

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council Meeting – draft meetings

December 20, 2022

6-7:30 pm

Zoom

Welcome

Carol Tomsic, chair, welcomed everyone to the extra Zoom meeting.

Virtual Sign-In

Guests – Kathrine McCarty, Staci Lehman, Carrie Low, Chad Mitchell

Officers – Carol Tomsic, Marilyn Lloyd, Sally Phillips

Attendees – Barbara Lindsey, Debbie Walker, Marilyn Reimann, Hank Reimann, Theresa Bidowski, Bill Bidowski, Judi Young, Richard Sola, Diane Shuman, Carol Landa-McVicker, Jim Vandermeer, Joan Zimmer, Jim Malm, Jeremy Day, Andy, Charles Milani, Marcia Milani, Tanya, Warren Carpenter, Marilyn Carpenter, Staci, Adam Miles, Marcia Tunik

Kevin Freibott – Associate Planner – Building Opportunity for Housing

Kevin is very sick and cannot attend tonight's meeting. His presentation on Building Opportunity for Housing, the city's follow-up project to the interim ordinance, will be rescheduled.

Kathrine McCarty – Wildlife Specialist – Neighborhood Coyote Problem

Kathrine McCarty introduced herself. She is a wildlife specialist for Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife for Lincoln, Spokane, and Whitman Counties. Staci Lehman, a communication manager with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Carrie Low, a regional biologist with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife were also present. Kathrine's presentation was 'living with wildlife'. She said the coyotes are relying on humans for resources. She said there needs to be a balance living on landscapes with wildlife. Coyotes are a common urban wildlife species. Coyotes are usually found in sagebrush and open mountains. Coyotes don't have apex predators in an urban setting. Katherine said coyotes are adaptable, weigh between 20-35 pounds, mate in February-March, disperse pups at 6-9 months, are protective of their pups between April-June, and generally wary unless modified by urban living. A coyote can be dangerous if there is a fight or flight response. Threatening interactions can be a gray area. Kathrine said to never feed wildlife intentional or unintentionally. She said leaving garbage on

the side of the house can attract mice and then attract a coyote. She said leaving out dog food is unintentionally feeding wildlife. Kathrine said never allow a coyote to approach you. She said if a coyote does approach stand tall and make lots of noise and throw things like rocks at the coyote. She said to report bold behavior. She said repetitive behavior reported is noted. She said injuries by a coyote are usually due to feeding intentionally or unintentionally. She said feeding wildlife can encourage the coyote to be more comfortable. She said to limit access to pet food and bird feeders and to block crawl spaces and attics. Kathrine said rodents attract coyotes and increase the coyote population. The more food available the more the coyotes can reproduce. She said to modify landscapes around children's play areas and build coyote proof fences. She said not to feed pets outdoors but if you do, leave the food out for only 15-20 minutes. She said to get rid of brush where coyotes can hide and make covert movements. Kathrine said a roller fence (a circle pvc pipe that rolls on top of a fence) can keep coyotes away from small livestock like chickens. Locking up garbage cans will prevent access to garbage. It will keep away mice that attract coyotes. She said bungee cords can be chewed by racoons, so a gate latch is better. Kathrine advised to call the trash company for recommendations. She said to use layover chicken wire fencing to avoid coyotes from jumping over a fence and digging under a fence. She said coyotes are notorious for digging under fences. Kathrine said relocation is not an option for coyotes. Coyotes usually don't survive a relocation, have a homing instinct, and are not suitable where released, and moving from one location to another can spread diseases. Trapping is the best option. She said it was important to note that coyotes are prolific breeders. A high mortality rate increases the litter sizes. So, it is important to manage resources available to coyotes, like food sources and rodents, so the pups can not be supported. She said a coyote presence is not a risk. Dangerous behaviors happen if a coyote becomes too bold. She said trapping should be a last resort, when all else fails. There needs to be a plan before trapping because you need to know what you are doing with the animal once it is trapped. It is illegal to trap and relocate wildlife. She said to use a professional trapper. Kathrine said the 'take home message' was not to feed wildlife. She said wildlife has enough to eat. She also said to pick up fallen fruit from trees. Coyotes are omnivores and will eat the fruit. Kathrine answered questions. She said to call the regional office 509-892-1001 to report bold behavior. She said once you call you can be directed to a regional biologist. A site visit can be requested for an individualized assist. Kathrine said if we start now there won't be an immediate effect, but it will eventually naturally stop the pups and decrease the number of coyotes on the property. Kathrine said there is a risk to unsupervised pets. She said to keep cats inside and small dogs on a leash. She said a coyote preys on same size species. She said a coyote usually won't approach a noisy group of children, but if coyote does approach children to absolutely report the behavior. Kathrine said if a there is an encounter with a coyote while walking a pet to not let the coyote approach. She said not to run. She said to pick up the pet and back up to a safe place. She said to throw things at the coyote. A walking stick can be used too. Kathrine said citronella spray is better than bear spray. She said bear spray can affect you and your dog. Kathrine said a whistle might work but coyotes are used to urban novel sounds. It depends on the coyote. She said being with other people is more support. Kathrine said it is legal to feed turkeys but not recommended. The spilled feed from a turkey feeder can attract other species that eat the seeds and then attract a coyote. She said to make bird feeders inaccessible to other species and clean-up or limit the fall-out on the ground. Kathrine said there are no legal repercussions to feeding squirrels but did not encourage it. Trapping was discussed. A public service announcement to let residents know not to feed wildlife was discussed. Kathrine said she would be happy to make a video on the subject. She said residents can contact her via

