

## Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council Meeting – Draft Minutes

May 17, 2022

6-7:30 pm

Southside Community Center

### **Welcome**

Chair, Carol Tomsic welcomed everyone to our first in-person council meeting in two years and two months at the Southside Community Center. She reminded everyone to sign-in.

### **Attendance**

Officers – Carol Tomsic, Marilyn Lloyd

Guests – Shauna Harshman, Annie Deasy, Thomas Herrlinger

Neighbors – Jacob Cain, Richard Sola, Joan Zimmer, Hadley Morrow, Nathan, Charles Milani, Marcia Milani, Bonnie Morrow, Jim Plourde, Nancy Plourde.

### **Approve Minutes**

March and April minutes were approved. Carol motioned. Richard seconded. There were five voting members present, enough for a quorum. The motioned passed.

### **Council member Lori Kinnear, City Council Update**

Lori was unable to attend. Carol read an email update:

*Council passed a resolution supporting the Spokane Regional Food Action Plan. The Plan will create a framework for regional food system stakeholders and partners to build a more resilient food system in the Spokane area. About 350 producers, processors, distributors, consumers and waste managers participated. The plan identifies needed strategic investments to preserve farmland, increase local food processing, provide healthy food for all and reduce food waste.*

*Council also passed an interim zoning ordinance concerning the siting of shelters for vulnerable and homeless individuals and families. This allows for an emergency shelter to be located in a heavy industrial zone. The Mayor is still negotiating a lease agreement for a potential shelter site. To date neither the cost nor the provider have been identified.*

*On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Council will consider simple drought response measures that will ask residents to limit their outdoor waters during the hottest parts of the day and watering every other day during the summer months. Overall Spokane residents use more water per person/per day than 97% of the country. Our water use drastically increases (4-5 times) during the summer months – building our infrastructure (water towers, pipes, pump stations etc) to meet the capacity requirements of these summer months is not fiscally responsible or sustainable. The education piece will take place over the next two years. No fines will take place until proper education and outreach has been done ( the prior year has been spent doing outreach and that will continue). The reports on TV news have not been accurate so please email if you have questions on this.*

### **Shauna Harshman, Manager of Neighborhood Connectivity Initiatives – Traffic Calming Program Update**

Shauna introduced herself. She manages the Traffic Calming Program, Transportation Benefit District (TBD), and the Citizen's Transportation Advisory Board (CTAB). She reports to the City Council on land use and transportation issues. Shauna said the Traffic Calming Program started in 2010. Every year neighborhood councils submitted an application; but not all were successful due to mismatches and perceptions. An example was speeding where data such as tube counters did not show a problem. She said the neighborhoods want to improve safety and connectivity, such as bike trails, and are best at knowing their neighborhood's traffic problems. The next step is to design a project to address concerns. She said infrastructure doesn't move fast. The bid for our 2019 traffic calming funded projects just came in. She said it is complicated to design and bid projects and the timeline caused unnecessary conflict with the citizens. In 2021 a new process was started. It was to be a community driven process. Shauna said the new process would solve an engineering bottleneck of small traffic calming projects due to a limited staffing capacity. The city would hire consultants to work with neighborhoods in a year and half timeline. There will be a district traffic calming kick-off. Neighborhoods will go through presentations in district workshops and do group work. The group will look at the big picture and dig in. There will be large maps. See problems as not just concerns, but opportunities. Shauna said Annie did historical research on all the neighborhood council traffic calming projects. Annie stated there was no record of the applications not approved. The first half of the workshop meetings will be neighborhoods finding areas of opportunities. The second will be prioritization exercises to pick their top five priorities for the 4-year project cycle. Shauna said the magic of the new process is neighborhoods can address problems and there will be engineers in the room, sitting in the back, taking notes. The engineers can hear traffic concerns and draft solutions. In the second round, neighborhoods can comment on whether the engineers addressed their concerns and give their opinions. Shauna said neighborhoods can think visionary and imaginative, such as murals and planters. Next round, neighborhoods can comment on the refinements. Next round, city council will approve the 4-year project cycle. The traffic calming program has been used mostly for construction, but Shauna said we can think more broadly, such as enforce the rules of the road or educate people. An example was the 'neighbors drive 25' yard signs. The city is also looking ways to stop drag racing, especially on Division. Shauna stated not to use the 'neighbors drive

