

January 16, 2024 - Minutes Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council

The meeting was called to order by President Carol Tomsic via Zoom at 6 p.m.

Attendance

Members: Ginny Ramos, Sally Phillips, Carol Tomsic, Marilyn Lloyd, Carol Landa-McVicker, Karen Mobley, Clair Beagle, Andrew Beagle, Willian Bidowski, Theresa Bidowski, Jim Vandermeer, Joan Zimmer, Dale Damron, Diane Birginal, Marcia Milani, Chuck Milani, Hank Reimann, Marilyn Reimann, Virginia Henry, Shawn Terjeson, Jerry King

Guests: Renee Zimmerman, Shawn Jordan, Melanie Rose, Paul Chapin, Shelby Allison, Lt Kyle Kyrigollen, Rhian Wilkinson, Kelsey Soberg

Welcome

Because of frozen water pipes at the South Hill Center, the meeting was conducted virtually.

Approval of the minutes was deferred to the next in person meeting.

South Precinct Update - Sgt. Rhian Wilkinson

- A special bait-package team was able to arrest 9 package thieves.
- A traffic detail was active ticketing speeders at 14th and Ray. Additional specialty traffic units can be dispatched to write tickets if enough people report hot spots to 311. They need more people with radar lidar certification.
- With recent frigid weather the emphasis is on getting homeless people off the streets and into shelters.

City of Spokane - Ginny Ramos gave an update on the 29th Ave Pedestrian Street Designation process. The City Council will have a hearing and vote on this at their January 29th meeting. Testimony can be given both in person and virtually. Sign up on Webex on the City Council Meeting Page before 6 p.m. on the 29th to speak via the internet. The project may be declared an emergency so it can go into effect immediately if approved.

Avista Report

- Renee Zimmerman gave a presentation on programs offered by Avista for low-income households including weatherization and income based monthly discounts.
- Melanie Rose said the Avista website has information on solar energy including a calculator and list of installers. There is also a map that identifies outages. She also requested that homeowners who are medically dependent contact customer service and identify themselves so they can be helped during outages.

Spokane Public School Bond and Levy – Shawn Jordan and Dr. Adam Swinyard gave a presentation about the upcoming School Bond and replacement Levy measures. The election is on February 13th.

- SPS is the 3rd largest district in the state, with 5,037 employees. It is one of the

largest employers in Spokane and had a record on-time graduation rate of 94% in 2023.

- Bond = Buildings and is voted on every 6 years. Funds pay not only for updating and new facilities, but also for maintenance to extend the life of school buildings.
- Levy = Learning and a vote is held every three years. Levy funds provide 14% of the school budget and are needed to pay for student programs not fully funded by the State or Federal government. This includes counselors, nurses, librarians, support staff, sports, clubs, intramural and music groups. It also provides curriculum materials, facility services, safety & security and technology including student laptops.
- There will be open houses at the schools scheduled for upgrades including Adams Elementary and Chase Middle School.
- The power point included a chart demonstrating that the District is trying to stabilize the impact on tax rates.

Spokane Public Library – Paul Chapin gave a presentation on the upcoming Library replacement levy. This is the 3-year operational renewal levy that provides 18% of the library budget. He provided data showing that SPL had over 1.1 million visitors last year, 18,000 meetings and 43,000 cultural events. They also have a business lab to support small businesses.

Street Mural update – Shelby Allison gave an update on our Street Mural Project.

- Next step is to identify a location of the street mural. Several locations have been suggested.
 - 11th and Fiske
 - 30th and Fiske
 - 35th and Crestline
 - Myrtle and 30th
- Shelby will look at these locations and any others that the neighborhood identifies and make a recommendation to the LHNC.
- Once we submit an application, we will be paired with artists that have been approved. We will be able to select who we want.
- Once we are paired with an artist, it is about a 3-month process.

Designation of 29th as a Pedestrian Street – Carol Tomsic

- The planning commission voted 5-3 to recommend the City Council approve the designation. There was some interest that this should be city-wide. Council member Paul Dillon has urged that our project not be delayed.
- Carol urged continued letter writing to the City Council in support of the project and in person testimony at the City Council meeting on January 29th @ 6 p.m. Information on how to sign-in for virtual testimony will be provided. Carol suggested that the most effective testimony reflects personal experience, e.g. walking, cycling, dealing with traffic on 29th.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Next meeting will be a zoom meeting on at 6 p.m. on February 20th.