

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council Meeting – draft minutes

October 18, 2022

6-7:30 pm

Zoom

## **Welcome**

Chair, Carol Tomsic, invited everyone to the extra Zoom meeting.

## **Virtual Sign-In**

Guests – Kevin Freibott, Nick Hamad, Greg Forsyth

Officers – Carol Tomsic, Marilyn Lloyd, Sally Phillips

Attendees – Greta Gilman, Debbie Walker, Greta Gilma, Loyd Phillips, Michael Nevins, Robin, Marylou Johnson, S. Al, Bettie Stiritz, Michelle Weaver, Teresa Bidowski, William Bidowski, Robin Gavelin, Tina Mn, Marcia Milani, Chuck Milani, Marilyn Reimann, Henry Reimann, Tina Mintyala, Chad Mitchell, Samuel Groeken, Joe Christenson, Lisa, William, JT Ashasky, Hazel, Chad, Steph Wagg, Marsha, Linda V, Samuel, Joan Zimmer, Jessica Atkins, Him Vandermeer, Mary O’Byrne, Drew Swayne, James Plourde, Don, Ryan Kelly, Don Schaffer, Danae, Terri Jones, Jessica Atkins, Dan and Marylou, Nicole Bjorklund, James, Rick Zimmer, Patrick McKann, Donna, Mona, Laura Leong, Hal Rowe, Kathy Rau, Phil Zumbro, Carla Knezvch, Lisa Bowman, Marie Q, Samuel Martha Goeken, Tina Minyala, Jim Illback, J&A Shasky,

## **Kevin Freibott – Associate Planner – Interim and Long-Term Zoning Ordinances**

Kevin introduced himself. He said the city is working on what will replace BOCA, the Building Opportunity and Choices for All interim ordinance. He cited an increase in growth in Spokane. Growth from 208,916 in 2010 to 230,900 in 2023. He said growth was higher than expected since 2016. We had 12 years of growth in 5 years. Kevin said we are in a housing crisis because we lack the ‘missing middle’; duplexes, triplexes, townhomes and attached homes. He said choices in housing are a very important factor. He gave an example of couples living in a five-bedroom home that want to downsize into a two-bedroom home. He said a couple moving out of their five-bedroom home into a ‘missing middle’ housing would free up space for a family to move out of an apartment into a larger home. But it can’t happen because of the lack of the ‘missing middle’ housing. He said ‘missing middle’ housing would increase density, but it wouldn’t be ugly, cold, too tall or too big. He said it would fit into a single-family zoning. He showed photos of duplexes, triplexes and attached homes that matched the characteristic of

single-family homes. Kevin said BOCA was adopted in July and is temporary. He went over the dimensional standards, design and the additional standards. He said it was like ‘emergency care’ and happened quickly because we were in a crisis. It was like ‘surgery’ but now it’s ‘diet and exercise’. The city is working on a permanent replacement for BOCA. The vision is to support housing choices. He said Phase 1 will look at the Comprehensive Plan and Phase 2 will look at development standards. Kevin answered questions. He said owners were still required to live on site. Remote workers affecting housing was discussed. He said the traffic impact fee will stay. He said the city will reach out to the residents during the process. Law enforcement issues with growth was discussed. Development will pay for new public facilities and services. Kevin said everything the city is doing to respond to the housing crisis can be found on the city’s website, Shaping Spokane. He said condo matters could not be changed by the city council because they were a state legislature issue, but the issue was being addressed. Anyone interested in his shared presentation can request a copy from the chair.

