

EMERSON-GARFIELD NEIGHBORHOOD STEERING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 11th, 2017

It has been the tradition with the Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood Committee to take January off in order to recover from the hectic holiday season and enjoy the month in a state of mellow contentedness. However, it was argued last month that the city does not take the month off and therefore, neither should we. This is the perennial argument made every year by Jay Cousins and the rest of the voting members usually sheepishly agree...as they did this year.

And so, the January meeting of the E-G got under way shortly after 6PM in the northeastern section of Upper South. The southern section was unavailable with the construction of the new elevator going on.

After introductions were made, a quorum was easily established by its rugged good looks and the minutes from the December meeting were approved as written.

Co-Chair Tim Musser deftly moved the meeting along with the introduction of our first speaker, Jeff Benefield of the Spokane Public Liberry. This is a place that apparently has a great number of books just sitting around on shelves and they are available to anyone with a Liberry card. We all became suspicious of this information and suspected it must be very difficult to obtain one of these cards. Perhaps they were only available to an elite group of people like the One Percenters or Methodists.

But Mr. Benefield assured the group the cards were available to any citizen with a picture I.D. To add to this craziness, cards are even available to children with their parents permission.

Mr. Benefield went on to say they have audio books, maps, and even a telescope available for check out. You can find out more about all the wonderful things and services they offer at www.spokaneliberry.org. (I am now told the actual spelling is l-i-b-r-a-r-y. I always confuse this with Strawbrary.) spokanelibrary.org

Next up for a little chat was Patrick Striker, Executive Director of C.O.P.S. for the city. He informed us that the C.O.P.S. North Central location was closing due to the sale of the building and they are looking for a new home. If anyone knows of a suitable location, contact Patrick at www.spokanecops.org or call 625-3300.

Mr. Striker also indicated the need for volunteers. Use the same contact information above if you are interested in volunteering with C.O.P.S.

The office of Neighborhood Services will be offering a neighborhood wide training session on Traffic Calming issues on Thursday, January 19th from 5:30 to 7:30 at the West Central Community Center.

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Charlie Kline, our liaison with Neighborhood Services reported that there are lots of staffing issues going on in the office and things will be in transition for a bit...including Charlie, who has taken a new job in Seattle.

REPORTS

Building Stronger Neighborhoods meets at Noon on the fourth Monday of every month at Vessel Coffee, 2823 N. Monroe. They have met with the reforming N. Monroe Business group and are working on a list of F.A.Q.'s (Frequently Attending Quorums) to get out to the community concerning North Monroe Redevelopment. There is a growing opposition to the project among business owners and a lot of the information they are putting out there is just plain wrong.

Community Assembly: Remember at the start of these minutes where it was explained why, when we normally take January off, we ended up having a meeting in January? I don't want to name names like I did in that first paragraph which you can refer to above, but it seems our representative to the Community Assembly took, for whatever reason, the night off from attending our meeting. Fortunately, Tom Powell was able to attend the CA meeting and told us they are working on their upcoming Retreat.

Land Use Committee: Barb Biles reported that it is time for a new round of officers on this committee and they are talking about In-Fill Housing.

There was little or nothing to report on for the Corbin Senior Center, the Pedestrian, Traffic and Transportation Committee, or the West Quadrant TIF.

Tom Powell let everyone know that he heard word of some sort of meeting taking place on January 26th at Knox Presbyterian Church concerning the North Monroe Revitalization Project. It turns out the city is sponsoring an open house on that date from 4 to 8. They will be dishing out all the information on the project so encourage everyone you know and even people you don't to attend the open house and get the latest and correctest info on the project.

The Community Assembly will be having a workshop on how to apply for funding through the C.A. As of this point, dates are pending. No applications will be accepted by the C.A. until after the workshop.

The next meeting for Emerson-Garfield will be Wednesday, February 8th at 6PM somewhere in the Corbin Senior Center. Just walk around until you find a group of friendly people. That will be us! Jay Cousins will be required to attend, even if we have to wheel his gurney in.