email katherine.mccarty@dfw.wa.gov

Chad Mitchell – A Founder of the South Hill Dog – History of the Dog Park

Chad introduced himself. He said the South Hill Dog Park was originally 15 acres of a buffer zone to a former landfill. He said in 1992 there were 12 people who walked the area with their dogs. He said once the site hit the Internet, the number of people who walked in the area with their dogs increased exponentially. He said the group never organized and were just users. By 2002, it was a grass root group of people who did what was necessary to upkeep the dog park. He said there were three entrances and no gates, but someone put up gates. He said when large dogs made trash out of a gate someone redid it. Chad said an off-leash park needs a lot of space and it was lucky they had 15 acres. He said essentially, they were squatters with no right to be there and were blind-sided by a 2018 bond issue that would build a middle school on the site of their dog park. He said he was told a girl scout working on a merit badge volunteered to clean up the dog park and installed a bag dispenser. The dog park users first organized fundraiser was for poop bags for the dispenser. Chad said signs were put on the three gates to fundraise blue poop bags. An account was opened at a bank for 'friends of south hill dog park'. He said 2000 plus people are on social media pages for the dog park. He said City Council President Breean Beggs reached out to help with the relocation of the dog park. Rick Moreno worked on the issue. The money for construction of a replacement dog park was already in the school bond. Chad was one of five members of a dog park 'board' that met with the school board and park board to draw out a dog park. It was three years before they were to be kicked out. Chad said he thought about planting trees. He said no one knew about the landfill. It used to be an open garbage dump. A membrane was put down and covered with three to four feet of dirt. He said the membrane could not be punctured because potential drainage on the site could affect Latah Creek and the Spokane River. He learned the information while on the phone at the park, watching a dog digging a hole that could puncture the membrane. Chad said there were lots of dog park users at meeting when they were told the dog park and the middle school athletic field could not be on the landfill. He said the map of the dog park struck with the school district was worthless. There was not enough time or land on school district property for the dog park. The school district carved out six acres adjacent to the landfill, but the dog park had to be off the land by April of 2023. He said Parks was working on their Master Plan and said the city was underserved for dog parks. He said Parks worked on an off-leash dog park with AHBL engineers and did a survey. He said an advisory committee met three times in the summer with the dog park board, park board and park staff to come up with criteria for an off-leash dog park. Chad said the highest criteria was a seven plus acre minimum. He said Parks did a survey on possible lands to house a seven-acre dog park in each of the city's three districts. He said the South Hill Dog Park would be the model for all the dog parks. He said the South Hill dog park would be the first one built because the dog park was funded in the 2018 bond and there was a promise made to relocate the dog park. City Planner Nick Hamad worked on the search for the sites. The three possible dog park sites were Underhill, Upper Lincoln Park and Hazel's Creek. Chad said Hazel's Creek barley had three acres for a suitable site. He said residents were adamantly against Underhill Park. He said Upper Lincoln Park was the best of the bad possible choices. He said he did not know about the plants. He said Nick thought he could successfully interface the dog park at Upper Lincoln Park. Chad said the residents spoke quite eloquently at the Park Board meeting to select Upper Lincoln Park as a dog park. He said he had to pick some place. He also said a lot of work had to be done at the site

