

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council Meeting – draft minutes

July 16, 2023

6-7:30 pm

Southside Community Center

Welcome

Attendance

Members – Carol Tomsic, Richard Sola, Diane Shuman, Shawn Terjeson, Sondra Bachmeyer, Brian Kennedy, Sally Phillips, Marilyn Lloyd, Claire Beagle, Marcia Millani, Chuck Millani, Marcia Tunik, Ruth May, Ginny Ramos, Andy Gordon, Gordon Fleming, Ginnie Henry, Kris Kreig

Guests – Doug Greenlund, Shelby Allison, Yelena Yunin, Cara Halldin, Will Rettig, Annie Deasy

Approve Minutes

Deferred to September meeting

Ginny Ramos – Legislative Assistant to Paul Dillon – City Council Update

Ginny said the Moratorium to pause development in Latah Valley for one year to manage wildfire risk and build a fire station passed. She said a gun safety resolution making it illegal to fire a gun in the city passed. It will have updates by city legal. She said all ARPA money has been allocated. She said the city is working on minimum parking requirements and there was still time to make a comment for or against.

Doug Greenlund – Water Quality Manager – Update on Ray Street Well

Doug introduced himself. He said PFAS are forever chemicals. He said they do not break down. They started being made in the 1930-40s. They are in no-stick cooking, stain resistant products, water-proof products, microwave popcorn packaging, and plumber tape. There are adverse health effects with the PFAS including cancer and development affects. There was no detection in 2019. The EPA came up with a more sensitive test and PFAS showed up in the Ray Street Well and Grace Well. The Ray Street Well is located at 5th/Perry and serves the South Hill. It is primarily used in the summer when residents are

watering their lawns. The largest PFAS found in the water in our area is the West Plains. Our city has provided water to the West Plains since 2017. New federal regulations say that public water systems have until 2029 to find solutions to reduce PFSA levels in the water. The city also joined litigation against PFAS companies for contamination of drinking water. The funds would be used to manage PFAS issues in our drinking water. The city takes 2000 samples of the water yearly. 180 samples monthly. The city also tests our water for organic and inorganic compounds. Doug answered questions. He said the source of the PFAS containment was not found. He said fire stations that use fire foam and landfills with carpets with stain resistant chemicals leeching are usually culprits. But none of those were found downstream from the well. He said the water in the Ray Street Well is diluted by other wells so levels of PFAS are below levels. He said the city will work on determining what to do to stay in compliance with the EPA rules. He said residents can find filters on the EPA website that will filter out PFAS. He said granulated activated charcoal works to filter PFAS. He said the CDC states PFAS can cause increased cholesterol levels, low antibodies to vaccines, low birth weight and cancer. He said the city is done looking for the source of the PFAS but will continue to find it. He said he was unsure about the possibility of the waste to energy plant releasing PFAS. He said the results of a city sample will be available in August. He said he will present at our September meeting on the results. He said the continuation of Ray Street Well assures that we do not lose water pressure in the summer months.

Cara Halldin – Update on Franklin Elementary School PTG and Apple Program Mural

Cara said the Spokane Art grant application was submitted in June. She said they will find out if the mural was funded in August. She said there are other opportunities for grants. She said they have reached out to residents. She shared the flyer. She said once the mural is funded, she will send out a request for the proposal, including a collaboration with a local artist and an art curriculum. The mural will be painted in the Spring of 2025. Cara also said they are still looking for someone with a power washer to clean the shelter structure in Lower Lincoln Park. She noted there is no water or power near the structure.

Jim Frank – Developer of the Garden District PUD – Replacing allée of trees on property

Jim was not present. It was noted that the allée of trees were required to be preserved by the city. It was noted that the trees on the west side had been improperly pruned. It was said the allée of trees should be preserved as the city required. Carol advised those present to take a walk on the path of the allée of trees and let her know their thoughts. Jim will be asked to attend an upcoming meeting.

Shelby Allison – Manager of Asphalt Art Program and Yelena Yunin – Mural Artist

Shelby introduced Yelena Yunin. Yelena said she was born in Ukraine and moved here when she was 13 years old. She started art school when she was 9 years old. She was excited to work on our mural. Yelena was at our meeting to collect ideas on our mural. Carol mentioned our council was eager to be involved in the painting of the mural. Both Yelena and Shelby agreed. It was noted that our neighborhood is into

bicycle greenways. We want safe pedestrian and bicycle lanes and traffic to slow down. We want the history of our neighborhood in the mural. Froggy pond was mentioned. The camas in Lincoln Park was mentioned. It was stated it was an indigenous flower. It was stated 11th/Fiske was an entrance to the Ben Burr trail and it connects to many bicycle trails. It was stated we want the mural to represent the Lincoln Heights neighborhood. Ponderosa pines were mentioned. Yelena was given a copy of our logo and our brochure. The quail in our logo was mentioned. The Ukraine residents near a proposed site for a mural were mentioned and their representation in the mural was suggested. The prospect of having tire marks on the mural was discussed. Yelena will be at our August meeting to present her ideas.

Will Rettig – Water Efficiency Specialist – Update Outdoor Watering Schedule and Water Wise Program

Will introduced himself. He said he does residential audit outreach and recognized names of residents he has helped. He said the city is slowly making progress in reducing water consumption. He said national gallons per capita per day (gpcd) nationally was 100. Spokane was 200. Arizona was 147. He showed us a chart of our neighborhood water usage from 2021 to 2024. He said water base in 2021 - 616 MG (million gallons), 2022 - 637 MG, 2023 - 692 MG, and 2024 - 674 MG. He said Summer Peak 2021 – 3.9 BG (billion gallons), 2022 – 3.4 BG, and 2023 3.3 BG. He said 2020 and 2023 were similar. Will said we are in a drought and need to follow the drought watering schedule. No outdoor watering between 10 am to 6pm. Limit watering to no more than two days per week. No more than a total of two hours of watering per day. No using water to clean sidewalks, driveways, decks, and patios. He said Mondays are not on the schedule because of a necessary recharge to the system. He talked about Spokanescape. He said the program helped a resident use less water and his grass was greener. He said there is a designer that will consult for one-hour free of charge. She is booked out until September. He said there is a workshop on every third Wednesdays at the WSU extension on Havana, near the Avista Stadium. You need to register online, and it is free. It helps residents with landscaping, plant choice, fire-wise, and pest control. Will answered questions. He said anyone can contact him with questions. wrettig@spokanecity.org. Golf course water usage was discussed. A leak in a pond at Cannon Hill Park was discussed. Will said he will share more neighborhood data with us. A car wash at Rockwood Retirement affected stormwater was discussed.

Annie Deasy – Liaison to Office of Neighborhood Services

Annie introduced herself. She is our liaison to the Office of Neighborhood Services. She said the signs in the Mobile Speed Feedback program are being placed around the city. She said the director of the Office of Neighborhood Services, Patrick Striker resigned and Dawn Kinder will be her lead contact. She said the new police chief is Kevin Hall. Annie answered questions. She will ask for more enforcement and longer time for the placement of the signs. She said one month placement vs two weeks placement will offer more propensity to change drivers' behavior. The new pilot program for adaptive design was discussed to help the traffic issues at Southeast Blvd/25th. It was stated vandalism is still a problem with the radar speed signs. The new signs are theft-proof and have a self-storing box. The benefits of a USB drive were discussed.

The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting is 8/20/24 at 6 pm on Zoom