

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council Meeting – draft minutes

November 15, 2022

6-7:30 pm

Southside Community Center

Welcome

Chair, Carol Tomsic, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Attendees introduced themselves.

Attendance

Officers – Carol Tomsic, Marilyn Lloyd, Sally Phillips

Attendees – Carol Landa-McVicker, Martha Nacke, Christi Smith, Marilyn Reimann, Hank Reimann, Lisa Bowman, Joan Zimmer, Diane Birginal, Shawn Terjeson, Hal Rowe, Chuck Milani, Marcia Tunik, Richard Sola, Diane Shuman, Marica Milani, Hadley Morrow, Jim Malm

Approve Minutes

September and October minutes were approved.

Motioned by Carol, Marcia and Chuck.

Council Member Lori Kinnear – City Council Update via Email

Carol Tomsic, read the update (and commented).

Redistricting - State law requires that the City go through a redistricting process after the

census. Council convened an advisory committee to take community feedback and propose map options to City Council. There was very little public feedback until the end of the advisory process, when it was politicized by special interest groups. The map that the advisory committee proposed divides three different neighborhood councils. Residents from those impacted neighborhoods weighed in, arguing for a different map that does not divide them, especially due to the requirements of state redistricting law to not divide communities of interest. Council ultimately adopted a map that does not divide neighborhoods between Council Districts.

Moratorium - Council ratified the findings associated with the emergency ordinance that Council passed in September to impose an immediate moratorium regarding building permit applications for residential structures in the Latah/Hangman and Grandview/Thorpe Neighborhoods. Under this moratorium, platting can still occur. Most of the time, money, and risk for development is at the platting stage. Developers can still submit new plats and existing plats will proceed. The key rationale for the moratorium is related to our impact fees. The infrastructure needed to serve these areas is extremely costly. Any new development is currently being subsidized by taxpayers because the fees aren't sufficient to cover the costs of infrastructure. We are at this place because 20 years ago when WSDOT requested additional infrastructure be built by the City Council and Administration at the time no action was taken. So here we are. I am working to make sure the 195 corridor and its surroundings are safe neighborhoods that can continue to accept responsible development.

Property Tax - Council will hold a hearing on revenue sources for the 2023 budget, including a 1% property tax that the City implements every year. This revenue pays for public safety capital and results in around \$600,000 in additional revenue for fire and police. Most of this revenue is paid for by new construction. The average home-owners bill would increase only \$12 per year, or roughly a dollar a month in order to continue to pay for our public safety capital costs that keep our community safe.

Funding for 8 Police Radio Dispatchers - Public safety starts with making sure officers and first responders get to the right place in a timely manner. Council recently approved funding for eight additional police radio dispatchers. These positions will alleviate workload on current SPD dispatchers to reduce risk of burnout and the inability of the City to adequately dispatch law enforcement calls.

Hope House Funding - We have supported Hope House from its inception with millions of dollars of funding and continue to receive emergent requests from Hope House and several other homeless providers. From a City perspective, we need to plan for these funding requests. We barely have the resources to support our existing shelter obligations. We will continue to look for solutions that don't impact our ability to provide for the rest of our sheltering

obligations.

Council Member Betsy Wilkerson – City Council Update via Email

Carol Tomsic, read the update (and commented).

First, the Mayor's 2023 Draft Budget is available for public comment and we encourage everyone to look through it and make your thoughts known by either emailing her at mayor@spokanecity.org or attending the next City Council meeting where we will be holding public hearings.

Next, we finished the decennial redistricting process. Lincoln Heights was not affected, but Council Member Wilkerson introduced an amendment to accept Map 2, instead of Map 1 because after hearing from neighborhood councils, and those in Riverside, West Hills and East Central, they wanted Map 2 which kept Neighborhoods together instead of splitting them like they are now. The common theme from their comments which was also shared at the beginning of the redistricting process is that neighborhoods with two council members have better representation because they are easy to get a hold of rather than the four that currently represent those three neighborhoods.

Approved funds from WASPC grants (the Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs) and the State funding for SPD for training, equipment and to make their bathrooms more ADA accessible. It also allows officers to use them while wearing their utility belts.

We also approved funds that have been squirreled away to fix the leaky roof at Spokane City Hall. Don't worry, we will be operational during renovation!

Councilwoman Wilkerson would like to commend the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council for their comments on the Comp Plan Amendment and encourages everyone to make their comments known by attending the next City Council meeting or emailing Kevin Freibott at kfreibott@spokanecity.org.

Finally, we ratified the findings for the Latah Valley Moratorium on development and voted to have it continue so that we can responsibly develop that part of our City.

Resolution to Designate Upper Lincoln Park as a Designated Park Natural Land.

Carol Tomsic introduced a council resolution to designate Upper Lincoln Park as a designated park natural land. The resolution was a response to a Park's resolution selecting Lincoln Park as the location for an official south hill dog park. The dog park resolution was rejected by the Park Board at their 10/24/22 meeting. Parks is moving forward with a resolution to the Park Board to

designate Upper Lincoln Park as a natural land. Our resolution will support the Parks resolution at a December Park Board meeting. A park natural land designation was the term recommended by Nick Hamad. It was also stated that our council supports a dog park.

