

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council Meeting – draft minutes

October 15, 2024

6-7:30 pm

Zoom

Welcome

Three speakers on three subjects that affect our neighborhood. In addition, city council updates.

We still have disposal passes available that expire 10/31/24

Attendance

Members - Theresa Bidowski, William Bidowski, Ginnie Henry, Jim Vandermeer, Ruth May, Trenton Miller, Marcia Milani, Chuck Milani, Sally Phillips, Marilyn Lloyd, Carol Tomsic, Shawn Terjeson, Chris, Joan Zimmer, Marilyn Reimann, Hank Reimann

Guests - Amber Ramirez, Katie Kosanke, Lili Navarrete, Andres Grageda, Paul Dillon,

Approve Minutes

Deferred to November meeting

City Council Member Lili Navarrete – City Council Update

Lili introduced herself. She said the ordinance that required residents to register their rental passed city council with a 5-2 vote. She said the council reallocated ARPA money and funded a HVAC for fire station 1 and a memory garden. Lili answered questions.

I want to clarify some information I shared yesterday, after double checking with our Policy Adviser and CM Dillon. anyone who is a landlord will need to register, this includes if a person is renting a room, part of their basement, or upstairs – Lili Navarrete.

Doug Greenlund, Water Quality Manager – Update on PFSA in Ray Street Well

Deferred to November meeting. Doug had difficulties signing on to the Zoom meeting.

Amber Ramirez and Katie Kosanke – Tree Equity Spokane

Amber Ramirez introduced herself as an Urban Forester. She works on the Tree Equity Spokane Program. The city received a \$6 million grant from the US Department of Agriculture to plant and care for trees in the city that have the most need, to replace trees that have been removed, to create a more equitable canopy coverage, and provide community forestry education. She said it will help the city remove dead trees and prune trees. Amber said free trees are available through Spo-Canopy The Lands Council. She said starting this month, each year, 250 trees will be planted with the program. She said there are 433 trees in the city that are dead or in poor condition. She said 2500 trees will be planted throughout the span of the program. She said there is one dead tree in our neighborhood that will be replaced with the program, and she will get back to us with the site. She said the city wants 30 percent tree coverage by 2030 and this

program will help achieve that goal. Maintenance of the trees will be included. She said new development requirements of trees will not be covered with the program. Qualified arborists will be required, and visits will be made to the sites to make sure there is room for the trees and the planted trees will be watered. Amber was joined by Katie Kosanke, another Urban Forester. They answered questions. A dead tree on Southeast Blvd was discussed. An improvement to the requirements for planted trees in developments was discussed. A pilot program with Parks was discussed. Trees hit by cars and reimbursement for their loss was discussed. Trees uplifting the sidewalk on Cook Street was discussed. Katie said they will be careful planting the correct tree in the public right of way. The website for the grant is <http://www.spokaneparks.org/TreeEquity> Trees can be requested here <https://landscouncil.org/spocanopy> Trees on private property can be requested here <https://spokanecd.org/pages/coolcanopy> Amber said you can contact her with any questions. Here is her email address aramirez@spokanecity.org

Also, to follow up – the one removal in your neighborhood is actually a small tree (a dead purple-leaf plum tree) at 1808 E 17th Av. We will be sending letters to notify homeowners prior to removals (likely a couple months+ out) – Katie Kosanke.

Trenton Miller – A discussion on Initiative 2117

Trenton introduced himself. He is a member of our council. He wanted to discuss the impactful and worthy of discussion initiatives on the statewide ballot. He said all four initiatives on the ballot were put on the ballot by the same organization. He said Initiative 2117 would repeal a climate commitment act and ban any cap and trade. He said companies like Chevron, Puget Sound, and Avista purchase credits to over caps and those credits are reinvested into projects across the state. He said the money is used in the state's transportation budget, rapid buses like the ones to be used on Division Street, bicycle safety, and charging stations. He said we should focus on fixing and improving our climate rather than bans. He said we should be concerned because there were 70-degree days in October and Hurricanes. He said companies should pay for their pollution and the money should be reinvested to us. Trent discussed the other three initiatives and answered questions. He said a tax on the wealthy would be 40 people in the city. He said opting out of the long-term care initiative would affect people who don't make enough to survive. He shared the links to four informational sites.

<https://rangemedia.co/initiative-2117-cap-and-trade-ballot-measure-carbon-neutral/>

<https://rangemedia.co/initiative-2066-fossil-gas/>

<https://rangemedia.co/initiative-2124-washington-ballot-long-term-cares-act/>

<https://www.inlander.com/news/initiative-2109-asks-washington-voters-whether-theyd-like-to-repeal-the-capital-gains-tax-that-affects-the-states-richest-citizens-28710416>

Council Member Paul Dillon – City Council Update

Paul introduced himself. He said the Community Safety Proposition is on the ballot. He said

residents would pay \$1 for every \$1000 spent. It was a community safety fund and will sunset in ten years. It will be used to fund police, fire, ombuds, and the municipal court. He said the city is still in a budget crunch. It was forecast to be \$25 million in 2025 but is down to \$7.9 million. He said the new Transportation Commission applications are in que. He said he has heard about the concerns of a proposed development on Mt Vernon being too close to Lincoln Park. He is working on a Greenspace Conservation Ordinance. He said the new rental registry will help landlords and tenants. He said the city is talking about homelessness and he is advocating for more resources for extreme weather. He the TRAC shelter will be decommissioned. He said the shelter will be down to 75 residents by this week. He said a scattered shelter will be located at the Liberty Park Methodist Church in the Perry District. It will have a capacity of 20 residents. He said there was outreach, and this proves it can be done. He said the city council will be revisiting the public sitting down ordinance.

An update was given on the vacant lot on 29th/Regal. The estate of Harlan Douglass is suing the city of Spokane saying the emergency adoption of the 29th Street Pedestrian Designation did not comply with the Growth Management Act. The hearing is scheduled to start 11/19/24.

A police update was received via email from Sgt Art Dollard. I'm sorry I am unable to join the zoom meeting possibly due to the security software on my laptop. I did not have anything significant to report other than Violent Crime there was a 50% reduction but Property Crime was up 22%. The spike was predominantly in shoplifting and misd thefts along the 29th Ave corridor. If anyone has areas or problems that need attention, please forward that to me and I will disseminate it to our patrol teams.
adollard@spokanepolice.org

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 pm

The next meeting will be in-person on 11/19/24