25' yard signs on arterials. She mentioned the speed radar is a behavior modification tool. She said a street mural program, administered by Spokane Arts, will let neighborhood councils install two street murals in uncontrolled, neighborhood intersections and mid-block. The program was funded by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and traffic calming money. She said artistically designed crosswalks will soon be allowed and two of the crosswalks will be installed in each council district. Shauna said the more voices the better. She wants 'community champions' to reach out to their social contacts and help get voices to the table. Shauna said in the last six years our council has had traffic calming projects funded in all but cycle 8 (2018). She said some neighborhoods don't get applications in or have projects funded. She said our neighborhood is engaged and passionate. She wants the program to help everyone. Shauna answered questions. We don't have to think in terms of the 'tool box' with our traffic issues. There is an opportunity every year to change the four-year project plan because situations change. Short-term solutions and long-term solutions can be built into the program. An example, instead of a bump-out, a quicker, lower-cost solution such as paint can be used instead. The schools are not separated in the new program. Schools will now work with neighborhoods. The program is 'economy of scale' and no dollar amount, but it does have limited funds. Annie said the old traffic calming 'cycles' are gone. We need to wait for a traffic study to know what we can and can't do. There are no records of reasons traffic calming projects were denied, mostly due to staff-turnovers in the program. As we move forward in requests, the city will let us know why traffic projects were not approved. Shauna said we are getting three new speed radar lights in our district. The state legislature passed two bills to allow speed radar lights near hospitals and parks. Annie said there is space at the workshops for 30 people. Everyone is welcome at the workshops/meetings and does not have to be a member of a neighborhood council to participate.

### **Thomas Herrlinger, Customer Experience Manager – Library Update**

Thomas said he manages the Liberty Park library branch. He said there will be a South Hill library representative at our meetings when the vacancy is filled. He said there has been serious issues related to supply and shipping with the renovations of the libraries, so the opening date of the South Hill library is subject to change. But lately shipping has been on time so the opening of the South Hill library should be in late December or early January. The exterior book drop-off has been an issue. He said the library is working with the city on a permit. He said the present location of the book drop has a dangerous blind spot. Thomas answered questions. He said a second driveway on 34<sup>th</sup> would cause side-street congestion when asked about parking. He said a certificate of occupancy was issued for the downtown library, but they wanted to wait to open it until it had all the furniture. He said noise abatement has been discussed due to concerns with the library kid areas and energetic children. Thomas said the Liberty Park library is fortunate to have a playground. He said there are quiet sitting rooms and multiple meeting spaces in the libraries. A large room can seat 100 people and a small room can seat 7-30 people.

### **Carol Tomsic, Chair - Board Elections update**

Carol said there were no nominations of eligible voting candidates at our March meeting so there were no nominees to present or vote during our regular May meeting. Carol said she was happy to continue as the chair and Community Assembly representative. Sally will continue as clean-up coordinator. Marilyn will continue as vice-chair. The terms are for two years. Carol said Makaya is hoping there is someone willing to take over as secretary. Anyone interested must be a voting member; having attended two meetings out of the previous six regular meetings. There were no volunteers at the meeting. It was also mentioned a treasurer and Community Assembly alternate position was vacant. It was also mentioned our council has just a sock-full of money in a drawer due to bank fees, so a treasurer did not have much to do. It was said anyone interested in the vacant positions or the secretary position was to let us know.

### **Marilyn Lloyd, Vice-Chair – Community Engagement Grant Vote**

Marilyn presented on items our council wants to fund with our \$850 Community Engagement Grant. We want to fund our Zoom account, pole banners, a booth at the South Perry Street Fair, and a newsletter. The pole banners would advertise our annual event in the park. The Zoom account keeps our council viable. The newsletter would include news on our council and be distributed in the neighborhood. Marilyn said the prices were estimates. Annie suggested we not list prices but instead say 'not to exceed \$850 dollars.' There was discussion on the grant and no disagreement. Marilyn motioned. Carol seconded. There were five voting-members present, enough for a quorum. The motion passed.

