

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council Meeting -draft minutes

July 19, 2022

6-7:30 pm

Southside Community Center

Welcome

Chair, Carol Tomsic, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Attendees introduced themselves.

Attendance

Guests – Betsy Wilkerson, Sgt Teresa Fuller, Jake Willard, Erik Nelson

Officers – Marilyn Lloyd, Sally Phillips, Carol Tomsic

Attendees – LaDonna Schuster, Chuck Milani, Marcia Milani, Joan Zimmer, Vanita Davis, Glen Davis, Ginifer Wallace, Jim Slavin, Theresa Bidowski, Marilyn Reimann, Henry Reimann,

Approved Minutes

May and June minutes were approved.

Motioned by Charles Milani. Seconded by Sally Phillips. All in favor.

Jake Willard- Neighborhood Resource Officer Update

Jake gave an update on our neighborhood crime stats. He said 29th/Regal was top area. Jake said top complaints were suspicious activity, assaults, and burglary. Jake has been working on houses with problems; nuisance houses. He said he will get back to anyone that has questions but not to hold it against him if it takes a while. He answered questions. He will get back to us on gunshots heard at Lincoln Park. He will also get back to us on gunshots heard late in the evening at Grant Park. Street Racing was also discussed. CM Betsy Wilkerson said to call 911 if you see the street racing because it will be broadcasted to everyone.

Betsy Wilkerson – City Council Member Update

Betsy said it was her first meeting in-person with us. She said the city has installed new parking meters, but we can still use coins but be careful because there is one meter for 2 parking spaces.

She said there will be tags rather than bags used on meters that are not in service. Betsy also said our traffic calming workshop is 8/3 at the Hive from 5:30 to 8 pm. The traffic calming program is transitioning into a new program. Betsy said the council worked on a good neighbor agreement that will be used when a homeless shelter is built in a neighborhood. She said the interim zoning ordinance was passed and is good for 1 year. She said the program will be reviewed. She said Camp Hope has 601 people. She said the city is working on a long-term solution for permanent housing. Betsy answered questions. She said screening out homeless with felonies in the camp was complex and there was no simple response. She said the city wants to help those who want help. She said the rivers and viaducts are another challenge. She said a RV or Pallet Park could be solutions. She said John Hall was the new director of the city's Community Housing and Human Services (CHHS).

Sgt Teresa Fuller – Crosswalk Update

Sgt Fuller said that the gunshots heard in the parks could be a car set to rapid backfire. She said vehicles are required to stop for pedestrians at all crosswalks, marked or unmarked, unless there is a no pedestrian sign. She said the crosswalk is curb-to-curb. Pedestrians have the right of way. She said if a pedestrian crossed a street mid-block, the pedestrian must yield to the vehicles. She said the pedestrian must let the vehicle know their intent to cross for safety. Sgt Fuller answered questions. She said jay-walking tickets were given out. She said there were four motorcycle units and 2 big rigs. She said once a flashing light count down is on a signal, a pedestrian should not enter the intersection. She said if a vehicle has stopped a car should not pass without caution. She said if a car is going 40 mph there is a 99 percent change of killing a pedestrian. If there are two signals on a block a pedestrian should not cross mid-block. The intersection at 29th/Martin is an assumed crosswalk. She said the police are overtime tired. St Fuller said police moral was good. Stop and Catch a Wave, a program in Boston, was discussed. Education and Enforcement in the traffic calming program was discussed. Bicycle safety and lime scooters were discussed.

An answer to a question on how much revenue lime scooters generate for the city was answered by city planner Colin Quinn-Hurst 7/23/22 via a follow-up email by Betsy Wilkerson. Colin said, Thanks for the question. It ends up being approximately \$90k in a normal year of operation. This includes a \$17k up front fee to operate in Spokane, and about \$70k in per vehicle daily fees.

Erik Nelson – First ‘resident spotlight’. Inventor of TidyHut

Erik said the TidyHut came about after he went camping with his wife and daughter. Erik had promised his wife a flushable toilet but there wasn't one. He left as promised. He did six months of research. He said that most women stay at events with portable toilets until their bladder needs to be emptied. He thought outside the box. He wanted a portable toilet to be odorless, waterless, and clean. It was three and a half years of work, networking, and test. He worked on a prototype. He worked with the Kalispel Indian Tribe. His TidyHuts use biodegradable plastic, a crank, and a pad. Erik led the attendees to the parking lot for a show and tell. Erik answered questions. He said there were 500 uses of the TidyHut at the South Perry Street Fair. He transported the waste out of the vicinity of the fair on an e-bike. It was odorless and no one noticed. He said the cost of

the plastic is \$40/120 people. It has an aluminum frame so there are no sparks. He said it is easy to clean. The TidyHuts could be installed downtown by the city. He sells to individuals. He said people thought it was shed at Green Bluff, so he needed to fix that. It is not ADA yet. He said the TidyHut is being used by developing countries because it does not waste water.

