



## Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood Council

*Wednesday, March 11, 2020*

The meeting began at 6 pm with 15 voting members present. The roster also recorded 11 guests. The February minutes were approved without any changes, with no objections and no abstentions.

Timothy spoke about the Community Engagement Grant. We can have postcards made through the City using these funds. May 4 is the deadline for applications. We have secured Brad Keeler for our summer concert.

Mary let us know that a resident is considering painting a mural on the Hoban Building, however this is not confirmed as a plan.

Some neighbors discussed a house on Stevens that has illegal activity occurring. Please report any suspicious activity to Crime Check 456-2233. Dale Wells also informed the group about the history of the house and the pending eviction of the tenants. There is a white Dodge pickup with a suspicious owner that walks around the neighborhood, possibly casing houses.

Carlie presented some options for [mobile speed feedback](#) signs. The group voted to request signs placed on Post at Waverly Place northbound, Buckeye at Calispel westbound, and Ash at Cleveland southbound.

Spokane Public Library (Jeff Benefield): Downtown Library is now at the [STA Plaza](#). They are also starting a [1000 Books before Kindergarten](#) program.

Council Member Candace Mumm announced that there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Spokane. Some events may be canceled, and the City is following the State Department of Health guidelines. If you are exhibiting cold or flu-like symptoms, please self-quarantine. Contact your healthcare provider or [Spokane Regional Health District](#) with questions.

Emerson-Garfield Farmers Market (Taylor Phillips): It will be starting June 5. They are looking for sponsors and donations to maintain the State's one-to-one EBT funding match.

Spring Clean Up (Karl Boldt): Rather than hold a clean-up event, he proposed increasing the number of dump passes this year. He will still send out a spring mailer with information regarding where to pick up dump passes.

Building Stronger Neighborhoods (Anne Luttrull): Each representative is reaching out to neighborhoods to inquire about what they need help with to increase their attendance. Cleaning from the Core is on hold.

Community Development Block Grant: District 3 has been discussing the types of projects they would like to fund. The meeting will be on March 25 at 6 pm West Central Community Center. The application is due April 3.

West Quadrant TIFF: The amendments meeting was moved to June.

North Monroe Business District: They are holding a blood drive at Kalico Kitchen on March 14 from 10am-4:30pm.

Corbin Senior Center (Heigi Wehr): The Center is open. They wipe all of their touchable surfaces down many times a day. They are moving their health fair to June 6. The picnic in the park will be July 18. They are adding planter boxes to the parking lot.

Community Assembly (Brenda Martinson): Post Street Bridge will be worked on this spring and will take two years. The trekking will be replaced on the triangle truss bridge in Riverfront Park. Northwest Blvd at Indiana and Post from Maxwell to Sinto will get grind and overlays.

Spokane COPS (Dale Wells): He is almost finished posting signs at Safeway. He could bring in crime heat maps next time. Businesses that experience transient camps should make their parking lots less desirable and post signs that people cannot be there after hours. If you find trash on the right-of-way, contact 311.

James George (Trey) from the City of Spokane [Stormwater Management Program](#) talked to the group about the stormwater pipes. Stormwater runoff causes pollution in the aquifer and the river. Keep polluting materials in buildings, containers, and under cover to prevent them from getting into stormwater. Best management practices include swales, ponds, and bio-infiltration cells.

The next EGNC meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 8 at 6 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

St. Andrew's Church  
2404 N. Howard  
Spokane, WA 99205  
March 7, 2020  
2pm

**Neighborhood meeting regarding suspicious activity, and neighborhood hot spot.**

Attendance: Cindy, Tracey, Bob, Dan, John, Charlie, David, Eric, Sterling, Brenda, Scott, Allan, Dewey, Linda, Jennifer, Amanda, Mark, Cheryl, Donna, Linda, Gee, Kevin, Kent, Haley, Bee, Julie M. Julie P, Peggy, Maura

Meeting opened by Dan.

Handout given to attendees with phone numbers from Crime Check, and Code Enforcement. Resource officer for neighborhood, Dale Wells, 625-3309.

Emphasis on reporting suspicious activity. Even though officers don't always respond, this creates a hot spot map for them. They can then see where they need to pool their resources.

