



Emerson-Garfield Steering Committee and Neighborhood Council

Wednesday, September 9th, 2015

The meeting began at 6:04 p.m. There were 20 voting members present, meeting the 14 member minimum, and the roster recorded 5 guests. The August 2015 minutes were approved without any changes.

Officer Tracy Ponto of the Spokane Police Department reported on neighborhood crime statistics over the last month. There was a drive-by shooting on the block of 2600 W Euclid, which was suspected to be the wrong house intended. The reports do include the West Central Neighborhood, so there is no distinction from Emerson-Garfield. Sexual assault is down this month (1 vs 4 in the prior year). Commercial robbery is down, and robbery of a person is slightly down as well. Domestic violence has a decrease from last year. The total property crimes have shown a decrease of 16% from last month, and 9.56% from this time last year. Reporting any crimes through Crime Check or even [Community Oriented Policing Services \(C.O.P.S.\)](#) is highly encouraged, as it will influence the future patrolling of an area.

The [Nextdoor Neighborhood website](#) involved a discussion regarding an elderly couple's home being booby-trapped by an intruder who had settled in their garage. The intruder, who assaulted one of the residents before fleeing south past Buckeye on Washington, is still loose. For reporting squatters in supposedly-vacant houses, Code Enforcement is reachable at 625-6083. For post-crime calls, C.O.P.S. volunteers can be reached at 456-2233, although when witnessing a crime in progress, call 911.

Judith Gilmore from Fulcrum Institute reported on the Workforce Training Station at [1926 N. Ash](#). All three of the 1-bedroom apartments have been completed and tenants have been chosen. The retail area is completed. There is still a "Coming Soon" sign, but the brown paper is off of the window. The Martian shop mascot, Paul, is still in the window. Community Development rules have been rather challenging, and cost an additional \$6,600 from the budget which did not go toward Training Bay 3, the bay which will be used for apprenticeship training regarding 2 to 3 trades. Bay 2 will be the Lands Council. Bay 1 is not assigned. The store, called "The Station," will have a beverage bar and a retail counter. The entire renovation will have been done for \$130,000. A sign has been given at no cost. Emerson-Garfield has already contributed \$5,000. There are 80 adults from our neighborhood, who are parents to 59 children, who are being serviced by the center.

Michael Cathcart, representing the Alliance to Protect Local Jobs, spoke regarding Proposition 1, which is on the November 3rd ballot. This is the fourth ballot measure in our area proposed by the authors of the proposition, and neither of the other three measures were successful. Employers that could have as few as 150 full time employees (or 300 half-time employees) would be required to pay a vague minimum wage (approximately \$18.30/hour), which is higher than in any other city. If the city did not enforce the minimum wage, then the minimum wage would rise to \$23/hour. The measure would also prohibit wage increases based on experience or seniority, which may reduce retention. There is no definition of "effort," "skill," or "responsibility," which could lead to frivolous lawsuits. Montana is the only state in the country that prohibits an "at will" terminating of an employee past their probationary period. That could affect teen and youth employment, and limit the hiring of new employees to those with a long and faithful work history. The last measure by the proposition 1 authors which was removed off of the ballot by a Superior Court Judge had similar problems to the current proposition which would conflict with State laws.

The action item on the agenda was the reallocation of the \$17,865 in CDBG funds that had previously been allocated towards a bus shelter on North Monroe Street. It is proposed that we direct \$10,000 towards Fulcrum, and the \$7865 toward the [West Central Community Center \(WCCC\)](#), our previous 2016

priorities. Those are the two top priorities as of our August 2015 meeting. As many of the people who make use of the WCCC are from the Emerson-Garfield neighborhood, that project would be meeting the needs of many people from our neighborhood. We should then have a surplus of exactly \$17,865 at the end of the 2016 year. The motion was passed unanimously with no abstentions.

The availability of street trees and the Greening Grants was reviewed briefly.

The two traffic-calming requests that were submitted by the neighborhood council had been responded to and those responses were attached to the back of the agenda. It was reported that the traffic study for the Alice and Cedar intersection was performed for 20 hours mid-week, and thus may not have been in alignment with the observations of the residents who were in support of the traffic calming request.

The future of the North Monroe Street revitalization was discussed, along with the concerns of certain local business owners which influenced the delay of the construction until 2018.

The auction for the elevator at the [Corbin Senior Activity Center](#) is sold out and will be well attended. The Poker Walk around Corbin Park will begin on October 1st.

The replacement of the current pedestrian Post Street Bridge was reported on by Carlie Hoffman, who is on the [Pedestrian Traffic and Transportation \(PeTT\) Committee](#).

Jonathan Martinez reported on the past several meetings regarding Landlord and Tenant issues. [City of Spokane Code Enforcement](#) was also referenced, and our representative is Officer Chappie. There is no voting involved, and additional attendance is encouraged.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.