

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council
Extra Zoom Meeting
October 21, 2025, Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Carol Tomsic at 6 p.m. via Zoom.

Attendance:

Members: Carol Tomsic, Sally Phillips, Marilyn Lloyd, Gordon Fleming, Carol Landa-McVicker, Daniel Zapotocky, Marcia Milani, Chuck Milani, Joan Zimmer, Marilyn Reimann, Hank Reimann, Bill Bidowski, Theresa Gidowski, Ginny Henry, Kate Telis, Maja, Shawn Terjerson, Diane, Ginny, Jim Vandermeer, Jerry King,

Guests: Micah Prim, Garrett Jones, Katie Dosanke, Lynden Smithson, Fianna Dickson, Shelby Lambdin, Jeff Lambert

Katie Kosanke, Urban Forester, was introduced and gave a presentation on Pine Bark Beetle Management. The goal of this program is to remove infected trees and keep trees healthy. At this point, they can only manage trees on public property, including parks, golf courses and street right of ways. Neighbors, however, can call 311 or Urban Forestry 509 363-5495, to report dying and infected trees on private property. They will follow up with educational information to the property owners.

Powerpoint: see attached

Jeff Lambert, Spokane Urban Nature (SUN), was introduced and reported on the successful Nature Day, Great Invasive Week Pluck, Neighborhood Day that was held in Lincoln Park on June 7, 2025. Jeff said the SUN is looking to incorporate as a non-profit and take their advocacy City Wide. Shawn Terjerson from the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council helped to organize the event and is looking for financial and volunteer support for next year's event.

Shelby Lambdin, City Council, gave a Council update including:

- Update of Homeless Ordinance addressing camping and obstruction, especially downtown.
- Funding Safe Streets for All which includes our request for Ray Street. This now goes to the Transportation committee for planning.
- Budget – The City is facing another deficit, and hard decisions will have to be made to balance the budget. She advised us to watch for updates.

Councilwoman Lambdin, who was appointed to fill a vacancy, will be leaving the board following the November election. Carol T. thanked her for serving and for attending our meetings.

Micah Prim, Resource Officer, gave an update of crime and prevention in our neighborhood. He said there has been an uptick of prowling and theft, especially near 27th Ave. and advised neighbors to lock their cars and not leave valuable in them. He will send a report of crime stats to Carol Tomsic for distribution.

Crime stats – see attached

Garrett Jones, Director of Parks and Recreation, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the upcoming Together Spokane ballot issues which include a bond request for Spokane Public Schools and a levy request for City Parks. Fianna Dickson, Communications Director for Parks and Recreation, was also available to answer questions. Garrett emphasized that the plans were based on getting broad public input after the last school bond failed. The message they received from the public was that they want investment in our neighborhood schools and parks. The plan, if approved by voters, will not only invest in school construction, but also increase safety and use of parks and school property year around.

In response to questions about the cost of the measures, Fianna posted that:

If the Park levy is approved, the total amount you would pay in property taxes to the city would be \$2.59 for every \$1000 of your property's assessed value (including 27-cents per \$1000 to Parks). The \$2.59 includes services like public safety, fire, libraries and street maintenance. If the parks levy fails, your city tax rate would remain \$2.32 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

The total increase is 27 cents for parks and 2 cents for schools per thousand of property value.

In addition to the tax increase, if passed, \$11 million has been pledged by private organizations. The plan includes

- Replacement of Adams Elementary School which would also become headquarters for a Boys and Girls Club
- Full renovation of Grant Park and renovation and/or replacement of all restrooms
- Upgrade and replacement of playgrounds
- Addition of 8 park rangers bringing total to 12 to patrol parks
- Expansion of Ferris High School outdoor facilities to allow for evening and off-season use and increase the City's ability to host more tournaments. This would save families money they now spend out of town travel. He noted that SYSA will abandon the \$5 million Glenrose sports facility and invest instead in the upgrade to the Ferris HS Sports Complex.
- A four-year tech high school at SCC and renovation of their indoor aquatics facility which is currently closed. In addition, the Spokane Public Schools would initiate a swimming lesson program for second grade students, facilitated by Parks.

The website, togetherspokne.org, provides more information including a link for your address to the assessor's website that allows property owners to figure the Impact on their property taxes.

Powerpoint – see attached

Lynden Smithson, Candidate for Municipal Court Judge, Position #2, was introduced and gave a brief presentation on why he is running for this office. Carol noted that his opponent, Judge Mary Logan, presented at the September LHNC meeting.

Next meeting will be held at the Southside Community Center on November 18 at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Landa-McVicker, Secretary