The need to bring back more native plants and putting a dog park in underutilized areas of parks, especially with the cost of keeping grass green was discussed. Sites for a dog park on the south hill were discussed, including lower Lincoln Park. The Parks dog park survey was mentioned. The coyote population in the park and surrounding areas was discussed. Better management of the coyotes was requested. Upper Lincoln Park being an educational opportunity for students was discussed. It was noted Hazel Creek is used by Ferris students. It was suggested that “with significant educational opportunities for our children’ be added to paragraph seven. The use of ‘park natural land’ was discussed. There was a concern ‘park natural land’ had not been defined adequately in the resolution.

The resolution was approved with the amendment to paragraph seven.

Motioned by Richard, Chuck, Henry and Marilyn.

Parks Photo Speed Camera Resolutions

Carol Tomsic introduced three resolutions for parks photo speed cameras to be installed at three parks- Lincoln Park, Hamblen Park, and Thornton Murphy Park. The Hamblen Park resolution was a joint resolution with the Southgate Neighborhood Council. It was stated Breean Beggs had invited neighborhood councils to submit resolutions proposing park speed cameras at the parks during the 11/3/22 community assembly meeting. It was a great traffic calming opportunity.

The park photo speed cameras were discussed. There was a concern about the speeds around the parks. It was noted there were no reduced speeds on 37th, Napa or Crestline, at Hamblen Park. It was also noted that the resolutions did not adequately define the locations for the cameras. It was mentioned that Upper Lincoln Park and Lower Lincoln Park would be effective. It was suggested the Community Center be cited as a safety issue in the Thornton Murphy Park resolution. It was decided that the chair would ask for a clarification of the speed camera program and which sites were appropriate for the program. A vote on the resolutions was deferred.

Spokane Neighborhood Leadership Academy

Carol Tomsic presented on the Spokane Neighborhood Leadership Academy. She said Breean Beggs originally came up with the idea. It was a great idea. The Community Assembly partnered with Gonzaga University. It's the second year. It's free to participate. Participants can develop essential skills for leading volunteer teams. Participants attend one Saturday class a month at the Northeast Community Center for six months. She handed out brochures. She gave applications to anyone interested. The application deadline is 11/30/22.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting 12/20/22 on Zoom

Thomas Herrlinger, Customer Experience Manager – Library Update via Email.

A few construction setbacks have pushed the reopening of the South Hill branch by 2 months. We are still anticipating a winter date reopening and I will keep everyone posted when the Certificate of Occupancy has been acquired.

Email Updates

A community meeting on the South Hill water reservoir conditional use permit at Hamblen Elementary was held virtually on 10/26/22. Here is a link for more information on the construction and phases. <https://my.spokanecity.org/projects/high-system-water-tank/>

The 2021-2022 Comprehensive Plan Amendments in our neighborhood at 31st/SE and 27th Ave have been scheduled for a final reading and hearing before City Council. The first reading is 11/14/22 at 6 pm in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 808 W Spokane Falls Blvd. The first reading will have no staff presentations but allows public testimony. No decision will be made. The final reading is 11/21/22 at 6 pm in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 808 W Spokane Falls Blvd. There will be a presentation by staff and public testimony. A final decision will be made. Please note that you will need to sign up to give public testimony at either the First or Final Reading. Testimony sign-up is open the hour before the meeting at 5 pm. Sign up forms are available outside Council Chambers for in-person attendees. An online form will also be available for virtual testimony. Written comments are still being accepted. This is the last opportunity to make a comment and/or voice your concerns. I plan to make a comment at the first and final readings. Let us know if you have any questions or concerns. Here is a link for more information <https://my.spokanecity.org/projects/2021-2022-proposed-comprehensive-plan-amendments/>

The city is continuing the discussion started with the Housing Action Plan and Building Opportunity and Choices for All pilot program with a new project called Building Opportunities for Housing. Here is a link to the city's webpage. <https://my.spokanecity.org/projects/shaping-spokane-housing/building-opportunity-for-housing/>

Karen Mobley has started a grassroots group called the Lincoln Park Interest Group. The group is advocating for the protection of natural areas, including Upper Lincoln Park and Underhill Park. If you are interested in joining contact Karen at karen@karenmobley.com

The 2022 digital (dump) pass program has expended available funding and the passes are no longer available this year. Residents may still redeem passes they have within 30 days and printed passes within the listed expiration date. The forms and passes will be available again in February of 2023.

The City's snow response information can be found online at: <https://my.spokanecity.org/streets/maintenance/snow-removal/> including a live map of plow progress across the City.

The Community Assembly is looking to fill two liaison board vacancies: The Design Review Board and Community Housing and Human Services Board. If you are interested contact Paul Kropp for more information. pkropp@fastmail.fm

The 'Neighbors Drive 25' yard signs are still available at City Hall and C.O.P.S locations on a first-come, first-served basis. Our C.O.P.S location is in the Lincoln Heights Shopping Center and is not open all the time, so call first 509-625-3326.