



Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood Council

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

The meeting began at 6 pm with 21 voting members present. The roster also recorded 8 guests. The minutes were approved without any changes, with no objections and no abstentions.

The group discussed the [Traffic Calming Program](#) and the [proposed changes to the process](#). In the proposed process, each cycle would be four years rather than one year. Neighborhoods would have the opportunity to workshop and discuss their neighborhood's most pressing traffic problems and prioritize the issues. An outside consultant would analyze problems and craft solutions to be presented to the council subcommittee to create a project list. The project list would be presented to neighborhood councils for feedback before being added to the budget cycle. Within the 4-year project window, neighborhoods would also have the opportunity to adjust priorities. The new process should be ready to implement later this year.

The aim for the proposed changes is to leverage more funding by combining issues from multiple neighborhoods (when applicable) and a longer timeline, allowing larger, more impactful projects and more opportunity to apply for grants.

Traffic calming near schools would be funded through a separate school program.

The traffic and pedestrian issues at Maple/Ash were discussed, including the need for additional traffic patrols, changes to speed limits, and changes to traffic light patterns. Officer Wells recommended that we contact the SPD Traffic Unit with our issue to request more patrols during times when we are seeing most issues. Other stated that they witnessed traffic calming needs, particularly on north-south streets.

The group passed a motion to hold a neighborhood traffic calming workshop in June or July to further discuss problem areas and begin to prioritize in preparation for the new process.

Ryan Torpie presented [Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood School Walkability](#). She outlined challenges to walking and used data to create maps and criteria to identify priorities to help us figure out areas where most impact could be made. During the presentation, she showed a series of maps for Audubon and Garfield elementary schools. The maps provided information on school boundaries and walking routes, including where students live; missing sidewalks; school walking routes, including places that are patrolled. Both schools' students have to cross multiple arterials to walk to school (only students that live over 1 mile away from schools are bussed). She also shared a tool to help with [prioritizing school walkability projects](#).

The group voted to place two [mobile speed feedback](#) signs on Northwest Blvd. One sign will be placed near Belt northwest-bound, and one sign will be placed near Hemlock southwest-bound.

City Council (Kandace Watkins): Beginning in May, [recycling will be collected every other week](#). Spokane Police now have a cold case unit for sexual assault cases; City Council is working to get funding for other kinds of cold cases. The Council is working on pop-up homeless shelters and affordable housing. The City was granted \$6.5 million dollars to assist landlords and tenants experiencing hardship due to COVID-19. Visit the [Spokane Regional Health District website](#) for vaccination information. The City is not a sponsor of the new stadium proposal.

Spokane Public Library (Jeff Benefield): The libraries are now open for grab and go browsing and computer access by appointment [made via the website](#) (each person needs their own appointment, including children). Curbside pick-up is still available. Shadle Park Library is scheduled to reopen in July. Look for information soon on how to vote on the City's new flag designs.

Clean Up Program (Karl Boldt): He will know by next month what our options are.

Community Assembly (Brenda Martinson): There will be a Robert's Rules of Order training on 3/30 from 6:30-8 pm. There will be a Downtown Plan open house on 3/16 from 6-8 pm. There was a water conservation workshop about the aquifer and upcoming open forums.

Land Use (Bill Heaton): There was a presentation by Spokane Housing Action and a presentation on the Comprehensive Plan update. They are looking at how land is used downtown, including how to bring surface parking lots back to life through multi-use, multilevel options. They discussed the situation in which starter houses are out of reach for lower and middle income of people in Spokane. The affordable housing problem has deepened recently.

Pedestrian, Traffic, and Transportation (Carlie Hoffman): The meeting was focused on the proposed changes to the Traffic Calming program discussed above.

West Central Community Center (Heath Kays): They are working on priorities for what the center wants to do and how to get it done.

COPS (Dale Wells): He addressed the attack on the synagogue last month and the leaflets on cars in Emerson-Garfield. An arrest was made regarding the synagogue with the alleged perpetrator receiving two felony charges. He mentioned that the community banded together. Leafleting is not a crime.

North Monroe Business District (Bill Heaton): The update on the gateway sign is not positive. Due to a lack of funds, no one bid on project because consulting fees consumed money that was granted. We have insufficient funds, and we may need to raise the funds ourselves. Gene will look further into getting an accounting of how the funds were spent and how much is left.

Treasury Report (Gene Brake): We have \$823.36, unchanged since last month. He is also working on a housing action subcommittee to make sure we have input on solutions.

Emailed reports:

Emerson-Garfield Farmers' Market (Anne Luttrull): They are looking for volunteers. Contact Brenda Martinson at bdalynn@gmail.com if you are interested.

Office of Neighborhood Services (Gabby Ryan): The [Community Engagement Grant](#) is now open, and applications can be found here, due by 5/14. If you see a pothole, report it to the City's Pothole Hotline at 311, or for outside city limits, 509.755.CITY(2489). Street Maintenance Crews are also proactive in looking for potholes and getting them repaired. If you have a concern about motorists speeding in your neighborhood, please report it to the Traffic Hotline at 625-4150. If it is an emergency or in-progress, please call 911.

The next EGNC meeting will be held on Wednesday, Aat 6 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.