

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council - Minutes 9-16-25

Attendance

Members - Joan Zimmer, Kate Telis, Mark Killian, Mark Simonds, Claudia Craven, Sheryl Damon, Dale Damon, Katie Hagara, Danie Zapotocky, Ruth May, Erin C, Marcia Tunik, Chuck Milani, Marcia Milani, Dave Roberts, Lina Roncancio, Marilyn Reimann, Hank Reimann, Murial McBride, Craig Zurcky, Tessa Giese, Maureen Leonard, Carol Tomsic, Shawn Terjeson, Diane Shuman, Richard Sola, Harlan Shellabarger, Ginnie Henry, Tim Bourne, Darylann Craddock, Kerri Rodkey, Miki Steube, Doug Andersen

Guests - Mayor Lisa Brown, Brian Royer, Erin Hut, Jake Jensen, Alejandro Barrientos, Paul Dillon, Gabby Ryan, Sharon Smith, Shannon Meagher

Prior to the meeting, Chairperson Carol Tomsic announced that she had sent a letter to the City Council supporting a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon and Pedestrian Improvements on Ray street as part of the Safe Streets for All project Selection Process.

Carol Tomsic called the meeting to order at 6pm.

Carol said there are Dump Passes available, contact her if you would like one.

Carol shared the Lincoln Park Mural thank you card and the Mural Coloring Book.

The May, June, July and August minutes were approved. Hank Reimann and Chuck Milani motioned.

Mayor Brown's Report

- There have been many City budget cuts. Sales tax collection is down, there will be more cuts in the future.

- For the many homelessness issues the City is trying everything all at once.
 - H.O.M.E. Starts Here The H.O.M.E. Starts Here Initiative creates a unified strategy for the City of Spokane to meaningfully address the complex factors that contribute to housing instability and homelessness. To learn more go here: <https://my.spokanecity.org/endinghomelessness/home-starts-here/>
 - One working solution is the non-profit Dignified Work Day. A homeless person can walk in and go to work that day. If they miss the next day, they can come in again and go to work. Learn more at the Web Site: <https://www.dignifiedworkday.org/>
- The Mayor promoted Together Spokane, the Nov. 4, 2025, ballot initiatives by the Spokane School District and Spokane Parks Department to share resources to give Taxpayer more services. Learn more: <https://www.togetherspokane.org/>
- **The Together Spokane South Region Town Hall** is on Tuesday, Oct. 7, 6-7 p.m. at the Ferris High School Commons, 3020 E. 37th Ave.
- In response to a question, the Mayor said that the Parks and Schools are looking for ways that Citizens can help promote the initiatives.

VERY IMPORTANT The United States Post Office will not guarantee that Ballots sent on Election Day will be Postmarked that day. To be valid, ballots must be postmarked by Nov. 4th. Mail you Ballot BEFORE Nov. 4th for your vote to be counted. You can also drop your ballot off at any Public Library Ballot Collection Box .

Jake Jenson, Captain of the Spokane South Precinct

The south precinct is everything south of the river exclusive of downtown. It stretches from Cuba Street in the east to the West Hills. On any given shift there are 12 officers to cover this area.

Traffic Enforcement has 4 officers who frequently patrol on motorcycles.

When they patrol an arterial, driver behaviors improve for a week afterwards. The officers rotate through neighborhoods. This program is paid for by the sales tax we voted for. The one-tenth of one percent sales tax costs \$1 for every \$1,000 residents and visitors spend in the City, with several necessities like food, prescription drugs, and rent exempted.

Carol said that she saw the officers stopping drivers on Ray Street.

City Council Representative Paul Dillon

- The Council has renamed our Spokane emergency call center, *Spokane United 911*.
- The Council is forming a new initiative to relax some rules for Daycare and Pre-School centers. Some rules have been on the books beyond their usefulness.
- The 1590 Affordable Housing Funds, are paid by a sales tax that cost us @ \$25 per family per year.
 - %70 of the funds go to Housing, 30% to Services
 - Information:
<https://static.spokanecity.org/documents/citycouncil/interest-items/2020/10/1590-infographic-2020-11-04.pdf>
- Spokane City Council to Consider Day Change of Legislative Sessions. Paul says they are awaiting Citizen input.
 - For our and other Councils, Monday or Wednesday works best.
 - Link for feedback, look down the page for the Survey link: ○
<https://my.spokanecity.org/news/releases/2025/09/09/spokane-city-council-to-consider-day-change-of-legislative-sessions/> ●

Traffic Calming

- **The E 29th Ave Road Diet and the E 27th Ave Designated Bike Path project projects are on track for 2027?**
- There are rumors of a possible gas station being placed at E 29th Ave and S Regal St, Paul suggested that we are already getting 2 new gas stations in Lincoln Heights. The council should keep watch.

Alejandro Barrientos - Spokane City Council Candidate for District 2

Alejandro Barrientos spoke about his campaign, his platform is

- Public Safety
- Action for the Homeless
- Affordable Housing
- His website: <https://www.votealejandrobarrientos.com/>

Bethany Presbyterian Church Rebuild on S Ray Street

On January 2nd, 2022 a fire broke out at the Bethany Presbyterian Church at 2607 S. Ray St. The Congregation has decided to rebuild the building with a public space / Sanctuary and 22 units of affordable housing. Representatives of the congregation, a representative of the non-profit management team and a representative of the construction firm spoke to the Council.

- 11 apartments of various sizes for currently housed, formally homeless immigrant families who have good records at their current homes.
- 11 apartments of various sizes for workforce housing, working people with families who are not paid enough to afford market housing rents.
- All applicants for housing will go through a stringent screening process.
- The apartments are designed to be very durable.
- There is lots of parking.
- The construction will begin with the demolition sometime this year.
- The Applications for Housing will open a short time before the building is completed.
- The congregation seems sincere in their desire to fit this project into Lincoln Heights.
- The Council Chairperson suggested they sign a Good Neighbor Agreement.
- City 1590 Affordable Housing funds have been allocated for this project.
- The building management team hopes this project will remain affordable for 50 years.

- Project website: <https://bethanyspokane.org/re-building.html>

Gabby Ryan, Office of Neighborhood Services

The 2026 Spokane Neighborhood Leadership Academy application opens on 10/25/25. You can develop essential leadership skills and become familiar with municipal structures and processes. She said Shawn Terjeson was a cohort of last year's program and Carol Tomsic was a mentor. For more information and to apply go to Gonzaga.edu/SNLA.

The Spokane Neighborhood Summit is Saturday, 10/25/25 at Gonzaga. It is free but there are limited spaces. It is a leadership conference for current or aspiring members of a Neighborhood Council.

The City Council is considering rescheduling its Monday night meeting. She asked everyone to take a survey and let the council know your thoughts.

The Community Assembly awards are open again. You can nominate any one in the neighborhood who makes our neighborhood or the city a better place to live.

She reminded us that our Together Spokane Town Hall Presentation is Tuesday, 10/7/25 at 6-7 pm at the Ferris High School Auditorium.

Reach out for more information on these programs!