

# **Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes**

## **March 21, 2023 – Southside Center**

### **In Attendance:**

Guests: Sgt. Brian Tavoya, Fianna Dickson

Officers: Carol Tomsic, Marilyn Lloyd, Carol Landa-McVicker

Attendees: Nancy Harnetiaux, Donovan Aronld-Deleon, Shawn Terjeson, Diane Birginal, Debbie Walker, Jonathan Tilley, Marcia Tunik, Henry Reimann, Marilyn Reimann, Fran Papenleur, Nathan Hutchens,

The meeting was called to order by Carol Tomsic at 6:05 p.m. and those present introduced themselves.

Carol Tomsic moved and Diane Berginal seconded the motion to approve the minutes of January 17 and February 21, 2023. Motion passed unanimously. Carol reminded those present that they could vote if they had attended at least 3 meetings\*.

*(\*voting membership shall be granted to any individual who meets the membership criteria and has attended two out of the previous six regular meetings).*

### **Neighborhood Updates**

#### **SPD – South Precinct Update – Sgt. Brian Tavoya**

This report was delayed until later in the meeting. When Sgt Tavoya arrived, he reported on the coverage area for which his unit is responsible and said that staffing is down largely because of retirements and difficulty in recruiting. He listed the following safety tips to reduce theft:

- \*Leave your porch lights on all night
- \*Make sure you have large house numbers so the police can find your house
- \*Keep your yard clear of things thieves might want to steal
- \*Keep garage door closed
- \*Know your neighbors and watch out for each other

He said that Block Watch was an effective program to reduce crime in neighborhoods. Funding has been reduced to support the program, but there are still signs available through local Cop Shops. Carol Tomsic reported that the Lincoln Heights Cop Shop is now located above the Two Seven Public House.

Sgt. Tavoya said that anyone seeing suspicious behavior should call 911.

Karen Mosely reported racing on 27<sup>th</sup> and Sgt. Tavoya said he would follow up with patrols.

### **Council Member Update**

Neither Councilwomen Betsy Wilkerson nor Lori Kinnear was able to attend the meeting, however, Carol Tomsic read an update from Councilwoman Kinnear.

#### **GFCs**

*At the Council meeting this week, Council updated General Facilities Charges (GFCs), for the first time in over 20 years and provided a waiver for utility hookups for all new homes built throughout the city for households with incomes less than \$75,000/year. These fees are charged to developers to pay for future*

sewer and water infrastructure needed to accommodate the new growth.

Before voting on the GFCs, Council unanimously agreed to consider further adjustments to the fees at our March 27<sup>th</sup> Briefing Session to allow for further consideration of amendments to the GFC fee structure.

The Mayor originally proposed incrementally implementing the following new rates over a number of years to fund necessary water and sewer projects to serve the thousands of new housing units needed in Spokane:

- Utility hookup fees for new homes in Central Spokane (lower elevations) are **\$10,284**
- Utility hookup fees for new homes in Outer Spokane (higher elevations) are **\$17,868**

The ordinance that Council passed immediately implements the new rates, with the exception of a two-year phase in period for water GFCs in the lower zone, and adds the following waiver to ensure that the new housing will be affordable for average working resident in Spokane:

- Utility hookup fees for new homes for families earning less than \$75K/year are **\$0**.

The Mayor's original proposal created two zones (lower and higher elevations) because the projects needed in the outlying areas of Spokane for new homes are at a higher elevation and require more expensive infrastructure for towers and pumping. The new rates ensure that the builders will pay the costs for these new facilities, creating the need for the new infrastructure, not the existing ratepayers.

Twenty years is long enough for our individual ratepayers to be subsidizing development. It is time to fully implement updated rates so that those who are creating the need for increased infrastructure bear the cost.

### **Homelessness Funding**

Last week, Council accepted approximately \$2.8 million dollars in grant funding from the Washington State Department of Commerce to assist in moving unhoused persons from encampments into housing. \$2 million dollars of this grant will be dedicated to help fund operations at the Trent Shelter, which is currently managed by The Salvation Army. Approximately \$500,000 would fund Housing Navigators for Rapid Re-housing.

