

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council – draft minutes

August 20, 2023

6-7:30 pm

Zoom

Welcome

Attendance

Members – Marilyn Lloyd, Sally Phillips, Kaylen iPhone, Jim Vandermeer, Ginnie Henry, Carol Tomsic, Shawn Terjeson, Hadley Morrow, Patti Smith, Diane Sherman, Richard Sola, Marcia Milani, Chuck Milani, Douglas Anderson, William Bidowski, Theresa Bidowski, Ginny Ramos, Heidi Bollum, Matilda Simpson, Rick Dullanty, Mikie Stuebe

Guests- Arielle Anderson, Yelena Yunan, Shelby Allison, Jim Frank, Tim Fennessey, Andrew Van Winkle

Approve minutes

Deferred to next regularly scheduled meeting

Arielle Anderson – Director of Community, Housing and Human Services – Scattered Shelters

Arielle introduced herself. She was raised in the city and graduated from North Central High School. She said the city presently uses congregate shelters such as the House of Charity and the Trent Resource and Assistance Center (TRAC). She said TRAC is too much. It has 100 plus people. Scattered shelters will be less, no more than 30 people. She said there was a shelter audit that solicited feedback from people with lived experience, community providers that said the city needs a leverage partnership. COVID had stopped the collaboration. Smaller scattered shelters were recommended. She said the downtown core has most of the homeless shelters due to the virtue of transportation. She said community centers and churches could be leveraged as seen during the pandemic as they were willing to step up and assist. She said the scattered shelters would be like group homes, long term care and hospice. She said there would be whole region participation. Arielle said the homeless would be vetted by a navigation center run by Empire Health Services. It would be the first point of entry. It would have limited bed space, less than 30 beds or 30 beds. Individuals will be referred to appropriate longer stay placement options. The smaller scattered shelter will address specific needs and strengths. She said every population has different needs such as youth/young adults. It would be unsafe for youth to access adult shelters. She said sobriety will

also be taken into consideration as those trying to get sober should not be in a low-barrier shelter with those still drinking. She said the city will not be the provider of the scattered site shelter. The scattered sites will have a contract with the city. The operator will put the money up front and take the risk. It will increase the frequency of payments for providers. Gives providers the ability to manage risk in a more innovative manner. Provides a neutral convener and facilitator. There will be rules and expectations and accountability. The shelters will keep track of those entering and exiting out. Scattered shelters will focus on stabilization services and placement in longer stay housing intervention within 30-45 days. In the Model Implementation Timeline, the contract start date will be August, the navigation center open Sept/Oct, Scattered Site Shelters will be Sept/Oct, and Monitoring and Reporting will be ongoing. Arielle answered questions. She said transitional housing will be like adult living facilities. She said there will be open communication with the community and neighborhood councils. She said there will be about 5-6 shelters. She said residents in the scattered shelters will be referred from the navigation center. She said we could envision older homes being converted. She said there were places where scattered shelters worked. She said downtown is not a reflection of the entire homeless population. She said the number of residents in a scattered shelter would have to meet city codes. She said money does not exist to help all the homeless. It is high demand and resource scarce. She said TRAC will be decommissioned. The city will identify the highest need and a pathway to housing. She said gaps in the system will be identified. She said Jewel's Helping Hand is already using the scattered sites model in two churches with 30 people at each site with funds from the city. She said there is a difference between homelessness and drug addiction. They are very different problems. She said the homeless should be welcomed back into the community.

Yelena Yunin and Shelby Allison – Street Mural Art

Yelena presented her proposed mural art. The attendees liked the one with a quail and flowers, children on bicycles and flying a kite, and the one with butterflies. Lilacs and a trolley reference were suggested. It was suggested the mural should be in the middle of the intersection and not on the side. Shelby said the mural could be installed by October but after a discussion, including the mural having a two-year lifespan and snowplows being detrimental to the paint, it was decided to wait until Spring to install the mural so it would last longer. Shelby said usually after two years the mural would be power washed and removed. She also said the mural contract would be renewed. Yelena will present the murals with the suggestions at our September meeting.

Andrew Van Winkle – Superior Court Candidate

Andrew introduced himself. He was born and raised in Spokane and graduated from Shadle High School. He is a senior staff attorney for the Court of Appeals. He said it was hard to get people to vote. There was a 12 percent undervote on the candidacy at the primary. He said the Superior Court is behind the times and needed three more judges. It takes too long to get docketed to get into the court. He said paper is still used and it should be digital.

Judge Tim Fennessey – Superior Court Candidate

Tim introduced himself. He is the incumbent judge. He was elected in 2016 and reelected in 2020. He has 33 years of experience. He said funding is a problem. He said instead of two there are now three family law lawyers. He responded to a question saying technology is different within each branch, so paper is used but he is not resistant to technology.

Jim Frank – Developer of Garden District PUD – Proposed Replacement of the Allée of Trees

Jim said there was a survey error, instead of the trunk of a tree being surveyed, the edge of the tree was surveyed. He said the trees are also outside the right of way on the property by 60 feet. He said some of the trees are damaged. He said the trees are in poor condition because the trees were never watered or trimmed, and they have insect infestation. Jim said he wants to remove and replace the allée of trees. He also wants the replacement trees to be 25-30 feet apart. He said he emailed Carol his plan. Carol said she was unable to share the plan on Zoom but will share the plan in her next email. Jim said planting the trees closer together will make it a pedestrian pathway. He said he wanted to plant maple trees for the shade. He cited Kendall Yards as an example. He said the allée of trees were planted on the property by Dr Sonneland in 1975. Jim answered questions. It was stated that the preservation of the trees was assured during the permitting process and there were 6-7 healthy trees on the northwest side. It was stated that trees planted on the south side of the PUD on Crestline had roots already exposed. It was mentioned that the city had said the allée of trees could still be preserved. Jim said the allée of trees were too close to the new development. He also said the trees were not on city property. He agreed there was a possibility for 2-3 of the existing trees, in the best condition, to be saved. Jim said he wanted to plant new trees to have the least impact on growth. He said planting the new trees too close to the existing trees could adversely affect the roots of the trees. Jim said the timeline would be to order/select the trees and most likely plant the trees in early Spring. He said the trail will be paved in the open space with native grasses by then. Having taller trees planted rather than waiting for the trees to grow fast was suggested. Jim's good work in the PUD was cited. Jim said the city used the site as a dumping ground for the Mt St Helen's ash which hinders work. The ash is 6-7 feet deep. Jim said 32nd to 30th to Stone and 31st to Stone and SE Blvd, and 30th to Stone to Martin will be paved by the first of November. All will have sidewalks and planting with trees. He said there will be some grading. It was asked if Crestline to 37th would be paved. Carol said it was added to the city's street repair list. Jim said he was willing to talk to Inga Note with Carol about a safe crosswalk from the Garden District PUD to the STA Park and Ride. A solar power pedestrian light was discussed. A crosswalk at Martin and 29th was also discussed.

The meeting was adjourned

The next meeting is 9/17/24 at 6 pm in-person.