

Emerson-Garfield Steering Committee and Neighborhood Council Wednesday, September 11th, 2013

The air is getting crisper. The days are getting shorter. The nights are getting funkier. (We may just be talking about me there) In any event, the passing of Labor Day can only mean that the September Edition of the Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood Council, most usually held at the Corbin Senior Center in the room designated as Upper South would soon be held on the second Wednesday of the month. And it was. And this is the record of that event.

It felt like a new season and so I subsequently purchased a new Bic pen and a new yellow legal pad and a whole bunch of extra vowels, which should come in handy if I ever get on to "Wheel of Fortune."

Chair E. J. Iannnnnnelli started the meeting at 7:01 with introductions and a bunch of extra n's. Moving to make it an extra speedy meeting, E.J. asked for the approval of meeting minutes from June and August. Since they were mostly accurate and written in English, approval was a foregone conclusion.

There was a pressing issue of monthly mailings that was dealt with next. Emerson-Garfield is among the few remaining neighborhoods who have monthly minutes and agendas mailed to voting members. The option was presented to continue the monthly mailings or go to a mailing four times a year. This would save the Office of Neighborhood Services some money and allow for more focused mailings. After a discussion, a motion was made to move to mailings four times a year. The vote was 11 for and three against, so the motion was approved. Monthly minutes and agendas will continue to be available on line and there will be some copies available at each meeting.

Next E.J. asked for more participation from EVERYONE concerning volunteer positions that are available to EVERYONE! Whether it's helping out with the Farmers Market, the Planning Committee, assisting Karl the Garbage Czar, or even bringing a treat to monthly meetings (by the way, I'll handle that in October), more help is always needed and welcome. We are all busy and have lots on our plates. Just skootch those mashed potatoes over a bit and make room on your plate for a little bit more so it doesn't fall on the few who are doing EVERYTHING!

Jay Cousins announced that there will be a Community Assembly Retreat on Saturday, October 12th from 8AM to 2PM at Youths for Christ. The theme will be "Reinventing Community Assembly and Neighborhood Councils." They will be looking at different ways to do what we've been doing and hopefully doing it better. R.S.V.P. to communityassembly@gmail.com.

Laura Schlangen gave her usual concise and informative report concerning the activities at Corbin Senior Center. They conducted lots of tours this summer, the most popular being Moon Pass and Coulee Darn. (Sorry! It feels inappropriate to swear here.) Lots of classes are starting soon and as usual, the Balance Class is looking like it will fill up. There will be a Walk-Along at Corbin Park on Sept. 19th from 8am to noon pm. The Munch and Mingle is coming Sept. 21. It's a lot of fun and you, yes you, should be there.

The Emerson-Garfield Community Garden continues to flourish and a Fall work is planned but no date is set yet.

The Farmers Market has turned out to be a very successful outreach tool for our council. Lots of people are learning about the Neighborhood Council by showing up at the market. Sales are steady but could be better. Lots of people still don't even know about it. You, yes you, should visit soon.

Neighborhood Planning is enjoying some stronger participation but more bodies are always welcome. You, yes you...you know! There are two public workshops coming at Corbin Senior Center. On Oct. 10th, people are welcome to come and discuss the issues they think are important for planning in our neighborhood. On Nov 14th, the discussion will center on solutions to the issues brought up at the previous meeting. Have I mentioned what you, yes you should do? I think I have!

Lt. Dean Sprague talked for a spell about crime, as he always seems to do. Car prowling and property crimes are the big issues in our area. The Police Dept is issuing E-Lerts through the Cop Shops about crime trends and hot spots. You can sign up for E-lert E-Mails through the Cop Shops or on the Spokane Police web site, www.spokanepolice.org.

If you interested in meeting people while eating food, perhaps the Hillyard Meet & Eat will interest you, yes you. It will start at 6PM, Monday, Sept 24 at Gateway Church, 5201 N. Market.

Fall Dump Passes will be available at the end of the October meeting and again at Corbin Senior Center on Oct 26th. Saturday, May 10th, 2014 is the tentative date set for the Spring Clean Up day. You could volunteer now. Yes...YOU!

City Administrator Teresa Sanders presented the City of Spokane Budget Report. You can find out all about it on line at www.myspokanebudget.org. The four priorities set forth in this budget report are:

- *Drive down Crime
- *Improve Streets
- *Make the River cleaner, faster
- *Create multiple impacts- getting the most out of each dollar

The presentation took about 25 minutes and the meeting was dismissed at 8:20PM.

Stan Burke
Secretary Autumnal