

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council Extra Meeting - draft minutes

August 16, 2022

6-7:30 pm

Zoom

Welcome

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

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

Virtual Sign-In

Guests – Melissa Huggins, Greg Francis, Heather Beebe-Stevens

Officers – Carol Tomsic, Sally Phillips, Marilyn Lloyd

Attendees – Ruth Mincks, Richard Sola, James Plourde, Nancy Plourde, Theresa Bidowski, William Bidowski, Shawn Terjeson, Diane Birginal, Marcia Milani, Charles Milani, Marilyn Reimann.

Melissa Huggins – Executive Director Spokane Arts - Asphalt Art Pilot Program

Melissa presented on the Asphalt Art Pilot Program. She said Spokane Arts is partnering with the city on the program. She said Spokane Arts is a non-profit organization. Melisa said Spokane Arts curates the Chase Gallery at City Hall and manages the city's public art and poet laureate program. It has a grant program and funds initiatives, including wall murals. In 2016, a street mural was painted in Browne's Addition with resident participation. It was the beginning of an effort to create a street mural program. The Asphalt Art Pilot Program was funded by the traffic calming program. The street murals will create a sense of pride and can be installed faster than solutions that require physical infrastructure. Spokane Arts has done research. They spoke with Seattle traffic engineers who said accidents after street murals were installed dropped or stayed flat and there were no increases in pedestrian crash instances. Melissa said the pilot program will work via neighborhood councils. The councils will identify preferred locations that have a good fit for traffic calming. The city will evaluate the proposed sites with Spokane Arts. The sites will be evaluated by their difficulty to install and how long the street will have to be shut down to do the mural. The mural artists will have to register with Spokane Arts. There will be a roster of qualified artists and all artists are required to take safety training. Councils can pick artists that live in their neighborhoods. Spokane Arts will pay the mural artist a stipend to come up with ideas. The council will select the design. The Art Commission will review the art. Then, the mural will be scheduled. Two murals per neighborhood were funded by the traffic calming revenue: one intersection and one mid-block crossing. It is a three-year program. The paint will be chosen for safety and stability. Spokane Arts is still working with the city on the crosswalk program. Thermoplastic paint costs more but lasts longer. There will be a 'paint-by-number'

option for residents to participate. It was stated that our council would like to have resident participation. Not all neighborhood councils will have community engagement. Spokane Arts will develop metrics and track data during the three-year program. Melissa said they are still working with the street department. Melissa answered questions. She said the city is getting comfortable with the idea. Some paints last longer. She said councils should consider how much traffic is on the street and winter effects will be monitored. Cities with a similar climate using street murals as traffic calming will be contacted on the effects of climate on the street murals.

Melissa said Seattle used thermoplastic for crosswalks installed six years ago. The crosswalks were durable and didn't have to be maintained. She said there will be more information soon.

Greg Francis – Vice President Plan Commission – Plan Commission Informational

It was noted by the council chair prior to Greg's presentation that our neighborhood has two proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment updates scheduled for a hearing before the Plan Commission at their meeting September 14, 2022. It was also stated Greg cannot answer or comment on any of the proposed comprehensive plan amendments.

