



Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood Council

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

The meeting began at 6:01 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.

A request to add discussion of the City's Sustainability Action Plan to the agenda was granted.

The [Community Engagement Grant](#) deadline extended to May 21. The grant is for up to \$800 and is intended to help neighborhood councils engage with their neighbors and encourage attendance to neighborhood council meetings. Rachele proposed using a portion of the funds on a Zoom Pro account. We discussed funding additional dump passes, though Gabby did not advise we use the funds for this because the City is able to fulfill these requests. Mark suggested we send postcards to residents with links to our social media. Gabby noted that the City will be sending out postcards regarding the dump passes that can include social media and website information.

[Traffic Calming Program](#) changes were discussed. Carlie wanted to remind the group that neighborhoods will no longer be applying for projects each year, and the new process will have a 4-year timeline. The plan is for neighborhoods will meet with a facilitator to help identify larger projects that will leverage more funding. There will be a more holistic look at the neighborhoods and projects. Each neighborhood will have the opportunity to meet to rank their most pressing traffic issues.

Linda discussed the [Sustainability Action Subcommittee's Sustainability Action Plan](#) draft. The subcommittee is seeking feedback and comments regarding the draft document. They are also holding three workshops ([Thursday May 20th at 6-7:30pm](#); [Saturday May 29th at 10-11:30am](#); [Thursday June 3rd at 6-7:30pm](#)). After reviewing the SAP, please [submit your feedback](#) to the Sustainability Action Subcommittee (SAS). Your feedback will help guide revisions and provide City Council guidance on moving Spokane toward a more sustainable future.

Nominations for the 5 officer positions were taken. The nominees were: Chair – Mark Carlos; Vice-Chair – Karl Boldt; Secretary - Carlie Hoffman; Treasurer – Gene Brake; Community Assembly Representative – Brenda Martinson. Carlie will create a Survey Monkey ballot and send it to the voting members.

The group further discussed ideas for the Community Engagement Grant. We decided to vote on using up to \$250 of the funds to purchase a Zoom Pro account and the remainder of the \$800 to purchase promotional stickers with links to our neighborhood council web page. The results were 13 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstentions.

City Council (Karen Stratton): The City received \$80 million in recovery funding with the first half awarded this week. The Mayor reached out to Council Members to discuss distribution priorities. She worked with Council President, focusing on community centers, landlord/tenant issues, businesses, and neighborhoods. If you have comments or want to discuss, email her (kstratton@spokanecity.org). STA is offering [free van rides from May 12 – Jun 12](#) for anyone who needs transportation to receive a COVID-19 vaccination. [Summer concerts](#) are returning to the Riverfront Park Pavilion. City Council is working with the Office of Neighborhood Services to distribute 20 is Plenty signs for people to put in yards encouraging vehicles in neighborhoods to slow down. Continue to report potholes to 311. There are no current updates on the neighborhood gateway sign.

COPS (Dale Wells): The problem RV was removed from Cleveland in one day due to Council funds to remove hulk impounds. Police presence to mitigate the street racing on Division has yielded 60 citations for speeding, 15 arrests for reckless driving, 5 arrests for driving under the influence, 22 warnings, and some eluding a felony charges.

The group discussed homelessness challenges including shelters limiting their intake hours, which limits the police ability to take action against loitering and sit-lie. City Council Member Stratton provided information that a local group of Emerson-Garfield neighborhood businesses are meeting with the City Council and the Mayor to discuss panhandling and shelter hours. She also let the group know that the shelter at 55 W Mission will be closing as they hope to convert to a wrap-around services housing facility. Officer Wells addressed a comment about the lack of police presence in the neighborhood to address homeless issues, noting that they cannot take action unless a law is broken. He also stated that the previous issues in parks have been greatly reduced.

Spokane Public Library (Jeff Benefield): Library branches are open at 50% capacity, limiting visits to 30 minutes or less. Meeting rooms are not available. In-person programs are suspended, though they are offering online programs via their [website](#) and [Youtube channel](#). May is Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage month. The Hive on E Sprague currently accepting [artist-in-residency applications](#). Shadle Park branch will reopen Aug 10.

Emerson-Garfield Farmers' Market (Anne Luttrull): Opening day is June 4 from 3-7pm. There was a vendor meeting on Saturday. There are about 26 regular vendors. They received an Innovia grant for \$5000 that will help reimburse for lot rent and insurance, advertising, printing, tokens, and musicians. There are still no pets allowed. Vendors must wear masks but not all customers are required to. To volunteer, contact Brenda (bdalynn@gmail.com).

Building Stronger Neighborhoods (Anne Luttrull): The Roberts Rules training had great participation and feedback, The Zoom video recording will be posting to the City's website. On Jun 29 at 6pm, there will be a Strength Finders training, and a survey will be distributed prior to the event. A new ONS administrator was hired who is working on changes for the clean up program.

Community Assembly (Christopher Savage): There was an update on the police reform task force, a Community, Housing, and Human Services report, and an update on the [CARES Act](#) funding allocation. Recycling pick up is now every other week to reduce the quantity the municipality must deal with.

Land Use (Bill Heaton): There was no meeting in April.

Pedestrian, Traffic, and Transportation (Carlie Hoffman): There was a presentation on [US195/I90 study](#) design to address challenges of safety and mobility. There will be an opportunity to comment when the final draft report is out. There was also a presentation by SRTC on their efforts to work with other agencies to create a unified list of regional priorities.

Treasury Report (Gene Brake): We have a \$824.43 balance.

The [Spokane Housing Action Plan](#) draft is now available. There will be two online open houses ([Tuesday, May 18 at 12pm](#); [Tuesday, May 18 at 6pm](#)).

The next EGNC meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 9 at 6 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51pm.