



Emerson-Garfield Steering Committee and Neighborhood Council

Wednesday, May 13th, 2015

After introductions, the meeting was called to order at 6:04pm. Quorum was present, with 26 voting members, including two new members, Donna Poppel and Christy Frazier. According to the sign-in form, at least 6 other people were in attendance. The April minutes had been previously reviewed by email, and were also unanimously approved in person.

The guest speakers for the month were [Julie Oliver](#) and [Lisa Woodard](#) with [Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency](#). The agency has been around [since 1967](#), and over that timeframe, the equipment has become more complex and sensitive, and the air quality has improved with decreased trash burning. They issue permits, perform on-site inspections, respond to citizen complaints regarding outdoor burning, and regulate [asbestos](#) safety.

The main air pollutants in Spokane are [particulate matter \(PM\)](#) and [ozone](#). Inhalable coarse particles are found near roadways and in dust storms, while fine particles are a result of outdoor burning. To reduce PM, they incentivize the removal of old woodstoves. Ground level ozone is commonly referred to as smog, and can give your lungs [the equivalent of a sunburn](#). A method to reduce ozone is vapor recovery at gas stations that have a high throughput and which are close to a residential area, such as Costco. Ozone can be at its highest on hot days (over 90 degrees), so it's best to mow your lawn on cooler days.

You can check whether outdoor burning is permitted on the [Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency](#) website.

Emerson-Garfield is over 40% occupied by renters, and Jonathan Martinez volunteered to represent the neighborhood on the Public Safety Committee regarding landlord and tenant issues.

Al Steuart provided the topics that will be featured at the [Farmers Market](#) throughout the summer, starting on June 5th. If you have any compost, including leaves, Al would like to use it. Call 760-223-0161. Any extra compost will be used for the Emerson Community Garden.

At the Farmers Market, the Kernel Program with [Catholic Charities](#) is looking for sponsors to help them purchase materials. Kids will be taught skills such as how to compost, how to make their own jump-ropes, and will have tokens to exchange for vegetables. The [South Perry Farmers Market](#) found this program to be very successful last year. If you would like to help Steve Anderson campaign for business sponsors, which will receive advertising, please contact him (emerson.garfield@gmail.com). The market posters submitted by 6th graders are available on [the E-G Facebook page](#).

Timothy Diko and Melissa Parker reported on the progress of organizing the summer concert with [Broken Whistle](#). The concert will be on August 2nd at Emerson Park, starting at 6pm.

If you are interested in forming a group to advocate on behalf of Emerson Park, contact Steve Anderson.

Amy Dutton reported that the [Greening Grant Committee](#) will meet on May 29th at 6pm at Emerson Park.

[Gibsons Nursery](#) at Pines and 14th will give a 10% discount to Emerson-Garfield residents.

[Candace Mumm](#) reported on the Spokane City Council. The Monroe Street project has had some additional progress, as well as challenges. We have 106-year-old utility pipes under the street which *need* to be replaced. Certain businesses are more concerned about the through-traffic count than pedestrian safety. You can tell businesses why it is important to have a walkable environment, and that a slower traffic speed can be an improvement to business. Residents could also speak at the [City Council](#), write [letters to the editor](#), and write letters [to the mayor](#) in order to support the development.

There were 60 foot cell towers being placed in two back yards, and [a six-month moratorium was placed](#) on installing them. Regulations are being proposed which could limit those towers to commercial zones.

Laura Schlangen reported on the [Corbin Senior Activity Center](#). The Madhatters Tea Party is on Friday, May 22nd at 1:30pm. The annual Golf Scramble will be held on June 5th. September 19th is the Munch and Mingle Auction.

Carl Boldt reported on [the April 18th Spring Cleanup](#). There were over 60 volunteers, 140 participating residents, 21.2 tons of refuse, and 1.92 tons of recyclable material. May 21st, 2016 will be the next neighborhood cleanup. Since we only used \$3,957.50 of the allotted \$6,500 budget, additional dump passes will be given to residents throughout the year.

Jay Cousins reported on the [Community Assembly](#). The CA will try to be an equal partner of neighborhoods and the local government, balancing the two groups. They are currently working on ordinances regarding outdoor storage and vehicles. One issue was whether to allow 1 to 4 cars per residence *in addition* to the 4 cars that each residence is allowed to have legally. It was settled on 2 additional cars which are *not visible* from the street. There is already an ordinance against parking in the front lawn, so [Code Enforcement](#) (625-6083) should be contacted regarding [certain violations](#).

Anne Luttrull [at The Father's Table](#) provided gardening schedule suggestions and announced a [plant sale](#) on May 16th and 17th from 10am to 4pm at 1718 N. Lincoln.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.