



Emerson-Garfield Steering Committee and Neighborhood Council

Wednesday, March 11th, 2015

After introductions, the meeting was called to order at 6pm. Quorum was present, with 27 voting members, including 4 new members: Shanna Cejka, Kally and Tony Romjue, and Raymond Steuart. According to the sign-in sheet, 11 other people recorded their attendance. The February minutes had been previously approved by email, and were also unanimously approved in person.

Kelly Norwood represented Avista, and provided a printed slideshow. As a monopoly, Avista requires regulators to set their rates. Of the \$2.5 billion investment in Avista, 48% is equity, owned by shareholders, and 52% is owned by bond holders and banks. They have asked for a 4.75% authorized return on equity, which is an average rate, compared to other providers. While the cost of electricity has increased 41% over the past 10 years, natural gas has only increased 3%. Over time, the costs to the customers has matched inflation almost exactly.

Alicia Powell spoke on the action items regarding the 2015 Greening Grants proposal. In 2014, 12 neighborhoods applied for projects, and there were 17 approved applications, including 117 street trees, 5 perennial plantings, and 1 riparian planting. Under the [Community Development Block Grants \(CDBG\)](#), 66 street trees were planted. Under the Capital Improvement Projects, there were 14 street trees. Each neighborhood can apply for 3 grants each, at up to \$5,000 per grant.

On April 17th and 18th, 1,000 trees will be given away to residents for planting. Every resident can receive up to 2 trees. The trees will be small enough, that residents will be able to transport and plant them without assistance. Larger trees will also be available, and Greenleaf Landscaping can deliver and plant those trees for \$95 each. Vouchers will be provided to the neighborhood council. The neighborhood street tree project will take place on Saturday, April 4th.

Committee members volunteering for a Street Tree Committee were Brian Henning, Jonathan Martinez, Tony and Kally Romjue, Timothy Diko, Brent and Donna Emmingham, and Steve Anderson. Volunteering for the neighborhood council chair positions was encouraged, as elections are in April.

Megan Kennedy reported on the City open house for North Monroe business owners. The City employees took the concerns of the business owners very seriously. One of the main concerns for owners was the length of the closure. If it was full closure, there would be 3 to 5 months, rather than 2 to 4 years if a partial closure. The City is also adjusting an additional levy source that could involve asphalt.

[Community Frameworks](#) provided their plans to the chair and vice-chair, requesting their opinions regarding a proposed development of townhouses at 315 West Mission.

The City has considered an area near Faith Bible Church for an additional drinking water well, which would provide a safe source of drinking water, considering the risky locations of some of the other drinking water wells in the industrial neighborhoods.

The [neighborhood website](#) was recently migrated to a new server, and is now back online.

The [Movin' and Groovin' Fair](#) of the [Corbin Senior Activity Center](#) will be held on Saturday, March 14th from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., and will have 75 vendors. Lunch will be served for \$6. Corbin's sound system, valued at \$500, was stolen, and the Center is considering a new locking system.

Carol Anderson represented the [Community Oriented Policing Services \(C.O.P.S.\)](#) Shops. [North Hill](#) and North Central COPS Shops should be merging, with volunteers relocating to the [North Central location](#) at 630 W. Shannon. The North Central location is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. As there is limited funding from the Police Department, there will be a fundraising market on Saturday, May 9th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Knox Presbyterian Church, which Karen Colvin represented at the meeting.

Al Steuart briefly reported on the planning for composting demonstrations during the [Farmers Markets](#).

Timothy Diko and Melissa Parker volunteered to organize the summer concert and fair. The date may still depend on the availability of the band.

Karl Boldt reported on the Saturday, April 18th neighborhood cleanup from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., which will include large garbage containers. [Faith Bible Church](#) will provide drinks and snacks for participants during the event, and pizza for volunteers afterwards. Unlike previous years, we will be unable to gather hazardous waste. This is a good opportunity to clean up alleys with your neighbors. Tires are ok, but dump passes may be provided for construction materials that should be taken directly to the dump.

Barb Biles reported on the [Land Use Committee](#), which is considering changes to bicycle lanes, rental properties regulations, and an easy to use outline for application processes.

Steve Anderson reported on the [Pedestrian Traffic and Transportation \(PeTT\) Committee](#), and the desire for STA to increase ridership. There is a proposal for privately owned bus shelters to be erected, but it was not as well received by the public as the STA had hoped.

Tim Musser reported on the [Community Development Block Grants \(CDBG\)](#) meetings. The intent of [Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](#) is to improve the standard of living for lower income residents, so the committee used that goal to formulate the proposal for resource allocation. The proposal by the committee is if a block has 75% or more of low-income families, they get 4 points. With 60-75%, there are 2 points, and 50% to 60% receives 1 point. The results of that proposal may be known next month.

The meeting adjourned at 7:21pm.