

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes - November 19, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Carol Tomsic, Chair. at 6 p.m. at the Southside Center.

Attendees:

Members – Nancy Harnetiaux, Marilyn Reimann, Henry Reimann, Marcia Tunik, Brian Kennedy, James Pearson, Shawn Terjeson, Dale Damon, Sheryl Damon, Jamie Bartlett, Ruth May, Jim May, Danny Pearson, Rick Dullanty, Carol Tomsic, Carol Landa-McVicker

Guests – Pattie Dennie, Angela Richardson, Kelsey Solberg, Annie Deasy, Doug Greenlund

Introductions: Attendees introduced themselves

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made (Shawn) and seconded (Marilyn) to approve the minutes from September and October. The minutes were approved with one abstention from someone who had not attended those meetings.

Speakers:

Sgt. Rhian Wilkerson – South Precinct Update Sgt. Wilkerson distributed and reviewed a handout that provided data on Crime Trends in our neighborhood.

- He indicated that most calls received come from the area of 29th and Regal which is our retail center and has numerous multi-unit apartments.
- He cautioned that there is a current Fraud scheme in Spokane where caller posing as a deputy tells the person answering the phone call that they failed to show up for jury duty and must bring \$1000 cash to the courthouse or face arrest. The perpetrator would then ask to meet the individual in a parking lot to receive the cash. This is a scam. He asked that anyone receiving these calls report them to Crime Check. They cannot investigate until the amount of money is over \$10,000.
- He reported that there is a homeless team that will respond to reported homeless encampments to issue citations as necessary, help to clean up the area, and provide transportation to shelters for those impacted. He said there have been no reports of encampments in our neighborhood. Encampments should be reported to 311.

Doug Greenlund – Water Update

- Doug Greenlund reported that ongoing testing of the Ray Street well shows PFAS and other contaminants are very low level and there is no risk to our drinking water.

Angela Richardson – Library Update

- Angela reported that the Library District is awaiting their budget report from the City, but does not anticipate any reduction in hours or services. They have implemented some cost

saving measures such as not filling some vacant positions, cuts in materials, and drawing down reserves.

- She listed a number of programs including hosting tours of 1st graders who ride the city bus and visit e.g. Libraries and Fire Stations, Open Studio at the Hive, and Dec. 7 Nordic Festival at the Shadle Library. Other events can be found on their website.

Kelsey Solberg – Avista

- Kelsey distributed and reviewed a packet of materials that included information on many energy saving programs offered by Avista.
 - How to register for power outage assistance if a household member uses medical equipment that requires electricity.
 - How to register for a free home energy audit which may lead to free energy-saving home upgrades for low income customers.
 - Determining whether solar is a good option.
 - Proactive measures to combat evolving wildfire risk.
 - Rebates for installing energy saving appliances and various home upgrades.
 - How to use Avista’s free Energy Manager tool.
 - How qualifying customers can apply for “My Energy Discounts”.

Annie Deasey – Office of Neighborhood Services Update

- Annie reviewed items in the monthly Neighborhood Newsletter. This is available on their website and interested parties can sign up to receive it via email.
- She talked about Asphalt Art Crosswalk art.
- She urged interested individuals to sign up for the upcoming free 5 week Neighborhood Leadership Academy.
- Information was reported about the Public Safety Mobile trailers that indicate how fast motorists are going.

Paul Dillon – City Council Update

- The Mayor has presented a balanced budget to the City Council, which will be reviewed and voted upon on December 8.
- The levy that was just passed by voters will provide for an increase in code enforcement including clean-up of streets and encampments. It will also provide for neighborhood resource officers, two in each district, Fire capital replacement, and the Police Ombudsman.
- The City is looking at providing more traffic cameras near schools and parks and also along Division which is a state highway.
- He explained that the contract for COPS expires in December and the City is issuing an RFP to continue services. COPS can apply.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carol Landa-McVicker, Secretary