Also emphasis on taking this matter to Emerson Garfield Council Meeting. Have several from this meeting that promised to attend the next March 11, 6pm meeting at 827 W. Cleveland. There is power in numbers.

Discussion of both transient activity happening constantly in alleyway, drug use, garbage sifting, sighting people in blankets possibly sleeping on church property after hours. Got confirmation from St. Andrews that they are not condoning this. That they too have a problem, and call law enforcement to get people off the back porches. Their current policy is two times a warning, third time a police escort. They also have tried to take measures to stop this. Stairwell was being used as a bathroom, and phone charging station. Since they've taken out that outlet, this has stopped. Willing to put up "unauthorized vehicles will be towed" signs on their property. Have gained permission from their next door neighbor to attach signs to neighbor's adjacent chain link fence. Will also post on building to cover both lanes of parking.

Everyone attending this meeting shared name, address and phone number. Discussion of the importance of being our own community block watch, reaching out to each other when we see something suspicious. Being more vigilant, and having open communication. Emphasis that some of these undesirable characters specifically look for neighborhoods where they can be perceived as invisible. But with that invisibility, as we've seen here on this block comes more bold behavior, and more crime. We need to stop living in fear, and ask who people are, why they're here, what they're doing, where they live. Because undesirables don't want that kind of attention.

Discussion of problem house at 2407 N. Stevens. Suspected drug and prostitution house. Has attracted a lot of late night activity, and is kind of a hub for a lot of these undesirables. Suspect possible meth lab in house and prostitution ring. Home owned by Theresa Moltich (sp?) who has been there since 1955? Disabled, and currently in a long term care facility . One of these people she gave permission to live in her home, but then they invited more that she didn't want in her home. Current laws say if you receive mail at a residence, you are considered a resident there. So they have some rights. Theresa has the right to evict them, but has limited resources. One of our attendees helped establish community program: Safe Streets <https://www.spokanecops.org/what-is-safe-streets>

This is a community action guide you can download that is specifically designed for dealing with nuisance houses in your neighborhood. The guide shows and explains how a neighborhood can unite and file in small claims court for \$25 per person, and take their claim to small claims court where a judgement of up to \$5,000 per person filing can be fined against a home owner that owns a nuisance house. Neighborhood Cop Shop on 806 W. Knox also has information.

We know Theresa is on disability, and may be in foreclosure, and also is behind on property taxes, so the judgement wouldn't actually produce money for any filers. But after our meeting, her next door neighbor went directly to her to let her know about our concerns and just how many neighbors were upset. Free legal counsel was offered, but it wasn't an eviction attorney, so there is understanding that she is possibly being referred one. But in the interim, she asked the current attorney to go please check on her dog. He went to the house, was not allowed in, but her immediate neighbor reported that during the night, all the cars that were able left

the premise, and one of the people living there did return the dog to Theresa. Activity has been very quiet at the house since our meeting. Again, from this meeting, it was discussed that a good eviction takes 45-60 days. We know a social worker is involved, and Adult Protective Services is involved. We think Theresa is in sound enough mind to make some of these legal decisions, and we have encouraged her to act just by having this meeting. It was discussed bringing this to Emerson Garfield Council attention, that a letter coming from them might be more powerful than just us. Send letter to property owner (Theresa) on behalf of Emerson Garfield regarding our intent to file in small claims on the Safe Street Plan.

Current plans of action:

- Seek attorney, to draft letter to homeowner. (Possible contact through one of our attendees who has possible access to free council through her church)
- Put up no parking/towing signs at St. Andrew's parking lot
- Seek activity forms at Cop Shop and report ALL suspicious activities
- Attendee volunteered making map of all attendees at this meeting, possible phone tree development?
- Group from this meeting attending and representing at the next Emerson Garfield Council, Wednesday evening, March 11 at 6 at Corbin Park Senior Center. We encourage all that are able to attend.

St. Andrew's Church Office: 325-5252

Maura and Dan Kegley (officiated meeting) 326-4460, cell 954-7370 & 919-0546

Thank you again for attending. This is our home, and we have the right to feel safe.