



Emerson-Garfield Steering Committee and Neighborhood Council

Wednesday, October 14th, 2015

The meeting began at 6:00 p.m. There were 24 voting members present, twice the 12 member minimum, and the roster recorded 13 guests. The September 2015 minutes were approved without any changes.

Greg Johnson from the Cliff-Cannon Neighborhood spoke on the [Cell Tower Ordinance](#). There has been a clash between the desire for more cellular data coverage by the residents and those residents who are concerned with proximity to a cell phone tower or aesthetic damage. There are substitutes, such as a larger number of shorter cell phone towers that would not be easily visible. AT&T has been in conflict with the shorter cell tower proposal, but Verizon has been supportive of that ordinance. There is no protection for a historical property in this ordinance, and there is a very short, 20-foot distance requirement from a residence. The tower can be as tall as 60 feet with the current ordinance. There could also be an advantage to having higher towers in industrial zones if they would meet the needs of nearby neighborhoods.

AT&T has had two lawyers working on this issue, who have financial leverage on their side. The City cannot dictate technology, but the City does have the power to regulate aesthetics. There are lawyers available against AT&T, but there is no more funding. Donations can be made to fund additional work by the lawyers. Also, the City Council will be allowing people to speak on record regarding this issue. Councilwoman Candace Mumm confirmed some of that information, and clarified that e-mails can be sent to [Plan Commission](#) members in advance of a public meeting.

Officer Doug Strosahl from the Spokane Police Department reported on crime in our neighborhood. A burglar had sprayed a resident in the face, but he was later caught. As it was last month, crime is down overall. Out of other neighborhoods in "P2," Emerson-Garfield has had the highest reporting of crimes.

Vehicle prowling is a crime of opportunity, so it is advised to leave nothing of value in the car, especially in bags that hide the contents and could give an impression that it may contain contents of value.

If a car is present with expired tags, you can report the car to 755-CITY. The compliance time between report and towing is as little as 2 to 3 weeks. If you do call the report in, your name will be on the report, but if you mail in a report requesting do-not-disclose, your name will not be visible to the vehicle owner. Cars are not supposed to be rebuilt on public streets, so this can be reported as well. Parking enforcement can ticket a reported car which has half of the tires on the street and half on the sidewalk. You can look up "[Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design](#)" to have some ideas regarding how to reduce crime around your property.

[Candace Mumm](#) started by commenting on code enforcement. You could snap a photo with your phone and provide that to police. The City's expenses and revenue are both going up. A new Police Chief will need to be hired, although the acting Chief is doing a good job. The City has been without a Plan Director for over a year now, and that slows down improvements around the city (such as Monroe Street). There are openings on the [Plan Commission](#) for residents to advise the City regarding various matters, and residents are encouraged to fill out a two-page application.

Max Benson from the non-profit Community Frameworks reported that their old office is being torn down to replace with 32 low-income housing units and one unit for a property manager. People with disabilities will be able to live independently. Spokane Housing Ventures will be managing the property. There will also be a bus shelter on the corner of Washington and Mission. The sidewalks surrounding the building will be wider than before. Most of the residents won't have cars, but will have family with cars, so there

will be a suitable number of drop-off spots. Over \$100,000 of solar panels will be on the roof. They have also applied for [Community Development Block Grants \(CDBG\)](#) funds for the North Calispel Improvement Project, to pave a portion of Calispel [between Sinto and Mission](#). Sidewalks will also be added to the other side of the street. Community Frameworks has been very involved with EGNC, and has requested the input of EGNC during many of the phases of their plan, making sure that their own plan will be in accordance with the neighborhood's plan. Demolition will begin after October 26th, and the project should be completed 54 weeks from now.

[Jonathan Mallahan](#), the Director of Neighborhood Services, spoke regarding Mayor Condon's [2016 proposed budget](#). There has already been much collaboration between the City Council and the Mayor before the publication of the proposed budget. The total budget will be \$810 million. Some of those dollars are accounted for twice, being counted before and after changing hands between departments. [Combined Sewer Overflow \(CSO\)](#) tanks prevent wastewater from spilling into the Spokane River, and it accounts for 45.34% of the total budget. That is a one-time investment because of Federal requirements.

An improvement to the emergency response budget will be the sending of smaller vehicles to medical calls, rather than sending a larger fire apparatus. A [211 system](#) will be available for connecting people with the city services that they desire to communicate with. Jonathan Mallahan can be contacted with further questions at 509-625-6734.

The neighborhood council members voted unanimously to assign \$11,290.96 from the CDBG account toward tree plantings within the neighborhood, as we are running out of weather for planting.

The planting in the traffic islands on Northwest Boulevard will occur on Saturday, October 31st, and volunteers are encouraged to help.

The neighborhood gateway project with North Hill near Cora and Monroe has made progress. It will have trees and irrigation, along with signs welcoming travelers to both neighborhoods. \$32,000 of CDBG funds from each neighborhood will be allocated to the project per year until 2018, totaling \$128,000, when the Monroe Street redevelopment will also be performed. Stormwater flowing down the hill will be collected in a container that the City will provide. The neighborhood usually has about \$50,000 to \$60,000 in CDBG funds, so this is a very large allocation of funds. The measure was passed unanimously by voting members, each of whom signed a CDBG Conflict of Interest Statement.

The hosting of the neighborhood website will need to be changed from Rogue Heart to another host which could accommodate WordPress.

Dump passes are only valid until October 25th. On Saturday, November 7th, Faith Bible Church (600 W Cora) will be hosting two dumpsters for green waste. Bring your leaves!

Doomsday Hill will have two [CSO](#) tanks installed, and trails will be added to the hill.

The new development on the corner of Maple and Northwest Boulevard will be a [Jack in the Box](#).

Laura Schlangen reported on the [Corbin Senior Activity Center](#), which recently hosted a Munch and Mingle Auction that sold out and netted almost \$18,000.

Community Assembly meetings will be changing to the first Thursday of each month, starting at 5:30. It is important that we have a representative who can consistently attend both EGNC and CA meetings.

The Finch Arboretum will be hosting [a compost fair](#) on Saturday, October 24th.

Spokane First Assembly Church ([Post and Indiana](#)) will host a Halloween Trunk or Treat on October 31st.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.