### **Nick Hamad – Parks Planning & Development Manager - Dog Park Community Meeting**

Nick introduced himself. He said he was tasked with finding an official dog park on the south hill. He was joined by Greg Forsythe, director of capital projects for the Spokane School District. Nick said our meeting was the 3 of 4 open houses on the dog park. It was also the only online workshop. He said the goal of the meeting was to provide information on city wide dog park survey, present the top three options for an official dog park on the south hill, gather community preferences, and provide information on next steps. He went over presentation guidelines. He said a site selection could go to the Park Board on 10/24 or in November. He said a dog park selection would be made after time for public comments. Nick said the most important desires from the community in the Parks Master Plan were restrooms, playgrounds, soft trails and trail heads. He said second tier community desires were off-leash dog parks, fishing areas, state parks, disc golf course and indoor pools. Nick said Parks was partnering with Spokane School District for the dog park. Nick went over the level of service for dog parks. He said there is one park per 115,000 people. He said a consultant recommended the city should offer 3 plus 9 dog parks. He said the size should be one to seven acres. He cited dog stats in the public survey results, saying 90 percent of the survey participants were dog owners. Nick said the critical habitat in the parks would not be disturbed for a dog park. He said the 12-member project advisors included service providers. He didn’t want to put people in conflict with pets. He said the top values of the 12-member project advisors (including a veterinarian) were fewer, larger parks, tree canopy, buffer surrounding uses, protect critical habitat, preserve park uses (e.g., baseball fields). The top values of the survey were tree canopy, smaller parks, walkable and accessible, existing utilities nearby, and parking available. The level of service decided was seven plus acres, drivable and parking, fenced and buffered, walkable, protect critical habitat, utilities available. Nick went over the placement criteria and weighted scoring. He said there was 42 potential suitable sites. He said they were ranked and vetted by city staff. District 2 had 16 potential sites. The top four sites for a dog park were Underhill Park, Lincoln Park, Hazel’s Creek Storm Facility and Thornton Murphy Park. Nick presented the site plans for a dog park in the top three sites – Underhill, Lincoln Park and Hazel’s Creek Storm Facility. A poll was taken. Some attendees were unable to take the poll. Nick said to email their poll answers to him. The poll results for site preference were 43 percent

Lincoln Park, 19 percent Hazel's Creek Storm Facility, 38 percent Underhill Park. Nick said there was another dog park workshop at Liberty Park Library on 10/19. Nick answered questions. He said Parks looked at relaxing leash laws but were concerned about public safety. He said the intent of the dog parks was no to disrupt sledding. The abundant native wildflowers at Lincoln Park were discussed. He noted Lincoln Park was not listed as a conservation property. He encouraged attendees to write emails. He said there were 11,000 respondents against a dog park in Manito Park. Mobility issues were brought up. John Forsythe assured the attendees that the educational purposes of the students at Ferris was considered during the selection of the Hazel's Creek Storm Facility. Parking on Thurston was discussed. A group of coyotes on the east side of Lincoln Park was discussed. Nick said he would reach out to the veterinarian project advisor. The lower side of Lincoln Park was discussed. Nick said the percent of dogs was 1.6 per household. A request for an impact study on Lincoln Park was brought up. Nick said the Park Board had jurisdiction. He said any change over one acre would go thru a SEPA review (State Environmental Policy Act). Nick said Thornton Murphy Park was considered but the size was not suitable. An accurate measurement (one-fourth mile vs one-half mile) of the fire access road in Lincoln Park was requested as a sideline note. Nick said 79 percent of those surveyed do not to impact designated native habitats. Nick said he would share the presentation, summary of the meeting results and feedback with our council. Winter condition impacts on the designs of the potential dog parks were discussed. Nick said to send comments on the dog parks to his email - [nhamad@spokanecity.org](mailto:nhamad@spokanecity.org)

*Update – The Park Board voted against a resolution selecting Lincoln Park as the location for an official dog park on 10/24/22. Our chair was present at the meeting and expressed concern that the neighborhood had not received feedback from the workshop, and therefore, the residents were not informed and did not have time to comment. There were many residents present that commented on the loss of an irreplaceable natural habitat, including a natural camas meadow, a wide variety of birds and wildlife, lomatium linearifolium, a tiny delicate flower that blooms in February, and glacier lilies that bloom in Spring. Our council is working with Parks to have Upper Lincoln Park designated as a conservation and natural area.*

