

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council Minutes - September 19, 2023
Southside Community Center

Attendance:

Frank Trummel, Carol Walther, Deborah Walker, Rob Tannerhill, Karen McWay, Jim Plourde, Andrew Beagle, Jerry Ramos, Karen Mobley, Maggie Condon, Deb Kutsal, Richard Sola, Diane Sherman, Andy Gonton, Marilyn Lloyd, Sally Phillips, Carol Tomsic, Carol Landa-McVicker

Guests: Ginny Ramos, Angela Richardson, Will Rettig

Chair, Carol Tomsic, called the meeting to order at 6:02 and reminded people to sign in. Those present briefly introduced themselves.

Carol said she forgot to provide a link to the past minutes, so approval was deferred to the next meeting.

Virginia Ramos, City Council staff, provided a street update from Abbey Martin, City Council Manager of Neighborhood Connectivity Initiatives. She provided a list of proposals for street projects that will be completed in 2024 depending on funding. She also said Ryan Oelrich, Dist. 2, was appointed to serve on the Council until the November election is certified. He fills the seat of Lori Kinnear who has moved to Council President. Following the election, there could be another vacancy if Betsy Wilkerson is elected Council President. That position would be for 2 years. All interviews are open and televised.

Will Rettig, City's Water Efficiency Expert, gave a presentation on the City's Water Wise Program. Utility rates will increase in January and Will provided tips on how to save on water bills. He urged members to look at the City's Water Wise website for further information on workshops, water audit scheduling and rebates. For those interested in water efficient landscaping, the City has hired a landscape architect who is available for one hour of free consulting after which she will provide a design for the homeowner.

Angela Richardson gave a brief update on the South Hill Library and urged citizens to check out the website for events.

Carol Tomsic gave an update on the Proposal to designate 29th Ave as a Pedestrian Street from St. Martin to Fiske. There was some confusion on Nextdoor that the proposal would close 29th. Hopefully that was addressed, and neighbors understand that 29th will not be closed. The resolution is asking for a zoning change. Carol asked that everyone write to the City Council members and copy Spencer Gardner, City Planning Director, to support the proposal. First reading will be on September 25 and Final reading is scheduled for October 2. If approved by the Council, the proposal will be sent to the Plan Commission for review after which it will go back to the City Council for final action. Designating 29th a "Pedestrian Street" would make our district center safer for pedestrians and bicyclists and encourage business development that serves our neighborhood.

Carol told everyone that due to time constraints prior to the next meeting the executive board voted on 8/13/23 to ask the planning department for a pedestrian street designation on 29th. The executive board voted on 9/4/23 to ask city council for a resolution designating 29th a pedestrian street from Martin St to Fiske St.

There was a long discussion of designs to make streets safer and one attendee offered his services as a street design engineer to look at various options.

Carol Tomsic opened a discussion on street mural location and art. The process involves selecting a location, an artist from the list provided by the City and a design. Murals cannot be on arterials or bus routes. She asked that neighbors send her suggestions as to where we might want a street mural.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25. Next meeting, a Zoom meeting, will be held on October 17 @ 6 p.m.