



Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood Council

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

The meeting began at 6:05 pm with 19 voting members present. The roster also recorded 10 guests. The minutes were approved without any changes, with no objections and no abstentions.

We voted to change the agenda to include discussion of the community engagement grant. The EGNC officers decided to keep our community engagement grant as is and not pursue a Zoom account.

Councilmember Stratton shared that the City is starting a 2-year pilot program that will place 20 mph restrictions around certain parks, and Corbin Park will be included. She recently had a meeting with Councilmember Mumm and Mayor Woodward concerning communication difficulties regarding problems related to the new homeless shelter at 55 W Mission. The Councilmembers recommended that the Mayor attend an upcoming Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood Council meeting hear concerns and discuss further. The [Parks Department](#) is working on fall and winter programming. A City [snow plan](#) will be posted soon. [Fall leaf cleanup](#) will begin soon.

The group discussed some issues regarding the new homeless shelter and the role of the City and the Neighborhood Council. We expressed frustration, and City councilmembers acknowledged the problems with communicating problems to the correct agencies and residents being frustrated and confused with the process.

Gene discussed Halloween during COVID-19. Based on and the usual volume of children, many Corbin Park residents will not be giving out candy or decorating. They encourage alternatives to celebrate holiday this year. [Spokane Regional Health District Halloween safety suggestions](#).

Kathleen Weinand from Spokane Transit Authority presented about bus service revisions in Emerson-Garfield. The STA had a plan that has been placed on hold due to the pandemic. They had to develop new assumptions, and STA will continue to grow but not as fast. They created a revised preliminary proposal. Their timeline includes a draft recommendation in Feb 2021, a final recommendation in May 2021, and implementation in May 2022.

The Center City Line is planned for May 2022. It will include enhanced stations and frequent service. It will also allow STA to change routes, repurpose resources, and serve new destinations. Routes changing in Emerson-Garfield: 27 Crestline (propose to straighten out route and increase frequency during peak hours and extend further north); 22 (will discontinue the northmost portion); and 35 (more limited hours). Routes 23 and 4 have no proposed changes. A [survey](#) is available, and STA requests your input.

The group voted to approve to elect and approve Bill as our new representative on the Land Use Committee.

Jeff Benefield (Spokane Public Library): The libraries are moving into Phase 2 limited access. Starting Oct 20, libraries will offer limited computer use for 30 minute reservations. They will continue to offer curbside holds. Beginning Nov 3, a limited number of people will be allowed in the library to browse and checkout – no bathrooms or lounging.

Taylor is resigning as market manager. We are looking for a new manager or team for next year to help Anne who already volunteered. Email emersongarfield@gmail.com if you are interested. Taylor will help the next manager to get going.

Karl (Clean Up Program): There are still a few dump passes available. The City will probably continue with dump passes only for next year as well.

Anne (Building Stronger Neighborhoods): They talked about future trainings, and Gabby is doing research for this. They have a list of local trainings that will possibly become part of the neighborhood toolkit. Carly Cortright is the new director of Neighborhood and Business Services

Bill (Land Use): They addressed aspects of tax money directed toward subsidizing public projects, including housing and a 20 year timeline for development, mainly for downtown, to represent needs of a lower income housing market. He reminded us that we can submit zoning change requests. They also discussed that communication about establishing of homeless shelters in neighborhood should be better and requested more awareness of significant changes in land use.

Carlie (Pedestrian, Traffic, and Transportation): They focused on the Traffic Calming program. The program now has a dedicated staff member, and they may need to adjust some timelines due to decreased revenue. They are looking at ways to leverage more money for bigger projects. Councilmember Mumm added that school cameras are back up, and the City is getting money back after the temporary funding of resource officers. She also has a staff member to help neighborhoods with Traffic Calming applications.

Gene (North Monroe Business District): Their recent focus is on a new website (livelocalinw.com) to help respond and direct shoppers to small businesses. There are five new murals on north Monroe. The new neighborhood gateway sign will still be built, but the details are still being worked out.

Heath (West Central Community Center): Councilmember Wilkerson discussed the [Carl Maxey Center](#). They discussed the [West Quadrant TIF](#) and the proposal for extending it. Their Building Dreams Auction, usually held in spring, was held virtually last month, and they raised over \$16000.

Christopher (Community Assembly): They will hold a candidates forum. Lori Kinnear presented on park ordinances and increasing group event regulations to mitigate problems. They discussed the dump passes, and some people were upset that not as many were available this year. Comprehensive Plan amendments were approved.

Gene (Treasury): We haven't spent any money and still have \$824.74.

The next EGNC meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 11 at 6 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm.