



Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood Council

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

The meeting began at 6:01 pm with 22 voting members present. The roster also recorded 11 guests. The minutes were approved without any changes, with no objections and no abstentions.

The agenda was changed to add a discussion of [Downtown Spokane Partnership's proposal for a downtown stadium](#).

We submitted a Traffic Calming application in 2019 for a flashing pedestrian light at Northwest Blvd and Audubon. We received notice that the City opted to install a HAWK light instead, and that the City would pay for the upgrade.

Neighborhood Council elections will be held in June. We are seeking nominations for chair/co-chair, vice chair, secretary, community assembly representative and treasurer. Position descriptions can be found in the [by-laws](#). Please reach out to the current officers with any questions and to nominate individuals for positions via email at emersongarfield@gmail.com. We will discuss nominations further at the May meeting.

The Emerson-Garfield and North Hill neighborhoods' gateway sign project will proceed. The original design was over budget and needed to be revised. The simplified design was reviewed and a request for proposal to build the sign will go out this month. The project is planned to be completed this summer.

In November 2018, the City of Spokane requested an [advisory vote](#) from residents regarding relocating the Joe Albi Stadium to a downtown location near the Spokane Arena. The voters preferred to keep the stadium in its current location by 64.3%. Downtown Spokane Partnership is revisiting discussion of moving the stadium to a downtown location. We discussed different points of view on locating the stadium downtown and the impact on the neighborhood, including funding for the stadium, a private entity managing the stadium, impact on school events, parking, and noise. A motion was made to draft a letter stating the neighborhood's position to stand by the 2018 advisory vote to keep the stadium in its current location. The motion was approved. Gene will draft the letter and send it to District 81.

Dianna Gulick presented information related to cold cases in Spokane. Her brother was murdered when he was 13, and the case remains unsolved. She has formed a [Facebook group](#) and a [petition](#) requesting that the Spokane Police Department reallocate funds to form a cold case unit focused on missing persons, unidentified remains, and sexual assault backlogs. She is hoping to educate the public on the lack of a cold cases department and the need to fund one. Lisa Gardner also shared the story of the unsolved murder of her grandmother. The group voted to draft a letter to the Spokane Police Department in support of creating a cold cases department.

There is a position vacancy in our neighborhood on the [West Quadrant Tax Increment Finance District](#) Neighborhood Project Advisory Committee. The group voted to nominate EJ Iannelli to fill the position. The nomination was accepted.

City Council (Candace Mumm): If you have any problems scheduling or getting to the vaccine site, contact Councilmember Mumm's office at cmumm@spokanecity.org. Students in Spokane under 19 years old will receive a free bus pass for the summer of 2021. The City received a federal grant for electric busses that will run frequently on the length of Division. Three pedestrian beacon crossings will be added on Division at Everett, Wiley, and Long. Swimming pools will have free passes for everyone and expanded hours. The Council is looking at flat fees for all major events. Dump passes will be QR codes this summer. The Council is working on a better system for [traffic calming](#) applications. SNAP will offer low-interest loans to help with utility bills and home repairs in August. Spokane Police Department has been funded for additional shifts around schools and parks. They are working on updating the street mural program in a partnership with Spokane Arts.

Spokane Public Library (Jeff Benefield): Libraries have reopened at 50% capacity for 30-minute visits, no appointment needed. The first hour of the day is reserved for high-risk customers. Meeting rooms are still closed. Vote by May 2 for your [favorite design for a new city flag](#) using your library card. Shadle Park Library plans to reopen on August 10.

Emerson-Garfield Farmers' Market (Anne Luttrull and Brenda Martinson): The market is on track to open June 4. Market days are Fridays from 3-7 pm. Posters and flyers will go out soon. Volunteers are needed - email Brenda at bdalynn@gmail.com. KERNEL, as well as music, will be returning this year. There will be a magician once a month.

Community Assembly (Brenda Martinson): The City received \$84 million from the federal government for stimulus money. The Council is deciding which groups and projects to spend it on. They discussed landlord/tenant issues and housing issues, including zombie houses. Council is working on new rules regarding popup shelters. People are upset about how the neighborhood clean-up program was implemented last year. [Community Engagement Grant](#) applications are due May 14. Policies and procedures still being updated.

Building Stronger Neighborhoods (Anne Luttrull): There will be a Strengths Finder training on June 29 at 6pm. Surveys will be distributed to neighborhood councils soon.

Land Use (Bill Heaton): The Review Board presented to inform the committee and the City of their tasks and responsibilities. The board looks at proposed projects to ensure they meet requirements in the [City's Comprehensive Plan](#) and with regulations.

Pedestrian, Traffic, and Transportation (Carlie Hoffman): The [Traffic Calming workshop](#) was postponed to April 28 at 5:30 pm.

COPS (Dale Wells): They set up special patrol on Friday and Saturday nights during summer on Division to try to stop racing and reckless driving. They are also in the process of citing Maverick gas station as a

nuisance for allowing car gatherings in parking lot. If you see the reckless driver, call 911. Continue to report on junk vehicles to parking enforcement.

North Monroe Business District (Brenda Martinson): They will have some events this year, including a farmers market takeover. Using CARES money, 67 members had their membership paid for the year. Box lunch and bags will be delivered to members. They are working on getting more art on Monroe.

Treasury Report (Gene Brake): We still have \$823.36.

Morgan Rockey, Legislative Assistant to Senator Andy Billig offered to help answer any questions or connect residents with resources. Contact her morgan.rockey@leg.wa.gov or Senator Billi gandy.billig@leg.wa.gov.

Gerriann Armstrong, Program Manager of the [Way Out Shelter](#), shared some information. They recently collected 8 32-gallon bags of trash in the neighborhood, and they are looking to continue to volunteer and service in the neighborhood. Some statistics since they opened: 552 individuals stayed at shelter, 96 guests will stay this evening, 48 veterans served, 298 persons with disabilities served, 53% were over age of 40, 120 guests were ages 50-59, 20 guests were ages 60-69, and 8 guests were over 70 They partner with Frontier Behavior Health who meet with people suffering from mental health and addiction problems. They address addiction problems with guests and encourage people to get help.

The next EGNC meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 12 at 6 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm.