

## Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council Extra Meeting \*draft minutes\*

June 21, 2023

6-7:30 pm on Zoom

### **Welcome**

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

We usually have three speakers present on issues that affect our neighborhood.

### **Virtual Sign-In**

Guests – Kris Major, Kara Oldegard, Trenton Miller, Liam Taylor

Officers – Carol Tomsic, Marilyn Lloyd, Sally Phillips

Attendees – Levi Deters, Marilyn Reimann, Hank Reimann, Kevin Edwards, William Bidowski, Theresa Bidowski, Ron Sauer, Nita Sauer, James Plourde, Duane Swinten, Richard Sola, Penny Hencz, Ruth Mincks, Matilda Sampson

### **Kris Major, Solid Waste Education Coordinator – Recycling and Composting**

Kris presented on ‘trash-we all make it.’ She said residents throw away 5-8 pounds of trash per person daily. Restaurants, hospitals, and construction demolitions also contribute to waste. We are directing half our waste into recycling and composting. We should care because of dwindling resources, social justice issues/low income, and environmental concerns, such as, we live on top of an aquifer. We had five landfills prior to 1990 when the waste to energy plant was approved. The waste to energy plant was very controversial but it let us manage waste locally. Programs were also started that benefit us today: curbside recycling (at beginning drivers sorted and didn’t take away wrong items), clean-green (subscription-based), and waste station drop-off for items such as herbicide and pesticides. 800-1300 tons of waste are handled every single day, including self-hauled trash. The waste is reduced ninety percent to ash. Kris said the ash is treated and sent to the Roosevelt land fill. Ferrous metal is reclaimed (25-30 tons). Energy is produced by heat and moved steam. It is used to run the plant and the remainder is sold to Avista. Kris said the stack emissions are highly regulated and well below permit level. White vapor comes out of the stacks, not smoke. A decrease of wet food waste will reduce nitrogen oxide. Reductions and re-use come before recycling in the waste management hierarchy. Kris said we need to be mindful to put only clean recycles in the recycling bin. Glass jars are ok to put in recycling bin. Glass put in the brown trash bin is abrasive to the system. Glass is not recycled but rather disposed of in the Graham land fill until it is cost-effective for recycling. There is a smart center where recyclables are sorted. The center is a private company, and it looks for domestic markets. Kris

said food scraps were added to the green cart curbside collection. Barr-Tech manages and recycles the compost. She said one third of the waste stream can be composted. Kris said the city offers classes to learn how to compost. Kris answered questions. She said the city's recycling program is voluntary. She said you can go to [talktrashspokane.com](http://talktrashspokane.com) to find more information. She said China stopped recycling so there was no longer a good market values for recyclables, so the bin pick up was changed to every other week rather than increasing the cost. She said plastic recycling is on shape (bottles, jugs, and tubs) rather than recycling numbers. She said Styrofoam does not go into the bin even if it has a number on it.

### **Kara Odegard, City Council Manager of Sustainability Initiatives – Sustainable Spokane**

Kara presented with Trenton Miller. The Sustainable Spokane Challenge provides actions you can take to lower your impact on the environment and climate change. Kara showed how to log into the site at [sustainablespokane.org](http://sustainablespokane.org). She said individual households can create a profile, take sustainable actions, and work together with their neighborhood or other community groups. She said you can make improvements over time and learn how to take actions. She said the site will ask for information to create a baseline, such as energy, water, and waste. Kara said renters can create a profile too. You can sort based on types of actions, including renter-friendly actions. Kara mentioned the water conservation ordinance and stated the fact that we use 98 percent more water than the rest of the country. She said the tasks on the website are generalized with cost and time commitments. She said the site would show rebates such as a spray to drip conversions and turf replacement. Trenton gave a virtual tour of the website and provided details on challenges. He said the council could create a challenge on the site. He said the website was a combination of education and competition. Kara and Trenton answered questions. Residential solar rebates are available but out of money. Trenton posted a website for the solar rebates. Kara said a rebate for Flume, a smart water monitor, is on the water wise website. The Flume gives real time water usage and can alert to a possible irrigation leak. Kara said the average water use is 79 gallons per person. Spokane is 202 gallons per person. Kara said 1 unit on the utility bill equals 748 gallons of water. The baseline for water usage is the December/Jan water bill. The average water use is 1 and 1/2 units to 4 units. Bigger families use more. We use 10x more water in summer. Kara said we need to be mindful of water use.

### **Liam Taylor, Planner at Storhaug Civil Engineering – Comp Plan Amendments**

Liam presented on two proposed zoning changes on two parcels in our neighborhood: 2402 E 31<sup>st</sup> Ave and 2621/2623 E 27<sup>th</sup>. He mentioned it was his second time presenting on the zoning changes. He said the proposed zoning changes are part of the Comprehensive Plan Amendment update. It is an umbrella document updated every year. He said the city added properties to the west of the parcels on 27<sup>th</sup>. He said the proposed land change on the parcel from residential 10-20 to residential 15-30 would increase the units from 2 to 4. Liam said the land use change on 3.81 acres on the 31<sup>st</sup> parcel, from residential 4-10 to residential 15-30, would allow 57 to 114 units. He cited the City's Comprehensive Plan chapter LU 1.4 as a supporting document for the

increased land use density on the parcel. He said the parcel is directly adjacent to the Lincoln Heights District Center, existing multifamily zoning and is legislatively sound for a rezone. He said the area has lots of single-family zoning, apartments, and commercial uses. Liam said his goal was not to build a skyscraper but to meet the city's District Plan Goals: respect the existing character of the neighborhood, introduce new residential development in the vicinity of a district center, multifaceted housing in urban places, diversity of usages related to the character of the neighborhood, and interaction with the heart of the district center. He cited a housing crisis and the necessity to alleviate the cost of living. Liam answered questions. The unused land and bus stop were discussed. A lighted crosswalk between the parcel and the STA parcel was discussed. A buffer to protect the character of the existing single-family Quail Run Association on the west side of the parcel was requested. It was stated a covenant with the Quail Run Association had been broken prior to the Garden District PUD. Liam stated a transitional development criterion for a landscaping buffer and height limits existed and would be followed. It was requested that the true impact of the Garden District PUD be seen before any development on the parcel. Liam said the timeframe for development on the parcel could be next Spring. He said public comment can be made at a pre-development meeting and there will be traffic impact analysis on more than just the closest intersections. It was stated that public comments on the two proposed zoning and land use changes can be emailed prior to a Plan Commission workshop on 6/22/22. It was stated public comments on the two proposed amendments can be made throughout the Comprehensive Plan Amendment process. A petition to prevent the development and the interruption of arterial traffic on SE Blvd was mentioned and discussed. Liam said he totally gets it. He understood the necessity of parking standards, neighborhood character and resident concerns.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting 7/19/22 at 6 pm, in-person.