

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council Meeting –draft minutes  
11/21/23  
6-7:30 pm  
Southside Community Center

## **Welcome**

Chair, Carol Tomsic, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Attendees introduced themselves.

## **Attendance**

Carol Tomsic, Shawn Terjeson, Richard Sola, Marilyn Lloyd, Margaret Rolla, Claire Beagle, Andrew Beagle, Doug Andersen, Greg Leland, Dale Damron, Hank Reimann, Marilyn Reimann, Jacob Cain, Sally Phillips, Ladonna Schuster, Ginny Ramos, Marcia Tunik, Angela Richardson, Paul Dillon, Giacobbe Byrd, Annie Deasy

## **Approve Minutes**

Marilyn Lloyd motioned for the July, August, September and October minutes to be approved. Shawn Terjeson seconded. There were no nays or abstains. Minutes were approved.

## **Spokane Police Department South Precinct Sargent Matt Rose**

Carol read Sargent Matt Rose’s email update.

Action Items Requested by Attendees at the last meeting: Traffic concerns near Chase Middle School after school. Myself and other officers have monitored this area on several occasions and did not observe any egregious violations while there. I did notice after school “chaos” at times (middle schoolers riding bikes, stepping out without looking, etc.) but the drivers in the area seemed to be very attentive and courteous. We will continue to monitor this area. Traffic concerns near Laura / Newark / Richard Allen Court. Officer Wilke took the lead on this and has monitored this area on several occasions. He has reported he did not observe any egregious violations while there. He also made sure to observe when a school bus drops off, again, nothing egregious. He did make a few traffic stops and educated driver’s regarding the reasons for the traffic stops. Thornton Murphy Park. I checked this area frequently, especially the wooded areas leading uphill to the north, and downhill near the water tank (infrastructure) and community center. I did not notice anything unusual, no encampments, and no abandoned RVs or cars in that area. Upper Lincoln Park. I did not notice anything unusual, and to my knowledge, no calls for service regarding nuisance activity. Traffic enforcement /Radar enforcement – Our traffic division has been contacted regarding future training and equipping our South Precinct patrol officers with new radar gear.

## **City Council Member Paul Dillon**

Paul introduced himself. He said he worked with former city council member John Snyder. He

was also a legislative aide for Senator Andy Billig. He said he worked with active transportation and streets designed for all users. Paul said he worked on the pilot photo red program. Paul also worked for Planned Parenthood and wants to protect healthcare. He was endorsed by Lori Kinnear. He is in favor of the regional homeless plan. Paul answered questions. He said the process for filling Betsy's council seat will open next month. He is hoping to work with someone who shares the values of the district, is a team player, collaborator, and finds common ground. He will start right after election certification and swearing-in. He supports complete streets and wants to strengthen complete streets. He'd like to see sidewalk audits and expand pedestrian safety. He said the traffic calming program should fund traffic calming projects. Annie clarified that the city's engineers did not have enough time to finish Cycle 10. Funding of traffic projects and complete streets were discussed.

### **Director, City Council Office, Giacobbe Byrd**

Giacobbe introduced himself. He said he is chief of staff and manages payroll and policy. He was Lori Kinnear's legislative assistant. Giacobbe said there was a broad consensus that the traffic calming fund will stay with the neighborhoods. He said Cycle 10 and Cycle 11 projects will be completed in 2024. He said if traffic officers are funded by traffic calming funds it would be for traffic enforcement. He said Chief Meidl had said there would be six full-time traffic officers by March. Giacobbe talked about the proposed city budget. He said the city council could make modifications to the mayor's budget. He said the buck stops with the city council. He said the city council voted in favor of funding HB 1590, a sales tax that funds affordable housing. He said he is hoping they find state or federal grants to offset the cost. Giacobbe answered questions. He said the timing of the election makes it hard for an incoming mayor to work on the budget. He said Mayor Lisa Brown would be in her office on Monday. He ended his presentation with a discussion on the city council's open forum.

### **South Hill Library Manager, Angela Richardson**

Angela said the ballot box was moved and there were less traffic issues and less ballots in the book return box. She said there was now a Chess Club that meets on the third Saturday of the month. The next meeting is 12/16/23 from 2:30 to 4:30 pm. She said there will be a book club on 1/13/24. The book will be Lincoln Highway. It can be checked out at the library and online. She said there will be library kiosks at Latah Valley and Gonzaga Family Haven. Angela answered questions. She said the vandalized kiosks were fixed. She said knitting groups and book clubs have their meetings in the library meeting rooms. The South Hill library will soon have an early learning specialist, more staff, and more programs for middle schoolers. She said Discover passes, museum passes, and tools are available to check out. She said the library does not have a problem with ban books, but someone has hidden such books in the library. Here is a link to the South Hill library - <https://stage.spokanelibrary.org/south-hill/>

### **29<sup>th</sup> Pedestrian Street Update and Talking Points**

Carol passed out a paper on the overview of the pedestrian street process. She talked about the Plan Commission Workshop on 12/13/23 and the Plan Commission Hearing likely to be held in

January 2024. She said there will be a city council hearing afterwards where the city council will make their final decision. She said it was important to comment during the entire process. She said to lean on facts, not opinions. She introduced Shawn Terjeson and Andrew Beagle. They worked on the talking points. Andrew presented slides (which included our logo) and said the city council passed the resolution for a pedestrian street designation to be added to the Plan Commission Work plan on 10/2/23. He said there were three opportunities for us to email comments; The Plan Commission workshop on 12/13/23, The Plan Commission Hearing in January, and the City Council Hearing. He said there were two opportunities for us to make public comments, the Plan Commission hearing in January and the City Council hearing. He said we could make easy comments, just a statement that you support the designation and if you are a resident to include that information. He said you could make thoughtful comments and let the council members know why you support an issue and choose talking points and make them your own. He said you can mix it up. Andrew spoke on the limitations of funding and the default of minimum standards. Shawn and Andrew answered questions. A road diet was discussed. A bike lane buffer was discussed. The infrastructure/traffic at the Garden District was discussed. Letter writing was discussed. Vision Zero (zero fatalities on streets) was discussed. Statistics on walking were discussed. A strategic way of making public comments was discussed. The individual comments would build on each other's comments. Kid involvement in the strategic comments was suggested. New standards and legal non-conforming properties were discussed. Ideas to solve the loss of revenue were discussed. Census data was discussed. Medium income levels were discussed. Students that walk were discussed. Vehicle ownership statistics were discussed. Speeders from Safeway to Perry Street were discussed. Six-inch curbs were discussed.

Here is a link to the talking points discussed at the meeting.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cJfJz9Z9tXvf2ceLPaJIPMBcKGBQ9Ik1IQxCcSyMzlw/edit?usp=sharing>

The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting is 12/19/2023 at 6 pm on Zoom.