Greg presented on the Plan Commission. He said he started as the Community Assembly liaison to the Plan Commission in 2018. Greg said the Plan Commission had a fair amount of turnover. He said the city is required by code to have a Plan Commission citizen board to advise the city. He said the Plan Commission does not typically look at building permits or individual projects. It looks at updates to the Comprehensive Plan, land uses and reviews development proposals. The Plan Commission was created in 1910. Greg said the 1910 city charter included the wording of, 'elimination of slums and unhealthy housing.' There are 10 voting commissioners, and the board has a diverse membership. Board members have a four-year term limit and terms are limited to eight years. The Community Assembly liaison is Mary Winkes. The City Council liaison is Lori Kinnear. The secretary is Planning Director John Gardner. Greg said the Comprehensive Plan is a roadmap for how the city develops. He said it sets goals and policies, not code. It is required by the Growth Management Act. It is updated every eight years and is a 'living document.' Greg said smaller amendments can be made annually and most common are zoning changes. Greg said there are three times the Plan Commission participates in the comprehensive plan amendment process: the docketing committee, public comment (with the Plan Commission Workshop) and the Plan Commission Hearing. The docketing committee has three plan commission members and three city council members. He said the three plan commission members are picked by the plan commission. Greg was on the docketing committee. He said the docketing committee can expand the amendments. An example was the addition of the STA property. He said additions are just considerations usually to make the land use map consistent. Greg said city staff will give detailed presentations at the Plan Commission workshop and sometimes a complex amendment will go through several workshops. Greg said the Plan Commission gets all the public comments. He said it the responsibility of the Plan Commission to review public comments. Greg said the Planning Commission looks at the comprehensive plan land use change not the final use. He said the final use is not known. He said the Plan Commission hearing is at 4 pm on 9/14/22. He said staff reports, public comments and criteria for approval will be reviewed. The final vote on each comprehensive plan amendment is taken. The plan commission makes a recommendation to city council for approval or denial. A simple majority is required for approval. He said they do not have to listen to staff but what the staff says has a lot of value. Greg said the hearing is the first

time the public can verbally testify. Deliberations start after the close of public comment and sometimes deliberation can be deferred to the next meeting. The president can leave written comment open until the next meeting. The earlier in the process someone gets involved the greater the opportunity to make a substantial difference in the outcome. The city council can approve with a developer agreement. Greg answered questions. He said a center and corridor can not be created without a subarea amendment. He said meaningful input includes transportation impact, walkability of neighborhood, impact of services such as water and sewage. He cautioned on input on preservation of character, impact on schools and impact on wooded/forest space.

Heather Beebe-Stevens – Council District 2 Representative – Redistricting

Heather said she lived in the Rockwood neighborhood. She said there are three board members, one from each council district. The advisory members are Council President Breean Beggs and Council Member Zack Zappone. Staff members are Mike Piccolo and Hannahlee Allers. The plan must be adopted by City Council by 11/15/22. She said redistricting is a standard process. It is based on 2020 Census data. Headcount only. The board is tasked with adjusting the district boundaries to make them as even as possible. She said simple boundary adjustments to keep the districts at 1/3. Heather said they do not want to split up precincts. She said they can not favor one group. She said there can be no islands. Heather said they can observe natural communities such as neighborhood councils. The board is looking for feedback on defining communities. She said there are three neighborhoods separated by the boundaries – East Central, Downtown and North Hill. Heather said they must follow know boundaries. Can't make it complicated. She said there are no perfect scenarios. They use Dave's Redistricting Software. It shows the population in the districts are even. She asked attendees to participate in the thought exchange survey. She put the link in the chat. Heather said only one person showed at their first townhall meeting. The board will do more outreach. Only one board member can participate in a meeting because of the possibility of a quorum. The next Board Meeting is 8/24/22 at 5 pm in the City Council Briefing Center. The next Town Hall is 10/4/22 at 5 pm in the City Council Briefing Center. Heather answered questions. The census used is just population not demographics. Downtown separated into three districts was discussed. Neighborhood Councils getting the ear of six council members was a concern. A number being driven by qualitative not quantitative was discussed. Redistricting as a springboard for future community building was discussed.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:34 pm

Next meeting is 9/20/22

Email Updates

Join us at our annual Meet Your Neighbors in the Park event at Thornton Murphy Park is 8/20/22 from 11-1 pm. We will have a mounted patrol horse, a C.O.P.S booth (including free bike registration and Operation Family ID), a Hi-5 Orthodontics photo booth, Trader Joe's,

Waste to Energy, The Bike Hub, Southside Community Center, STA, and other neighborhood establishments at our event. The Thornton Murphy Community Garden will also be open to tour. There will be gardeners available to answer questions. Stop by and say hello!

Want to guide the City Parks on the locations of public off-leash dog parks, their size and feel, and what amenities they should include? Take the City of Spokane Dog Park Survey. The survey is open until 9/5/22. Here is the link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FQ3HDCCG>

Here is a link to the City's Redistricting Board Thought Survey: <https://my.thoughtexchange.com/scroll/591795358/welcome> The survey ends 8/19/22 at 12 pm.

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.

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.