**Meeting Adjourned 7:48 pm**

**Next Meeting 11/15/22**

### **Email Updates**

The Gonzaga University's School of Leadership Studies is partnering again with the City of Spokane to offer a free Spokane Neighborhood Leadership Academy (SNLA). The SNLA is a five-month program designed to equip new and emerging neighborhood council leaders with knowledge, skills, and resources to increase engagement and effectively address their priorities. Applications are due 11/30/22. Here is a link for more information go to: [gonzaga.edu/snla](http://gonzaga.edu/snla)

There was a question and conversation about gas pipes being installed in our neighborhood at our last meeting. Here is the answer. Avista is in the process of replacing hundreds of miles of natural gas pipelines installed prior to 1987 as part of a 20-year program. Here is a link to their project page: <https://www.myavista.com/about-us/construction-services/current-avista-projects>. Scroll down the page and select South Hill, Spokane County and it will bring up a map.

The Washington State Department of Ecology is looking for input on improving air quality in overburdened communities. For information go to: <http://www.ecology.wa.gov/overburdened>.

The Neighborhood Community Development Program formerly the neighborhood Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is still on hold. Our council last voted in 2020 to fund Transitions building improvements and Transitions roof replacement. There is a meeting to discuss funding prioritization for the CBDG funds on 10/20/22 at 4-5:30 pm at the West Central Community Center, 1603 N Belt St. You can also email your suggestions to Jenn Cerecedes at [jcerecedes@spokanecity.org](mailto:jcerecedes@spokanecity.org)

The Spokane Police Department is working on reorganizing their patrol and precincts. The new patrol staffing will go into effect on 1/8/2023. We will still have a person within our precinct to contact. A request to keep Officer Jake Willard was stated. The changes will decrease response time to calls for service, put more officers on streets to respond and be more proactive, and return to a truer community-oriented policing. All officers will be a neighborhood resource officers and all officers will do traffic enforcement. Our council will keep you updated.

The Community Assembly is looking to fill two liaison board vacancies: The Design Review Board and the soon to be vacant Community Housing and Human Services Board. If you are interested, contact Paul Kropp for more information. [pkropp@fastmail.fm](mailto:pkropp@fastmail.fm)

Here is an update on the 2021-2022 Comprehensive Plan Amendments. The Plan Commission voted to recommend the approval of the 31<sup>st</sup>/SE Blvd proposal with a change to the resulting land use/zoning, recommending a land use plan map designation of Centers and Corridors Transition and CC-4 zoning. The Plan Commission also voted to recommend the approval of the 27<sup>th</sup> Ave proposal as proposed. There will be a City Council Hearing at the end of October. It is the last chance to make a comment and/or public testimony. Our council has been assured that we will not lose of our park & ride and that the pedestrian/bicycle paths on the public right-of-way will be preserved. We are still asking for pedestrian-oriented streets, concurrent traffic calming and a 35-foot height limit on the elevated private application at 31<sup>st</sup>/SE Blvd. We are also asking for concurrent traffic calming and sidewalk installation at the 27<sup>th</sup> Ave parcels. Send your comments to all the city council members. [citycouncil2@spokanecity.org](mailto:citycouncil2@spokanecity.org) Please note, each individual voice is important. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

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.

For those unable to attend our meeting you can send feedback on the proposed dog park sites to [parks@spokanecity.org](mailto:parks@spokanecity.org) or Parks & Recreation, 808 W Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane, WA 99201. There will also be a meeting on the proposed dog parks on 10/10/22 at 6 pm at the Friends of the South Hill Dog Park meeting at Mullan Road Elementary, 2616 E 63rd. 10/12/22 at 7 pm at the Southgate Neighborhood Council meeting at ESD 101, 4202 S Regal St. 10/19/22 at 6 pm at the East Central Neighborhood Council Meeting at the Liberty Park Library, 402 S Pittsburg.