Carol said event insurance is not covered by C.O.P.S this year. It is also not an eligible expense under the Community Engagement Grant. It is not a requirement but we are most likely going to purchase the insurance so we can stay protected, just in case.

Annie also said we can rent a table and tent from the Northeast Community Center for the South Perry Street.

### **Annie Deasy, Office of Neighborhood Support (ONS)– ONS Update**

Annie said our Community Engagement Grant application is due 6/17/22. The traffic calming kick-off is May 26. The speed radar mobile trailers are part of the traffic calming program. The data we get is not used as traffic purposes through the street department because they are not 100 percent accurate. Not all cars are counted accurately, such as car one and car five are counted but not all the ones in the second lane. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile is being rewritten and reformatted so it can be user friendly. The Don Kardong Pedestrian Bridge is under construction and will be closed for one year. There are openings on boards and commissions. You can report potholes to the City's pothole hotline at 311. If you have a concern about motorist speeding in our neighborhood, you can call the traffic hotline at 509-625-4150. You can call any time of day. They will send out

reinforcement. A police presence helps. You can find street construction on the City's Street Construction and Maintenance website. There is compost giveaway through June 30 for current and new "Clean Green" yard and food waste collection program customers. You can receive a free half-yard of finished compost from participating vendors as an incentive to divert more organics from the waste stream by using the green cart. Annie answered questions. Residents can get one free disposal, formerly dump passes, a month from the city. Residents can send in District Video suggestions. Carol said we post the videos on our council's Facebook page. Annie also said our Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) liaison position should be filled by September. Our last ONS liaison, Annica Eagle, left the city.

### **Carol Tomsic, Chair – Meet Your Neighbors in the Park Update**

Carol gave an update on our second annual Meet Your Neighbors in the Park. She told Thomas our council would really appreciate the library in attendance. She said we have confirmed two police mounted horses. We have confirmed a photo booth. We are waiting to hear back from Wheel Sport. We will have C.O.P.S programs and want to advertise the bicycle registration and free helmets. Carol presented a book, Exploring Spokane, Turning Waste to Energy, and said waste to energy will be at the event. Our neighborhood wants to keep working on clean-up and water issues. Carol also said our council is looking for volunteers.

Carol also apologized for skipping over introductions and thanked everyone for attending.

### **Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.**

Next meeting is 6/21/22 on Zoom.

### **Neighborhood News (in meeting notification email)**

The revised Traffic Calming Kick-Off is 5/26/22 from 5:30 to 7 pm at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Outreach Center at East Central Community Center, 500 S Stone St. Come learn about the new Traffic Calming program and share your ideas on how our neighborhood can be safer, better connected and more livable for everyone. Our Workshop is 8/3/22 at the Hive, 2904 E Sprague Ave, Rooms A, B, and C

Here is an update on the Garden District: "We are starting from the south and moving north. Homes on 33rd are already under construction. The connection to SE Blvd will be completed by early summer. The first phase of 2-Story multi-family will start this summer."

The Plan Commission is recommending approval to the City Council of three of the proposed revisions to the City's residential codes. The three topics are accessory dwelling units, lots size transition and short plat notifications. There is still time to comment. Here is a link to the

proposed changes on the Shaping Spokane website. <https://my.spokanecity.org/projects/shaping-spokane-housing/>

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.

Digital disposal passes are available to request year-round or until funds are gone. Residents 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/>

Here is a Thor/Freya Reconstruction Update: Thor/Freya eastbound I-90 exit ramp is closed for the project. Eastbound I-90 entrance ramp at Thor/Freya will be open. Construction is expected to conclude by late-September. Please follow detours. Changes are made daily to adjust to a smooth flow. Here is a link for more information: <https://my.spokanecity.org/projects/thor-freya-reconstruction-hartson-to-sprague/>

If you have a concern about motorists speeding in your neighborhood, please report it to the Traffic Hotline at 509-625-4140. If it is an emergency or in-progress, please call 911.

We will have three mobile speed feedback signs in our neighborhood. June 13 to 24 eastbound at 17th/Napa. July 11-22 westbound at 28th/Myrtle. September 19-30 southbound at Altamont near 9th. C.O.P.S shop volunteers will be setting up the mobile trailers.

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.