including dumping a whole bunch of dirt. Chad said Parks is working with the County to come up with an agreement for a dog park near the South Hill. It would be on eight to ten acres of rural land. The school district does not have enough money to buy land. He said the alternatives are to give up, look at other sites that are available, including two-to-three-acre sites at Comstock and Manito Park, or build the South Hill Dog Park in District 1 or 2. Chad said there are good locations for a seven-acre dog park at Upriver Park and nearby the former Joe Albi Stadium. He said the dog park uses 50-60 thousand poop bags a year. He said people don't realize the dog park affects both dogs and people. Chad said there is also a chance the school district may delay building the two ball fields for middle school as an alternative. The district chose to sod the field rather than drill-seed so the dog park could remain. The school district could not open the ball fields for one year. The newly elected county commissioners were discussed as an opportunity to get a county-city agreement for a dog park.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:31 pm

Next Meeting 1/17/22

Email Updates

Chick Fil-A is exploring other areas. Their last proposal still did not meet the criteria for a deviation from the maximum parking limit under the zoning. They wanted 113 parking stalls, but the maximum is 20 stalls. The city recognized and supported our neighborhood district plan - busier sidewalks, shops that cater to folks who walk, bike or take the bus, and less space devoted to surface parking lots. The company can still appeal, but it's a good sign they are exploring other areas. We will keep you updated.

There will be a public hearing on the conditional use permit and variance for the Hamblen Water Reservoir before the City of Spokane Hearing Examiner on 12/21/22 at 9 am in the Council Chambers, Lower Level of City Hall, 808 W Spokane Falls Blvd. Any person may submit written comments on the proposal and/or appear at the public hearing. Email comments to Donna deBit ddebit@spokanecity.org

The City Council approved both 2021-2022 comprehensive plan updates in our neighborhood. The proposal at 31st was modified to Centers & Corridors land use and Centers & Corridors Transition (CC4) zoning as recommended by the Plan Commission. In response to our council's and our residents requests for safe pedestrian streets and a need to protect the historic pedestrian and bicycle routes at the location, the City Council also amended the proposal to include a modification to the Proposed Bike Network map designating 33rd Ave, from SE Blvd to Altamont, as a shared use path and a small part of Altamont as a 'bike friendly route'. This amendment highlights the need for pedestrian and bike connections and will help the city secure funding to actually build the path/trail/streets in the location. The Center & Corridor designation also prioritizes residential over commercial. Any construction on the site must meet much more stringent design requirements for pedestrian and bicycle access. In addition, 31st is currently

under construction and will require sidewalks. The intersection at 31st/SE Blvd will include a lighted crosswalk. Our council greatly appreciates all the written comments and testimony by our residents on the comprehensive plan updates during the lengthy process.

The Park Board has asked park staff to further clarify/define the difference between 'park natural lands' and 'park conservation land/park conservation easements'. Action on Upper Lincoln Park will likely occur in January/February rather than December. The Parks Master Plan does state that 'public access for recreational use with conservation land is often limited.' Our council has voiced a concern on the possibility of restrictions to the present usage of the park with a 'conservation' designation. We will keep you updated!

Reminder - We will be voting on the parks photo speed cameras at Upper and Lower Lincoln Park, Thornton Murphy Park and Hamblen at our January meeting. Or sooner, if a deadline necessitates. There is no formal criteria. The question is, 'what parks feel like there is the most speeding that endangers pedestrians and/or bicyclist'? Our council has received numerous concerns on the safety of our residents at all three parks. Arterials will probably be the most likely locations. The cameras can enforce 'existing' speeds at 20, 25, 30, or 35 mph. Our council can address the safety of the existing speeds by our parks with a separate resolution. The revised resolutions are attached.

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.

Draft A Joint Resolution of the
Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council and Southgate Neighborhood Council
For park photo speed cameras on 37th, at Hamblen Park

Whereas, Council President Breean Beggs invited neighborhood councils to propose speed cameras at their neighborhood parks during his presentation at the 11/3/22 Community Assembly meeting.

