



Emerson-Garfield Steering Committee and Neighborhood Council

Wednesday, May 14th, 2014

At shortly after 7:05 pm, the meeting was called to order. 13 official members were in attendance at the time of the call to order, although it grew to 17. As there are 35 total members of the neighborhood council, the 48% attendance filled the 30% required for quorum. There were no objections to the minutes of the previous meeting.

Parks and Recreation Director [Leroy Eadie](#) discussed the process of development for Riverfront Park (riverfrontparkmasterplan.org), which is subsidized at approximately \$1 million per year.

- One of the proposals is to make a straighter walkway between the rotary fountain and Canada Island.
- The Howard Street south pedestrian bridge should be replaced, as it is not as safe as desired.
- The Loeff Carrousel could be moved slightly southeast, closer to the garbage goat, and they would like to expand the event space surrounding the carrousel.
- It would be nice to have a toddler-sized playground in the large Red Wagon playground.
- Similarly, Leroy discussed a Learn to Play playground on the north bank, themed around the Missoula Flood story.
- The Pavilion would serve as an outdoor amphitheater if a cover is placed back over it. "Light art," such as light projection and LED, is a desire. Movies could be projected onto the Pavilion wall. The IMAX theater is not bringing in enough revenue, as the greatest use of the facility involves schools, so the building itself may be demolished.
- Conceptual images for pedestrian and bike lanes were shown, as well as designs for very long, artistic park benches.
- An ice skating rink may be constructed in the meadow near the Gondola.
- The north bank of the river may benefit from a climbing wall near the Arena.

Only 60 events per year are held at Riverfront Park, but an ideal number would be 120. Much of the remodeling would be to *attract* more of these private events to the park.

Safety and improved lighting is an important priority, as a lot of people don't "feel" safe in Riverfront Park. When there are a large number of people in the park, the general feeling of safety is increased. The variety of attractions in the park will be a good balance for all age groups. About the third year into development, the park may be financially self-sustainable.

One of the speakers, Alicia Powell of the Office of Neighborhood Services, had rescheduled for June, 2014. Because of this, Leroy Eadie was able to invest more time in answering questions,

including concerns regarding Emerson Park. Garret Jones on the planning committee, may speak at our next meeting, in June.

Dave Braun spoke about the success of previous **Summer Parkways** events in our area. The event on Friday, **July 18th** from 6 to 9pm will be held at Corbin Park, which will have the fewest traffic control problems. This will have a slight overlap with the Farmers Market schedule. Certain vendors who are typically attracted to summer events (such as *ice cream*) are already interested. The street party may extend to a couple blocks north of the park. **Help is requested** for the outreach (via door hangings), as well as the spreading of the word to businesses and organizations who may wish to host a booth at the event. Dave invited a liaison from the Emerson Garfield Neighborhood Council to be in attendance at the Summer Parkways meetings, which happen once per month. The next meeting is on May 20th. The [next Summer Parkways event](#) will be this Saturday, May 17th at 1pm, starting at Chief Garry Park.

Eline Helm led a discussion regarding **Concerts in the Park**, and invited the committee members to contribute their opinions. There were about 100 attendees per event last year. There remains only \$320 left over, and no money has been donated yet. A duet who is interested in performing may be hired for \$250. There may be one concert in Corbin this year and one in Emerson next year. EJ Iannelli recommended joining forces with Summer Parkways. After additional discussion from the committee members, there was no objection to having the event at Corbin Park on July 18th. Since Karl Boldt had reported additional funds left over from Spring Cleanup (\$500), the remainder of that money could be allocated to printing needs, such as for advertising for the Concerts in the Park.

EJ Iannelli introduced Lisa Fuchs, who discussed the [community development block grant \(CDBG\)](#) task force. Spokane has been broken up into 27 neighborhoods, rather than the 13 which were identified before. Individual households could apply for rehab, including low income households in pockets which are in neighborhoods that have a higher average income. Neighborhoods would still like to retain control on where those dollars go. EJ proposed that before E-G decides on members of a subcommittee, someone would explain the process.

Laura Schlangen reported on the Corbin Senior center. She almost had a heart attack herself after opening an envelope for a \$74,782.25 check from the living trust of one of their former members who passed away a year ago.

On [Thursday, March 15th at 6:30](#), a meeting will be held regarding neighborhood planning. A few members volunteered to staff the table at [Garfield Elementary this Friday, 6 to 8 pm](#).

From Karl Boldt's report, we used \$6,000 of the \$6,500 budget for the Neighborhood Cleanup. The remaining \$500 is what EJ referred to for our printing budget. We filled up 11 dumpsters. 59 community members were added to our email distribution list. Next year, Faith Bible Church will be doing a pancake feed during that event.

The meeting closed at 8:40pm.