because of a perception of an abundance of water but it's not economical or sustainable. A shift in policy is needed from what we use, to what we need to limit waste. The current city council proposed drought response recommendations: Every summer, June 1 to October 1 as follows – Mandatory daytime water restrictions 9 am – 6 pm, every other day watering. Suggested – 15 minutes per zone, 2-hour outdoor watering. No hardscape washing – sidewalks, driveways, decks, patios, ect. River drought below 1,000 cps June 1st to October 1 – Mandatory daytime water restrictions 9 am – 6 pm, 2 days per week watering limit, 15 minutes per zone, 2- hour total outdoor watering, no hardscape washing – sidewalks, driveways, decks, patios, ect. Giacobbe answered questions. He said he would do presentations, videos, and as suggested, public service announcements, to help get residents to do the recommendations voluntarily. He said to send suggestions and comments to him and/or Council Member Lori Kinnear.

Kyle Merritt, Water Efficiency Specialist– SpokaneScape

Kyle shared beautiful photos of yards transformed by the SpokaneScape program. He said a traditionally large South Hill lawn uses an average of 104,000 gallons of water a month in August. He compared that usage to 52 trucks emptying 2000 gallons of water on a lawn. In a chart he showed residential yards used 10.3 billion gallons of water/53 percent. In comparison Parks used 700 million gallons of water. He said using native vegetation is normal for summer because the plants go dormant and brown. A green lawn is unnatural. He said a SpokaneScape yard has curb appeal, lower maintenance and is water efficient. He said the city is offering up to a \$500 credit on the water bill. A backyard qualifies under the program now. Kyle said the first-year sleeps, the second-year creeps and the third-year leaps. He encourages residents to keep existing trees and encourages residents to install raised garden beds. He said the city allows two years for residents to install the garden after the application process because life happens and finances. He also said there are design templates and a guidebook on their website. Kyle says he can come to resident's homes for pre-inspections and offer tricks to save money. Kyle answered questions. He said residents can mulch grass and make mounds when asked what to do with existing turf. He said there is a list of contractors on their website. He also teaches a

library course on drip irrigation. He said SpokaneScape templates are designed for front lawns, shade, and deer resistant. He said a summer water bill goal would be 13-unit water usage. He advised on how to rake pine needles and said there is a rebate for replacing toilets.

Meeting adjourned

Email Updates

The revised neighborhood traffic calming workshop for our district is expected to be held in early/mid-August. We will learn more about the program in May. Our council will keep you updated. Let us know your traffic problems and concerns!

A marked crosswalk will be installed on Southeast Blvd at Lincoln Park driveway. The projects was funded in the 2019 (Cycle 9) traffic calming program. Construction is expected to start in the summer. Our council is excited to see the crosswalk installed.

Two of the projects in our 2020 Traffic Calming Program application were selected to be funded: A RRFB (Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon, similar to the light on 18th/Grand) at the Rosauers/29th crosswalk with luminaries and tree trimming and funds set aside in the revised traffic calming program for a study of the Altamont Loop. Our council is so appreciative of the Gonzaga Design students under the guidance of Miles and Associates Consulting and our engaged residents during our 2020 traffic calming application process. We didn't get everything in our application, but it is a good start. The projects will go out to bid in 2023.

The executive board voted to submit a letter of support for the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) 2022 Raise Grant application for Reconnecting i-90 Communities. We supported a land bridge over I-90. It would reconnect two pieces of Liberty Park bisected by the freeway and reconnect the East Central neighborhood. The deadline for the letter was before our next regularly scheduled meeting so per our bylaws the executive board voted to support the grant application. Our neighborhood will benefit from an attractive, low-stress, route to and through the East Central neighborhood. The letter is attached.

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/>

Here is a link to the City's Comprehensive Plan Amendments. <https://my.spokanecity.org/projects/2021-2022-proposed-comprehensive-plan-amendments/> Fiske St from 27th Ave to 35th Ave, from a Bike Friendly Route to a proposed Neighborhood Greenway, is included as an amendment to the Bicycle Master Plan Map

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.>

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>