

## **Emerson-Garfield Steering Committee and Neighborhood Council Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

The first meeting of the Emerson-Garfield Steering Committee and Neighborhood Council for twenty-thirteen got underway at the Corbin Senior Center on Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:07. Co-Chairman E.J. Ianelli brought the meeting to order with introductions.

A quorum was not available for the meeting so the minutes from the December Extrava-Gala were not approved. Check back next month for the approval of the December minutes, which were really really good, as well as the approval of these minutes, which are going to be mediocre at best.

Garbage Czar Karl Boldt started the agenda off with a report on our annual Clean Up day which is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. It will take place again at Faith Bible Church and will go from 9:00AM to 12:30PM.

Chairman Liorah Wichser took the reins of the meeting at this point and offered City Council Member Nancy McLaughlin the opportunity to report on the antics of the City Council. Nancy spoke about Proposition 1 coming to a ballot near you that would place the Police Ombudsman position into the City Charter, hopefully leading to a more influential position for that office.

Nancy also talked about a tax levy for the Library on an upcoming ballot. She allowed Pat Partovi, Director of Library Services to talk more about the issue. The election will take place on February 12<sup>th</sup>. They are asking for a levy that would dedicate funds to the Library, 7¢ per \$1,000.00 of assessed value.

So, if your house is assessed at \$100,000.00, you would pay an additional \$7.00 a year. If your house is assessed at \$200,000.00, you would pay \$14.00 a year. And if your house is assessed at 12 million dollars, what the heck are you doing living in a 12 million dollar house in Spokane! Who do you think you are?! Okay, I'm getting a little indignant and expressing some unattractive class discrimination so let's move on.

Nancy was about to relinquish the floor when she suddenly remembered to report on the Animal Control issue coming up before the City Council. The contract of Animal Control is going to change from Spokanimal to Scraps. That will probably take place in the coming week.

We are having a little competition to design a logo for the Neighborhood Committee. Anyone interested in trying to design a logo can submit a design to Liorah. At the next meeting, there will be a discussion about what the branding details a logo should include.

Liorah is starting a discussion about making the Neighborhood Council into a non-profit organization. Four neighborhoods are already non-profits so it is allowed by the city. There is a lot to consider and nobody really knows the pros and cons of taking on such an undertaking. It does entail a lot of paper work and we have not had a lot of volunteer participation in the past, and this would require a fair amount of commitment from a lot of people.

EJ Ianelli, Michael Cathcart, Jermiah Johnson, Liorah Wichser and Megan Kennedy have volunteered to form a committee to work on by laws proposals.

**Summer Movie Nights:** Dave Musser was volunteered into heading the Summer Movie Committee. He will figure out the details of the committee and what it is they plan to do but he is planning for a movie in the park in July and August. Stay tuned for details.

**Concerts in the Park:** Nothing is planned for concerts in Corbin or Emerson Parks. However, this is something that is high on our wish list. Wouldn't it be cool to see the Beatles or Elvis in one of our parks? Oh sure, that is a lofty goal to aspire to but if you don't dream, you don't achieve.

**Summer Pot Luck:** Liorah wants to put someone in charge of Summer Pot Luck in order to have a grander event. It is always a great event to bring new people out and a well planned event will hopefully bring even more people. Anyone interested in taking this on should talk to Liorah.

**Corbin Senior Center:** Laura Schlangen reported that 40 diners showed up for the Christmas Eve Luncheon. The new sign is up and can be seen and read at the corner of Grace and Lincoln. Corbin is sponsoring a Luau on February 15<sup>th</sup>. There are prizes for best costume. It's \$15 in advance or \$18 at the door. Corbin's largest fund raiser is the Movin' and Groovin' Fair on March 9<sup>th</sup> from 8am to 2pm.

**Cop Report:** New Years Eve was a nightmare for the Spokane Police. There were shootings and stabbings and fireworks and parties. Thanks to all who didn't participate in all that. Graffiti continues to be a problem and the police are looking into it.

Marijuana is still an illegal substance as far as the Federal Government is concerned. Paraphernalia is no longer illegal and if you get caught with a joint, the police are treating it as if you got caught with a beer. The police are not aggressively enforcing marijuana laws.

A lengthy discussion then ensued talking about crime and how to keep from being a victim. Many victims spoke on behalf of themselves concerning their victimization.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17PM.