### **Historic District**

Council also recently adopted the Cannon Streetcar Suburb Local Historic District Overlay Zone and associated design standards and guidelines. The adoption of the Ordinance that officially creates the Historic District affirmed the Cliff-Cannon neighborhood's effort to create the sixth, and largest, local historic district in Spokane. Contributing or historic properties within the district will qualify for a property tax incentive if there is a significant improvement to the property, and all contributing properties are eligible to apply for a competitive façade improvement grant of up to \$5,000 in matching funds available annually.

Feel free to reach out with any comments or questions.

Several people mentioned having difficulty getting a response from the Council members. Carol suggested contacting their staff and offered help as needed.

There was discussion regarding traffic calming with a camera scheduled to be installed on 17<sup>th</sup> Ave near Franklin School. Carol Tomsic reported that a flashing crosswalk light is being installed at the crosswalk on 29<sup>th</sup>/Rosauers this summer.

### **Park Friends Group**

Fianna Dickson from the Park Department was introduced and gave a presentation on a newly adopted policy for Adopt a Park and Park Friends groups. There are three categories.

1. Volunteers – informal groups
2. Adopt a Park – help with keeping up the park, hosting nature walks and other events.
3. Park Friends Group – have a formal agreement with the Park Department that includes:

- \* By laws
- \* Tax Exempt Status
- \* General Liability Insurance through the Parks Department
- \* Parks Department will also assist with social media
- \* Representatives of these groups meet with the Park’s Development and Volunteer Citizen’s Advisory Committee (DVCAC) the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month at 4 p.m. at City Hall

Karen Mobley reported that the newly formed group, Spokane Urban Nature (SUN), is discussing having early morning birding walks and nature walks in Upper Lincoln Park. There was discussion about working with the Parks Department to eradicate toxic weeds such as knapweed. She also said the group is looking at ways to preserve upper Lincoln Park, Underhill Park and other natural urban areas in Spokane for future generations to enjoy. Check out their Facebook page for more information.

Signage in Upper Lincoln Park was discussed including suggestions for a signboard posting upcoming events and warnings about coyotes.

### **Standing Updates**

**Southside Library** - Carol Tomsic reported that the newly renovated library opened today.

**Secretary Position** – Carol Tomsic moved and Marilyn Lloyd seconded the motion that Carol Landa-McVicker be elected Secretary. The motion passed unanimously.

**Clean-up Program** – No report

**Speed Feedback Signs** – Carol Tomsic reported we will be getting three temporary feedback signs in the next couple of weeks. These will be installed at:

1. 29<sup>th</sup> E of Cuba
2. 37<sup>th</sup> Hamblin Park between Napa and Crestline
3. 3620 E 35<sup>th</sup>
4. (alternate) 25<sup>th</sup> and Southeast Blvd if we are allocated a 4<sup>th</sup> sign.

Carol Tomsic asked that anyone with suggestions for additional alternative sites let her know. Carol Tomsic moved and Carol Landa-McVicker seconded the motion to approve this list. The motion passed unanimously.

**Community Grant** –Marilyn Lloyd distributed a memo regarding Community Engagement (CE) Grants that included a list of possible uses for the grant (see attached). She reported that LHNC pole banners have been installed on north side of 29<sup>th</sup> Near Wells Fargo Bank and the south side of 29<sup>th</sup>, near Regal Street. Marilyn said that June 16<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for submitting grant requests and to let Carol Tomsic know if you have any additional ideas.

**Jeanette Harras Award** – Fran Papenleur representative to the Community Assembly from Audbon/Downriver presented Carol Tomsic with the 2022 Community Assembly Jeanette Harras Award for her leadership in the community. Fran read the nomination letter from City Council President Breean Beggs, Council Member Lori Kinnear, and Council Member Betsy Wilkerson. Carol was also nominated by Marilyn Lloyd, Southgate Council and the Audubon-Downriver Council.

*Carol epitomizes effective neighborhood leadership. She models productive community participation through her personal engagement in local government. She champions healthy dialogue on today's most critical issues and tenaciously advances the interests of the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council. Carol's effectiveness as a community leader is rooted in her dedication to continued education and collaboration. She brings in expert voices to her neighborhood meetings and always asks thoughtful questions of them; creating spaces that foster valuable community feedback. As members of the City Council, we recognize how hard Carol works to keep her neighborhood, informed, engaged, and organized on topics that affect them. We are extremely thankful for Carol's leadership in our community.*

Meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.  
Next meeting is April 18, 2023 via Zoom

Respectfully Submitted: Carol Landa-McVicker, Secretary