

Emerson-Garfield Steering Committee and Neighborhood Council Wednesday, April 9th, 2014

The Annual Meeting of the April version of the Emerson-Garfield Steering Committee & Neighborhood Council got under way at 7:01, according to my unofficial, but highly accurate time.

Chairman E.J. Iannelli began with introductions and a check to make sure a quorum was in the room. That was followed with approval of the last minute minutes from March. They were speedily approved before anyone could object, which no one objected to.

Deacon Dan, who is a Deacon at Knox Presbyterian Church AND whose name is Dan gave a short talk about Knox, where the E-G Farmers Market takes place. Dan said that Knox is a small church with dwindling numbers and they want to make everyone aware of the church, the facilities they have and they want to welcome anyone in the neighborhood who would like to come by for a tour. You can contact Dan at 869-0339.

The next presentation was from Don Walker of the Spokane Firefighters Union. He talked about the history of the Union, which started in 1918 and their role in the community. They had a nice video showing the anatomy of a fire and why modern fires are more dangerous than fires from just 30 years ago. The fire department currently has low funds for training. They are under staffed and they have outdated equipment. Do you feel a Levy coming? The purpose of the presentation was to begin a conversation about what the citizens want in their fire department. We'll be hearing from them again...hopefully later this year, and then again prior to an election.

Alicia Powell from the city's Office of Neighborhood Services was the next speaker and she talked about Storm Water Mitigation and planting 10,000 trees in the next two years. There is a street tree planting session scheduled for Saturday, April 19th from 8AM to Noon, meeting at the corner of W. Dalton and N. Maple. There will be cookies. She has plans for more tree planting, such as on vacant public lands as well as residential tree planting. And there will be cookies!

Next the very exciting portion of the meeting took place with the election of new officers. Since E.J. and Megan have decided to stay in their positions for another year and no one opposed them, the decision was easy. But the Secretary position is available. One brave soul was foolish enough to step forward so that made that decision easy as well. The new secretary will be Bryce Morrison.

At this point my job was done and I stopped taking notes so I don't know what happened next.

When I started paying attention again, E.J. had the group discussing the Developers Agreement for the troublesome piece of property at the bottom of the Monroe Street Hill. The North Hill Neighborhood Committee has compiled an agreement that they want to be included with any sale of the property. It was decided that it was a fine document that all agreed with and after a motion and a second, it was approved that we (Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood Committee) support the Developers Agreement.

Our Spokane City Council Representative Candace Mumm showed up so E.J. made here talk. An ordinance (Market Garden Ordinance) has been passed to allow small farm animals in town. Roosters are not allowed. Candace is interested in hearing from citizens about how that is going. Also passed was an ordinance concerning urban growth. The Mayor vetoed the ordinance so that's still up in the air. A

Crosswalk ordinance is in the works, concentrating on marked cross walks in areas like our section of Monroe. A brief question and answer period followed.

Corbin Senior Center has two new heaters thanks in part to the support from our group. There is a ghost in the Electrical System at Corbin and they are trying to figure out what's going on. Corbin has ordered a new van after years of fund raising but no delivery date is available. The Pancake Feed is April 19th, which you can attend prior to the tree planting event mentioned earlier. The Corbin Golf Scramble is coming June 6th at Indian Canyon. Also, Volunteer Drivers are needed.

Garbage Czar Karl Boldt gave the report for the upcoming Spring Clean Up day on Saturday, May 10th. More volunteers are needed and you can call Karl at 325-3031. That event will take place before the next neighborhood meeting so it is hoped everyone who can help out will be there.

E.J. gave a quick recap of Neighborhood Planning since Megan was unavailable. There is a meeting aimed at E-G Businesses on April 17th at CSL Plasma to show the business owners the plan that has been developed.

Jay Cousins reported on the Community Assembly. They are concerned with how the CDBG funds are being distributed. All neighborhoods are now eligible for the funds, which increases the competition. Neighborhoods are now re-evaluated every year for eligibility. \$700,000 is left in the CDBG funding this year but it is for shovel ready projects and the 30 day clock to apply is ticking. April 26th is the date for the Community Assembly Workshop and the focus will be on how to hold meetings that don't suck. The meeting will be held at East Central Community Center from 9 to noon, which will not suck.

Lisa Fuchs has agreed to serve on the CDBG board that no one volunteered for last month. However, she is unable to attend them all so she needs someone to help out.

Lois Musser reported on the Community Garden. Anyone who would like to join is welcome and everyone who joins equally reaps the benefits of the harvest.

Before the meeting closed, Rusty Vlahovich presented a sympathy card for everyone to sign for Ed Reid in memory of his wife Sally who passed away last month. Sally was our Community Development Coordinator and served on the council for many years. Sally is a light that was extinguished too soon and she will be missed and fondly remembered.

With that E.J. adjourned the meeting at 8:36PM

In closing, I would like to say that I have really enjoyed serving as secretary for the last four years, but that's not true. I have only enjoyed it for the last couple of years, after I passed that literacy class. Thanks for putting up with my foolishness.

Stan Burke
Former Secretary Emeritus L.S.M.F.T