

Emerson-Garfield Steering Committee and Neighborhood Council Wednesday, March 12th, 2014

The March edition of the Emerson-Garfield Steering Committee and Neighborhood Council got under way shortly after 7PM which is only seconds after the rolling arrival of Chairman and avid bicyclist E.J. Iannelli. E.J. started the introductions and then checked to see that a quorum was present, and it was, sitting in its usual place with its usual smirk.

E.J. next asked for approval of the February minutes at which time Eline Helm spoke up and pointed out that the minutes reflected the group had talked about devoting traffic calming funds to the area of Maple Street around Euclid. However, that was not really the case and no vote was ever taken so that little bit of info was just plain wrong. It's instances such as this that make me wonder about our current secretary and whether we might be better served by someone...who know...sane.

The minutes were approved with the suggested changes.

The first guest speaker of the evening was from S.P.A.R.C., the Spokane Police Accountability and Reform Coalition. They gave a brief presentation about how they are keeping an eye on the Police. If you would like to get involved in keeping an eye on the Police, you can attend their monthly meetings at the Community Building, where they meet on the second Wednesday of every month.

The next speaker was Kim Ferraro from the West Central Community Center. She wanted the group to know that W.C.C.C. is used mostly by residents of West Central and Emerson-Garfield. She thanked the group for the many contributions E-G has made to the center through CDBG funds. She also wanted us to know that there will be a Rummage Sale on March 29th and 30th at the center. There is a fund raiser coming up on May 10th at the Convention Center where a playhouses built by the Spokane Home Builders Association will be auctioned and one will be raffled off. Tickets for the event are \$40 and raffle tickets are \$1.00.

The third speech making person was Buzz Bellessa who is a member the North Hill Committee and spear heading the effort to create a Developers Agreement for the infamous property located at 1030 W. Courtland. You might know it as the big patch of land at the bottom of the Monroe Street Hill. Buzz updated the group on their progress and what the Agreement has in it. Several copies were available at the meeting and Emerson-Garfield will vote to approve it as is or make changes at the April meeting.

Next up on the busy speaking agenda was Angel Spell, who is Spokane's Urban Forester. She spoke quickly and briefly about applying for Street Trees. You can contact them at urbanforestry@spokanecity.org.

The final and last person to talk on us was Blaine Stun of the Spokane human rights Commission. He reported that there are three spots open on the board of the Commission. They meet on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 5:30 for about an hour and a half at City Hall. I know many of you have nothing to do on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 5:30, so you should check this out. You would still be home in time for "Murder, She Wrote".

With the loooong list of Speechifiers out of the way, let's now move to some business.

E.J. moved \$101.85 of Community Development Funds from Communications to Street Trees. It could no longer be left in Communications because there was no longer any communicating. So being the strong deliberate leader that he is, E.J. elected to move it to the Street Trees fund, but now that the smirking quorum was in the room, we needed a vote. The crowd, smelling weakness, decided to move the funds into Housing. An official motion was made and seconded and approved.

The Mobile Speed Sign will be available to the neighborhood again this year and if you have a suggestion for where it might be located to slow down drivers in a particular area, see E.J.

Summer Parkways held its first event from Corbin Park to Riverfront Park a few years back and they didn't see the level of participation they were hoping for. So for the last few years, it's been very popular up at Manito Park. But because of all the activity around Emerson-Garfield, they want to try us out again. So they want to have a street fair around Corbin Park on July 18th or July 25th. They asked us for a date preference and the group decided Friday, July 18th from 6 to 9 was the best. Also, they also a desperate for Volunteers to help direct traffic.

We need a volunteer to be the E-G representative to the CDBG Task Force. No one stepped up at the time but we really really need a rep. Come on! It's only about 90 minutes a month on the second Thursday of the month. Okay, well, think about it and then tell E.J. you'll do it.

If you don't want to be on the Task Force, there are many other City wide Committees that need a rep from Emerson-Garfield. We need people to step up so talk to E.J.

Keith Cummings from the Spokane Police Department gave the Crime Report. He talked about the Police moving to a precinct model and currently the precinct is located on Diamond in the Hillyard area. He also wanted to respond to the presentation that S.P.A.R.C. gave and ensured the group that the Police want to use less force as well as S.P.A.R.C.

Jackie Caro from the City talked about an initiative to plant 10,000 trees. They are looking for citizen input. They also need volunteer tree planters.

E.J. will be attending Coffee with the Mayor and needs topics and concerns from the neighborhood to bring to the mayor. So if you have concerns about weeds, North Monroe Revitalization, or the fact that there aren't enough Starbucks in this town yet, let E.J. know before Friday, March 14th.....oh, never mind!

Corbin Senior Center held the annual Movin' & Groovin' Wellness Fair and it was totally groovy. The pancake breakfast feed is coming up on April 19th from 7:30 to 10:30. Tickets are available for \$7.00 at the Center or the day of the event. Buy them now so they have an idea of how many are coming.

Elections of Officers are coming up at the next meeting. E.J. and Megan are willing to stay on in their positions but the Secretary has totally run out of vowels. The position is available to anyone who spells, and we'll even make allowances for that. Obviously!

Megan reported that Neighborhood Planning continues and they continue to meet at Corbin Senior Center on the second Thursday of the month at 6:30. Megan is trying to get more businesses in the area involved and is seeking volunteers to help in the canvassing.

Garbage Czar Karl reminded us that Spring Clean Up is Saturday, May 10th. Volunteers are still needed and your time commitment will be from 8 to 1.

Sarah reported that all the sidewalk repair requests are in for the year and submitted to the city.

Jay was not available to deliver a Community Assembly Report but did send his minion to deliver the following message. "Community Assembly had a joint meeting. The main topic was photo red funds. C.A. stood up for photo red funds only to be used for traffic calming projects in the neighborhoods. Apparently, the City Council heard us (this time) and did not try to disperse said funds for other projects.

E.J. wanted to keep the busy meeting short and therefore, adjourned the extravaganza at 8:41.

Stan Burke E-G Secretary for one more month.