



## Emerson-Garfield Steering Committee and Neighborhood Council

*Wednesday, September 10th, 2014*

The meeting was started with quorum at 7:03 pm, following introductions, and the August minutes were approved.

Marlene Feist with the City of Spokane spoke about the [street levy proposal](#) that will be on the November ballot. \$82 million dollars of new economic activity is expected as a result of the Riverfront Park developments which would be covered by approximately half of the income from property taxes. Many of the other points which involve the improvements proposed for Riverfront Park are [in the minutes from the May EGNC meeting](#), as it was covered by Parks and Recreation Director Leroy Eadie.

The street levy proposal is designed to improve the arterial system, which has approximately 90% of Spokane's traffic. The street levy would use 57 cents of the 93 cents per 1,000 dollars of assessed property value, with the remaining income going to the parks program. With proper maintenance, involving grind and overlay, the life of streets could be extended to 50 years. Some of the arterial money could be used for residential areas as well.

A council member asked about where the income from license plate renewals went, and the speakers confirmed that the income from renewals is directed to the improvement of residential streets.

This is a 20-year levy, and the debt will be paid off four years later. The park bond requires a 60% voter approval, and the streets bond only requires 50% approval. The ballots can be expected in mailboxes by the middle of October.

Judith Gilmore from the [Fulcrum Institute](#) spoke about her organization's work with the Geiger Correctional Center and low- to moderate-income families in West Central and Emerson-Garfield Neighborhoods. To augment these services, they are planning to renovate a building at [1926 N. Ash](#), the former home of Nords Electric. The historic building has set vacant for years but is still in phenomenal shape. There are three large bays for work or classrooms for training as well as three apartments for transitional living.

Judith said that Fulcrum is looking for partner organizations that would occupy the available training and retail space in the building. Anyone who is interested should contact her via email ([judithg721@comcast.net](mailto:judithg721@comcast.net)) or by calling (509) 838-2799.

Jackie Caro, from the Office of Neighborhood Services, reported that the [traffic circles on Montgomery](#) have gone out to bid. There is another project for the finishing of sidewalks on Madison and Jefferson which is part of the traffic calming program. Changes to the qualification for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) were explained, with sections of all neighborhoods qualifying (besides just the 13 poorest neighborhoods). The majority of E-G still qualifies for CDBG block dollars.

For example, the neighborhood could apply to install new lighting on North Monroe to increase safety and walkability. The sidewalk applications are even simpler. Neighborhood councils can no longer grow a pot of CDBG dollars for an extended time prior to using it, as HUD will flag dollars that have been left in an account for too long.

Neighborhoods can also collaborate with each other for larger projects, such as Monroe street renovations which would impact the Riverside or North Hill neighborhoods. This funding does not pay

for maintenance. These \$3.3 million are federal dollars which can be allocated on the neighborhood level. Cities typically use these dollars to pay for the streets. Spokane is unique in the way that it allows the neighborhoods to allocate those funds. November 24th, 2014, is the yearly deadline for applications. Emerson-Garfield has \$35,529.48 for Neighborhood Sidewalk Allocation and \$18,725.32 for Neighborhood CHED Allocation.

Anyone can put forward applications on the neighborhood's behalf, but all applications for neighborhood projects will need to be approved and signed by the chair of the E-G Neighborhood Council.

Additional information on CDBG is available [on the spokaneneighborhoods.org website in the "Programs" tab](http://spokaneneighborhoods.org). There is a training session for these CDBG projects and applications on Monday, September 15, from 5:30 to 7pm at the [West Central Community Center \(1600 N. Belt\)](#).

A short update was given on the [Greening Neighborhoods Grants](#). E-G has been given an extension until September 15 to finalize the paperwork. For the [Stevens/Atlantic grant](#), volunteers will go door-knocking to obtain residents' approval to plant and maintain trees.

A proposal was made to change the EGNC meeting time from 7pm to 6pm to better accommodate participants' busy schedules. It was discussed that the time should be changed after the next neighborhood mailing, which will be soon enough for the October 8 meeting. The proposal was approved, with one "nay" vote. The council will also have a goal to end the meeting by 7:30 pm.

The memorandum of understanding between the [Emerson-Garfield Farmers' Market](#) and [Project Hope Spokane](#) was discussed. A few changes for fine-tuning the wording were recommended. The revised MoU was approved unanimously.

The council members gave retroactive approval for a sidewalk improvement project near [Emerson Park](#), which permitted that \$5,015 be reallocated from the neighborhood's street tree fund to the sidewalk fund, even though the money will be used for street tree replacement as part of the sidewalk project.

Jay Cousins reported on the [Community Assembly](#). The elections for the CA will be moved one month earlier to better familiarize those in newly elected positions. A workshop on **Saturday, October 18** from 9am to 2pm will offer an opportunity for the public input and involvement on CA priorities.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.