



Emerson-Garfield Steering Committee and Neighborhood Council

Wednesday, November 12th, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm after introductions. According to the roster, there were 22 voting members and at least 14 guests present. The October minutes were approved.

Our first speaker was Tim Schwering, the [Director of Strategic Initiatives](#) who is in charge of civilian oversight for the Spokane Police Department. A sample [body camera](#) was passed through the room. A study of camera use in [Rialto, CA](#) showed a 59% decrease in the use of force, and an 87.5% decrease in complaints. Rialto found that there was an increase in interaction with the public. Three videos were shown for a demonstration: one from each of two officers involved in handcuffing a man wanted for felony, and a third camera from a distance. The attendees shared their opinions of the videos.

There will be 220 body cameras, which will be recharged after each shift, and the data will at the same time be uploaded to [evidence.com](#). Any time a video is reviewed, a record is kept of the time and date of the review. There is an average of 3 gigabytes per officer per shift. [LAPD](#) is developing a server farm for storing their own data. Between the equipment and record specialists, the estimated cost to Spokane is around \$350,000 a year, which would come from the [general fund](#).

Washington State is [an open records state](#), so anyone can ask for any video which is not tied to a current case. One anonymous person has submitted a records request for all videos since the start of the video, and before a video can be shared with them, certain information needs to be redacted, which takes 2 ½ hours per 1 hour of video. With that in mind, there is a question of whether there needs to be a ratio of three records specialists per one officer. Due to state law, each request must be honored, even if the requesting party is not in Washington.

There are certain times in which it is inappropriate to have the camera turned on. One person's transparency concerns are another person's privacy concerns. Federal property does not allow for video recording, so officers are required to turn the camera off while on-site. Deaconess Hospital has also requested that cameras be turned off on their property. Per state law, if a *home resident* tells an officer that they should not be recording while on their property, the officer must comply.

A certain party has also uploaded public videos onto YouTube.com, so a typical response is an increased concern for privacy. This body cameras procedure was recommended by the [Use of Force Commission](#), primarily in response to the [Otto Zehm](#) case. If there is to be any modification to the video redaction process, it would need to be initiated by the citizens of Washington.

[Karl Otterstrom](#) spoke on Spokane Transit and [High Performance Transit](#) (HPT) routes. STA predicts a 30% increase in ridership on these routes, and will extend the hours of operation. There are 900 buses, 900 cameras, and real-time schedule technology that can help predict the actual time of arrival of a bus. [STAMovingForward.com](#) has additional information about the proposed plan and a [survey](#) for giving your own opinions. A 3/10th of a percent sales tax increase would be needed for this improvement. In the Fall of 2015, Monroe/Regal would be in the first phase. For a sample of real-time schedule prediction, visit [OneBusAway.org](#) (for Puget Sound).

[Rick Harris](#), from the West Central Community Center, explained the request to replace some of the carpet in the WCCC with tiles that can be individually replaced. Between 42 and 46% of those who are using the WCCC are from the Emerson-Garfield neighborhood. The total carpeting replacement would cost around \$11,000, and approximately one third of that would be from Emerson-Garfield.

A representative of the Lands Council (and Fulcrum Institute) requested a \$5,000 contribution towards a \$30,000 greenhouse that would be used for training former inmates. Two other neighborhoods have been asked for the same amount, and have approved the request. There are 71 people [currently in training](#), so the contribution would be approximately \$70 per person. The facility is around 1700 North Ash. This investment would have a long-term return, as there is a 15 year lease on the property.

The initial proposal from the budgeting committee was \$20,000 for North Monroe, \$30,000 for Sidewalks, and \$4254.79 for the WCCC. The 2-to-1 matching by the city for sidewalks is not available this year, so we are putting in 100% of any sidewalk projects. Home Rehab takes place under a different umbrella, so we are not paying for that from this budget this year. The Monroe Street portion is to show STA and the City that our neighborhood is dedicated to the Monroe Street revitalization, and encourage contributions from the other parties. The WCCC had withdrawn their earlier request for a bus shelter, due to the increased police presence reducing the concern of vandalism.

A motion was made to change the contribution to WCCC to \$3,682, an exact third of their expense. A North Monroe bus shelter would cost even more than the \$20,000 currently budgeted, so there would still be a need to request additional funds from other parties. That left the sidewalks budget (not currently a 2-to-1 investment) as the most flexible to devote toward the greenhouse. There was a 95% vote to allocate only \$25,572.79 to the sidewalk budget, \$5,000 to Fulcrum greenhouse, \$20,000 to Monroe Street, and \$3,682 to WCCC.

The expansion of Emerson-Garfield [to the west](#) would not affect the neighborhood's eligibility for CDBG funds. There was a unanimous approval among voting members for this expansion of the neighborhood.

Captain Tracy Ponto-Douglas read a record of the [crimes for this year](#) compared to this time last year. Compared to last year, overall crimes are down approximately 8%. Ask yourself how you would break into your own house if you lost your keys, and that is also [how a burglar would think](#).

Because the temperatures have fallen below freezing, the [November 15th tree planting](#) will be postponed until Spring 2015, and would be a much larger weekend event.

There will be a new roof on the restrooms at Corbin Park, and they will also re-do the tennis courts.

The [Corbin SAC](#) report was read. Starting January, Corbin will have five new [board members](#). A free [seminar regarding End-of-Life Planning](#) will be held on Thursday, Nov 13th, 12:30 to 2:00 pm.

Jay Cousins summarized the [Community Assembly's discussion of short-term \(less than 30-day\) rentals](#), and the City's current position that licensing fees should be the same as the Davenport's.

The next meeting, at the regular 6pm, will be a **potluck**, held in the same room as usual.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.