Whereas, Hamblen Park is on the border of the Southgate Neighborhood Council and the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council

Whereas, the Southgate Neighborhood Council voted at their 11/9/22 meeting to approve their board work with the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council on a joint resolution for park photo speed radar cameras to be installed on 37th, at Hamblen Park.

Whereas, the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council voted at their 11/15/22 meeting to approve a joint resolution with the Southgate Neighborhood Council for park photo speed radar cameras to be installed on 37th, at Hamblen Park.

Whereas, pedestrian safety and speeding traffic on 37th, at Hamblen Park, are a concern with residents in both neighborhoods and has been cited but not addressed in the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program.

Whereas, Hamblen Elementary School is on the south border of Hamblen Park. The boundary of the elementary school extends past 37th. Therefore, speeding traffic on 37th is a safety concern for students playing in the park and walking or bicycling to school.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council and the Southgate Neighborhood Council request the City Council to install parks photo speed radar cameras on 37th, at Hamblen Park

Carol Tomsic, Chair of the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council

Date

Rita Conner, Chair of the Southgate Neighborhood Council

Date

draft A resolution of the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council

For parks photo speed cameras on Ray Street, at Thornton Murphy Park and 27th, at Thornton Murphy Park

Whereas, Council President Breean Beggs invited neighborhood councils to propose speed cameras at their neighborhood parks during his presentation at the 11/3/22 Community Assembly meeting.

Whereas, Thornton Murphy Park is bordered by two arterials, Ray Street and 27th. The Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council is asking for the speed cameras at both Ray Street, at Thornton Murphy Park and 27th, at Thornton Murphy Park.

Whereas, the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council voted to approve this resolution asking for parks photo speed radar cameras to be installed on Ray Street, at Thornton Murphy Park and 27th, at Thornton Murphy Park, at their MM/DD/YY meeting.

Whereas, 27th, at Fiske Street, is an entrance to Thornton Murphy Park and a school bus stop. Numerous complaints on speeding and other traffic concerns during drop off and pick up of students at the school bus stop has been cited but not adequately addressed in the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program. The entrance to Southside Community Center is at Thornton Murphy Park, on 27th. Speeding is a concern on 27th, at Thornton Murphy Park.

Whereas, speeding and safe pedestrian and bicycle crossings on Ray Street, at Thornton Murphy Park, was a concern with neighborhood residents and has been cited but not addressed in the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council request the City Council to install parks photo speed radar cameras on Ray Street, at Thornton Murphy Park and 27th, at Thornton Murphy Park.

Carol Tomsic, Chair of the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council

MM/DD/YY

draft A Resolution of the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council

For parks photo speed cameras on SE Blvd, at Upper Lincoln Park and 17th, at Lower Lincoln Park

Whereas, Council President Breean Beggs invited neighborhood councils to propose speed cameras at their neighborhood parks during his presentation at the 11/3/22 Community Assembly meeting.

Whereas, Lincoln Park is bordered by two arterials, Upper Lincoln Park, at SE Blvd and Lower Lincoln Park, at 17th. The Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council is asking for the speed cameras at both SE Blvd, at Upper Lincoln Park and 17th, at Lower Lincoln Park.

Whereas, the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council voted to approve this resolution asking for parks speed radar cameras to be installed on SE Blvd, at Upper Lincoln Park and 17th, at Lower Lincoln Park at their MM/DD/YY meeting.

Whereas, pedestrian safety and speeding traffic on SE Blvd, at Upper Lincoln Park and 17th, at Lower Lincoln Park, are a concern with neighborhood residents and has been cited but not addressed in the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program.

Whereas, a priority neighborhood concern at the traffic calming District 2 workshop was high speeds and visibility concerns on 17th. Franklin Elementary students walk on 17th at and in the vicinity of Lower Lincoln Park. Speeding traffic is a concern on 17th, at Lower Lincoln Park.

Whereas, a priority at the traffic calming District 2 workshop was SE Blvd walkability, pedestrian safety and pedestrian crossing facilities to Upper Lincoln Park. A marked crosswalk on SE Blvd, at the entrance to Upper Lincoln Park, was funded in the Cycle 9 (2019) Traffic Calming Program projects. Speeding traffic is a concern, on SE Blvd, at Upper Lincoln Park.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council request the City Council to install parks photo speed radar cameras on SE Blvd, at Upper Lincoln Park and 17th, at Lower Lincoln Park.

Carol Tomsic, Chair of the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council

MM/DD/YY