



## Emerson-Garfield Steering Committee and Neighborhood Council

*Wednesday, June 11th, 2014*

At 7:04 pm, the meeting was called to order, and there were enough attendees to meet quorum. The minutes were evaluated and approved. In the future, a monthly email will be sent, reminding the voting members about the meeting (as was done this month), but a link will also be included to the meeting minutes and agenda.

SPD Ombudsman Tim Burns described a student guide that can be accessed online, as online access will save \$1.25 in printing costs per booklet. A “Know Your Rights” card, produced by the ACLU, was offered as well, and is also available on the webpage. 218 complaints against the police department were filed last year. There are currently 12 candidates for Police Ombudsman. 26 additional officers were authorized by the city council, 220 body cameras, and a \$1.3 million expenditure by the police department was authorized. The body cameras can be expected to be put in action by September. \$400,000 of that \$1.3 million involves a state of the art 3D addition to the training academy. More information is available through a 32-page report, which is on [SPDOmbudsman.org](http://SPDOmbudsman.org).

Captain Tracy Ponto-Douglas read crime statistics for the area between Garland and the river, and between Division and the west river, comparing against this time last year. Anonymous reporting forms are available at COPS shops. There was much discussion regarding transients camping on abandoned properties. This year, a practice has been established to offer relocation services and counseling.

Ben Covino from the Lands Council taught about the river toxins found in fish and sediments. A map of the Spokane River was provided, highlighting the areas where caught fish should not be eaten. The homeless, who often access river fish, are the most at risk, and are a target group for this education. Mercury, arsenic and lead have made their way from mines in Idaho to the river in Spokane. He handed out two documents which can be accessed [here \(1\)](#) and [here \(2\)](#).

Thom Caraway and James Kashork from Project Hope, the organization overseeing the Emerson-Garfield Farmers’ Market, shared some history about their organization. 38 young people are operating each weekday morning until noon for 10 weeks at a time, participating in developmental opportunities (job training). Project Hope has operated the West Central Farmers Market for the past 7 years, and has continually been finding ways to improve their operating efficiency. Technicalities were discussed about how to make the operation of the E-G Farmers’ Market fit within the non-profit mission of Project Hope, and ways to involve the youth. There were no objections to proceeding with this action item.

The August 13<sup>th</sup> Potluck, at the regular evening of the monthly council meeting, will be held at Emerson Park. The potluck will start at 6pm, and the meeting at 7pm.

The council members held a discussion regarding whether to hold the July 9<sup>th</sup> E-G meeting. The motion to skip the July meeting carried, 15 in favor versus 7 opposed.

District 3 City Councilman Steve Salvatori is resigning, and moving to Dallas for business purposes. The City Council will appoint a replacement, rather than hold an election.

Eline Helm spoke on the July 18<sup>th</sup> Concert in the Park. We do need our own insurance, but not a permit. \$250 will be needed for the band, and approximately the same amount will be needed for insurance. \$550 total will be needed, and we have \$370 available. We need donors!

John Vlahovich spoke about tax increment financing money and Kendle Yards. The committee expects to have approximately \$117,000 available for the year. \$17,500 was spent on the extension of the Centennial Trail. \$150,000 was set aside to go towards the Monroe Street improvements, as matching money that the City will need to put up in order to use \$3 million. The grant will still require the approval of the Transportation Department. One proposal is to make the traffic light on Montgomery and Monroe remain green to north-south traffic, except when a pedestrian pushes the crossing button.

Amy McLean reported on an issue with Avista. Smart Meters in the "Smart Grid," which are digital, are reported as occasionally causing problems such as fires, as well as radiation risks. Searching Google.com for problems relating to Smart Meters may display additional information. One method of action for those who are concerned is to put signs of protest on our electric meters in order to convey the message to Avista.

Laura Schlangen read the June report of the Corbin Senior Activity Center. The Walk-Along and the Golf Scramble were successful. There is not yet a date for the van delivery. A car theft took place mid-day in the parking lot, and the car was later found abandoned. The theft was caught on security camera, but the police have not yet obtained the video which was offered to them. The center's biggest fundraiser, the Munch & Mingle Auction, is scheduled for September 26<sup>th</sup>. Please attend and donate if you can. The Henderson floor will be redone this month, and there is a new "This & That" discussion group.

Jay Cousins reported on the Community Assembly, which is the neighborhood's representative at City Hall. Support for the Safe Streets initiative, spearheaded by Candice Mumm, was passed unanimously by the Community Assembly.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm.