

## **Emerson-Garfield Steering Committee and Neighborhood Council Wednesday, February 12th, 2014**

The Inaugural meeting of the Twenty Fourteen Season of the Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood Steering Committee got underway shortly after 7PM on Wednesday, February 12, 2014. As you will no doubt recall from January's meeting, there was no January meeting and so this evening was to be the first meeting and therefore, the Inaugural meeting of the year.

The meeting began with Chairman E.J. Iannelli introducing himself, which set off a chain reaction of introductions around the room. It was quickly determined that a Quorum was not in the room and so no immediate approval of the previously well written, sagacious and mostly accurate minutes was to be allowed.

Even though I continue to experience fervent gustatory recollections from that night, those minutes stand unapproved and therefore inadmissible as evidence that we ever held a meeting in December.

That brings me to the current castigation of the Quorum that I shall perform now. Let's start with a definition so we all know from whence we start. I went to my big book of words (the Phone Book) and found that there is nobody in Spokane named Quorum. In fact, the "Q" section in the Phone Book is quite petite and sadly lacking in Quorums, Quantases, or Quintilliumptous's es.

I must now admit that I have never actually met this Quorum person, only that he (or she) is present, or in the case of this meeting...not!

So I think the burden of making sure that Quorum attends ALL our meetings is thrust upon each of us. We must all be sure that Quorum is seated at the beginning of the meeting and that he (or she) remains seated until Mr. Iannelli releases him (or her) into the night.

Now that I have wasted half the first sheet of paper and about 4 minutes of your time on this issue, let's talk about the meeting.

The first presentation of the evening was from Kelly Cruz and Alan Zeyge with a special guest appearance by Sheriff Ozzy Knezovich. They spoke about an initiative that is under way in the West Central neighborhood concerning underage drinking.

I thought that they didn't really need a program in West Central to encourage underage drinking but it turns out that this program is trying to curtail it.

They offered lots of statistics and literature about the problem. The area from the river on the south to Wellesley on the north and Division on the East to the river on the west is what is now known as the West Central Catchment Area where there is a higher percentage of underage drinking, and therefore higher scrutiny and enforcement efforts. If you're interested in more information or would like to contact somebody, call 1-877-335-1287 or fire up your computer machine and go to [www.udetc.org](http://www.udetc.org).

Next up was Senior Traffic Engineer for the City of Spokaloo, Bob Turner. Bob was invited primarily due to the fatality collision that occurred last year on Monroe and how the city is responding. Bob was also loaded with lots of data concerning North Monroe and the traffic that rumbles upon it daily. Data like...19,400 vehicles a day use Monroe, the average speed is 32 mph (followed by mutterings and guffaws) and 218 collisions are the average per year.

The final presentation of the evening was Tessa Jilot from Sustainable Works. They are a non-profit organization working to help residents make their homes more efficient. She spoke about a program they offer where for \$95.00, they will come to your home and spend four to six hours assessing how your home uses energy. To find

out more, call them at 443-3471 or e-mail them at [info@sustainableworks.com](mailto:info@sustainableworks.com). You can also check out their InterWeb site, [www.sustainableworks.com](http://www.sustainableworks.com).

The next agenda item was concerning Traffic Calming. Sidewalk and traffic calming requests are due March 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> respectively. One issue that has been discussed for the past few meetings is the area of Maple Street from Euclid to the top of the hill. There is no sidewalk in that area and yet it is used a lot by pedestrians. The consensus of the crowd was that Emerson-Garfield should devote the bulk of our traffic calming resources to somehow making this section better. Again, Quorum was unavailable so no vote was taken.

E.J requested some feedback on what we would want on our mailing that is coming up. Suggestions were Neighborhood Planning info, dates for Spring Clean Up, Crime Check info, and the location and phone for C.O.P.S North Central.

The North Hill neighborhood committee is putting together a proposal of Developer Guidelines for the chunk of property at the bottom of the Monroe Street Hill. If you have anything to contribute or add, bring your ideas to E.J. at the March meeting.

Community Housing and Human Services (CHHS) is soliciting input on neighborhood issues. If you have any ideas for creative uses for CD funds, tell E.J. before he goes to their task force.

It's a huge surprise, but there are changes to Community Development Funding eligibility requirements. If you want to know what they are, they've changed them again already.

Laura Schlangen gave the always concise report for the Corbin Senior Center. The Movin' and Groovin' Fair will take place March 8<sup>th</sup> from 8am to 2pm. Fund Raising for a new van has been successful. It should be coming in the next three months and you can contact Laura if you ever want a ride anywhere, anytime, for any reason. That last part might not be true. Now the funding will shift to raising money for a new elevator.

Maurece Vulcano is Programs Manager for all the COPS shops. COPS NC is located at 630 W. Shannon and is open Monday thru Thursday from 10 to 2. THEY NEED VOLUNTEERS! If you want access to Crime Reports, they are available on your Computer Machine at [www.spokanepolice.org](http://www.spokanepolice.org). Look at the left side of the page for CompStat Report.

Neighborhood Planning continues and their next meeting is March 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at Corbin Senior Center. They have adopted a Vision Statement and it is as follows. "I CAN SEE!" Get it? Vision Statement. Sorry!  
***Emerson-Garfield strives to be a diverse & vibrant neighborhood that actively supports a thriving business district, beautiful parks, walkable amenities, and a unique historic character.***

E.J. is already getting vendor requests for the Farmer's Market. EBT Cards will be accepted this year and it will also be a WIC Distribution Center.

Nothing is happening right now with Community Assembly. They are reforming around the idea of being the Third leg of Government so citizens know they have a place they can go to be heard. If their issues have merit, the Community Assembly can facilitate the going forward and being heard more.

Despite what you may have read or heard in these meetings or minutes, Building Stronger Neighborhoods is not dead. It's kind of sick, but it is healing. E.J. has info.

The meeting adjourned at 9:02.  
Stan Burke E-G Secretary