Marilyn Lloyd Vice-Chair – Community Engagement Update

Marilyn went over the pole banner, park banner and newsletter. She said to get a hold of her with any ideas or suggestions.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting via Zoom 8/16/22

Lori Kinnear – Council Member Update via email

Washington State Department of Commerce Homelessness Funding

Over the last month, I've been engaged in the effort led by the Washington State Department of Commerce to fund real strategies to move residents in Camp Hope on to better, more stable housing.

Commerce is allocating \$24M to the City and County for this project. This funding is contingent on providing housing solutions that the residents of Camp Hope will actually utilize. These include offering safe RV parking, pallet shelter opportunities, and other tiered levels of low barrier transitional shelter space in areas outside the DT core and in many cases outside the City limits. Commerce wants to see their funding used for these kinds of innovative solutions because they work.

I've had the opportunity to meet some of the residents of Camp Hope. I was shocked by each of the stories I heard. People who were priced out of their apartment, lost their job during the pandemic, or found themselves experiencing some other life altering event not of their choosing.

This project is taking up the majority of my time recently as I engage with regional leaders – many of whom are resistant to providing Camp Hope residents safe RV parking, pallet shelter opportunities, or other tiered levels of low barrier transitional shelter space. I am advocating strongly for these solutions.

Surface Parking Lots

I continue to work on incentives that would encourage development of the many surface parking lots downtown. Around 1/3 of our downtown core is made up of surface parking lots – many of which are owned by Diamond Parking. This use is not the most beneficial to our community. Many of these lots are significantly under-utilized.

Encouraging their development would result in more housing, retail space, office space, or other better uses. Currently, parking lots are not utilizing water/sewer. If developed, the lots would also provide more tax revenue. I'm working on lowering the financial barriers to development from the City side – primarily lowering City permit fees and utility rates where appropriate.

Thomas Herrlinger – Library Update via email

You are welcome to share with the attendees of the meeting that the South Hill branch remodeling project is still on budget and on time. If all goes as planned, it will be reopening in early winter. The remodeled Central branch just reopened on July 11 after being closed for 2 years. The revamped flagship location houses many new amenities such as a professional video editing studio, a recording studio, a space for

the KPBX public radio station, a café, new computer and business labs, ample meeting and study rooms, a Friends of the Library bookstore, and a redesigned Children's area.

Email Updates

Join us at the South Perry Fair on 7/16/22 from 10-7 pm. Our council will have a booth in the Shop parking lot. We look forward to seeing you!

Our traffic calming workshop is 8/3/22 at the Hive, 2904 E Sprague Ave, Rooms A, B, & C at 5:30 pm. Please bring your list of traffic calming concerns and issues to the workshop. All are welcome to attend. The workshop is part of the revised traffic calming program.

Mark your calendar. Our council's Meet Your Neighbors in the park is 8/20/22 from 11-1 pm. We will have a C.O.P.S mounted police horse and bicycle registration, a photo booth, and other activities. The Thornton Murphy Community Garden will also be open.

The first public comment period for the two Comprehensive Plan Amendments in our neighborhood ends 7/25/22. An online Open House on the proposed amendments to the Bike Network and Arterial Street Network maps in the Comprehensive Plan is 7/20/22 at 5 pm. Here is a link to the meeting invite. <https://my.spokanecity.org/projects/2021-2022-proposed-comprehensive-plan-amendments/> Let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

The City Council will have a second reading at their 7/18/22 council meeting on a pilot project to encourage housing variety and options throughout our city, including duplexes in all residential zonings. If approved, the ordinance will go into effect 30 days from the Council meeting and will be in effect for a period of 365 days. Here is a presentation on the housing code changes. <https://youtu.be/atpfuqLAFJs> Let us know if you have any questions or concerns. Email comments to our City Council Members citycouncil2@spokanecity.org

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.

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.