

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council Meeting *draft minutes
February 21, 2023
6-7:30 pm
Zoom

Meeting was called to order by Carol Tomsic at 6 p.m. via Zoom

Virtual Sign-in

Guests – Nick Hamad, Greg Forsythe, Hilary Sepulveda, Dennis Anderson

Officers – Carol Tomsic, Marilyn Lloyd

Attendees – Sheila Evans, Karen Mobley, Judy Young, Marilyn Reimann, Hank Reimann, Joan Zimmer, William Bidowski, Theresa Bidowski, Ruth Mincks, Jim VanderMeer, Mike Peterson, Marcia Milani, Chuck Milani, Tom Sanderson, Kara Odegard, Diane Berginal, Patrick McKann, Hadley Morrow, Carol Landa-McVicker, Marcia Tunik, Debbie Walker, Chuck Obrien

Nick Hamad, Parks Planning and Development Manager, Dog Park Update

6:02 pm Nick Hamad presented an update on locating a replacement dog park on the South Hill.

Nick said he was accompanied by Greg Forsythe, director of capital projects, Spokane School District. He said there had been no decision or action made on the dog park. Nick said the dog park should have 7 plus acres, treed and natural, drivable, with parking, fenced and buffered, walkable site, protects critical habitat and have utilities available. He said Underhill Park and Hazel's creek had no support at all. He said Lincoln Park had some support. He said Lincoln Park had a dog park proposal studied and there was a desire to preserve natural land. Nick said there was an option for a dog park in Lincoln Park to lead to acquisition of land in the garden district. He asked if the city owned parcel adjacent to the Garden District was acquired, would there be more support for a dog park at Lincoln Park. He asked if other conditions would lead to support of a dog park in Lincoln Park such as, reduced size, environmental assess/mitigation, restriction of remaining land for natural land, traffic study, or other considerations. There was a discussion and Nick answered questions.

Concerns regarding a dog park in Upper Lincoln Park included:

- The area is an environmentally sensitive area that would be destroyed by a dog park.
- Most of the terrain is basalt and not good footing for people or pets.
- Dogs would be disruptive to the pond and its habitat.
- There are already many people including dog walkers using the park and designating a specific fenced area would significantly limit the area available to these folks.
- Sheila Evans reported on birds she has spotted in the Park whose habitat would be severely impacted.
- Sam Mace reported that the public survey done for the Parks Master Plan showed an over-whelming desire for protecting and expanding park natural areas. These values ranked higher than dog parks.
- Several people expressed concern that they had been led to believe that Upper Lincoln Park would no longer be considered for the new dog park and wondered why it was still

on the table.

There was discussion of having several “pocket dog parks” that people could walk to rather than a large dog park that people would have to drive to.

A dog park in Lincoln Park was supported with more data and an environmental assessment. It was noted that a dog park offers social interaction and safe place to walk a dog.

Nick Hamad said they are still looking at options, noted the majority opposed locating the Dog Park in Upper Lincoln Park, and said he would follow up with our group.

Carol Tomsic suggested a walk-through of The Garden District site as most people were not familiar with it. She also mentioned needing to hear from “dog people” regarding the various sites.

Hilary Sepulveda, Outreach and Community Coordinator for Spokane Conservation District

6:38 p.m. Hilary Sepulveda did a presentation of the new campus, The Quarry, at 4422 E 8th Ave. She talked about the history of the Conservation District (1941 to present), its Board of Supervisors, and funding sources. She also highlighted activities of the various Departments within the District including Education and Outreach, Vets on the Farm, Forestry which evaluates trees and does wildfire assessment, the annual tree sale and proposed year around Farmer’s Market.

Dennis Anderson, Garden Supervisor of Thornton Murphy Community Garden

7:06 p.m. Dennis Anderson did a presentation on the Community Garden near Thornton Murphy Park and the South Side Community Center. They will be starting their third season with additional raised beds which can be rented for \$25 per season. Registration forms are available on their website.

The meeting ended with additional discussion of opposing Lincoln Park as a site for a dog park and the need for neighborhood “Pocket Parks”.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Next meeting will be held on March 15 6 p.m. at the Southside Community Center.

Email Updates

The City is planning to improve the Thor and Freya Couplet between 2nd and 3rd Avenues. The project is scheduled to begin Spring 2023 and last through Fall 2023. There will be an open house to give residents and business owners an opportunity to express any questions and concerns about the project on Wednesday, 2/22/23 at 11 am to 12 pm, virtually. Here is a link to

access the meeting on the project webpage. <https://my.spokanecity.org/projects/thor-freya-2nd-3rd-intersections/>

The City is proposing bicycle parking code updates to make riding your bike more accessible. Take the bicycle parking code survey and let the City know how you would like to park your bike. Here is a link to the survey. <https://my.spokanecity.org/projects/bicycle-parking-code-update/>

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.

The 2023 Mobile Speed Feedback application is open. Trailers are placed 5/1/23 thru 10/2/23. Our council can request three locations for mobile speed feedback trailers that collect data. We can also request mobile speed feedback trailers that do not collect data. We already have two requests; 11th/Fiske and 29th, east of Cuba. Let us know if there is a location you think would benefit from the placement of a mobile speed feedback trailer. We will finalize our application at our March in-person meeting. The deadline is 4/7/2023.

We should know more about the Street Mural program soon. Let us know where you would like to see a street mural in our neighborhood.

Put a voice on your housing story, your concerns, hopes and dreams for the future of housing choice. Here is a link to the survey mentioned by Keven Freibott at our 1/17/23 meeting. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/L9QCSGT>

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

Attached you will find the Office of Neighborhood Services Report. It includes links to street construction and maintenance and a homeless resource pocket guide, and more information on neighborhood council programs.