



Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood Council

Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, September 15, 2026

1. Call to order: 6:05pm

2. Attendance & Introductions

a. Voting members present: 19 (quorum met)

b. Guests present: 2

3. Housekeeping

a. Approval of August 2026 minutes

i. Anne Luttrull moved, EJ Iannelli seconded

ii. 18 in favor, 1 abstention

4. Guest Speakers

Spokane Police Department (-)

- No police department rep was in attendance.

City Council Dist. 3 (Zack Zappone)

- The city council is currently working on passing a package of ordinances that will make it easier for those affected by August's fires to rebuild homes.
- The formal public comment period on the draft Future Land Use Map and Comprehensive Plan will end on **Friday, October 2, 2026**. Please submit comments by email to PlanSpokane@spokanecity.org, with the subject line "PlanSpokane 20246 Public Comments".
- Moving forward, Zappone hopes to be more respondent to emails as he has hired a new legislative assistant.
- Starting next year, the city council members will receive a pay increase of roughly 34%. This was determined by the city's salary review commission, with justifications for the increase attributed to the rising cost of living, the increasingly demanding hours of a city council member, and comparisons of other salaries for council in comparable cities.
- The city council also passed an ordinance that shields renters from eviction during emergencies if they experience a loss of more than 10% of their monthly income. Qualifying renters will receive a 12-month grace period to repay missed rental payments. The intention of this ordinance is to prevent further homelessness and keep people in their homes.



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Wildfire Prevention (Liza Marlin)

- Liza is from the West Central Neighborhood Council. She is responsible for coordinating fire remediation days where volunteers gather to **lop and scatter** different areas within the neighborhood. **Lop and scatter** is a forestry practice where cut trees, branches and brush are chopped and dispersed flat across the ground. This not only helps to hold moisture in the soil later into the dry season but also spreads out flammable materials.
- [Spokane Conservation District](#) is a great resource guide for wildfire preparedness.
- Encouraged everyone to sign up for [ALERT Spokane](#) as well as download the Watch Duty App ([Android](#) | [Apple](#)) to receive warning notifications and public alerts.
- Please feel free to contact Liza (marlin.elizabeth@gmail.com) for any additional questions, or if you are interested in volunteering for one of her fire remediation days.

SpokaneScape (Cathy Spokas)

- Spokane receives 17 inches of annual rainfall. However, it takes 72 inches of annual rainfall to maintain a lawn. Removing grass is one of the most water conscious adjustments a Spokane homeowner can make to reduce their water usage.
- [SpokaneScape Lawn Replacement Program](#) is designed to protect our natural resources and environment. A rebate of \$500 is awarded to participants' water utility bill after removing lawn and replacing it with water wise plant and mulch.
- Requirements to apply for the SpokaneScape Rebate are:
 - You must be a City of Spokane Water Department Customer.
 - The area you want to convert is easily visible from the street.
 - You have at least 300 square feet of lawn to replace with drought tolerant plants and mulch.
- Please review the [SpokaneScape Guidebook](#) for further information and resources.
- To schedule a [Designer at Your Door](#), please contact Cathy at waterwise@spokanecity.org.

5. Discussion and Voting Items

- No items were presented for voting.

6. Select Committee and Community Reports

Clean-Up Program (Jeff Thomas)

- Dump passes are available until Halloween. Please reach out to Jeff if interested.



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Community Assembly/Plan Commission (Linda Carroll)

- In response to EGNC's official comment on the draft FLUM, the western boundary of the "Residential High" zone has been moved from North Calispel Street to North Normandie Street, removing it from the Corbin Park Historic District.
- Encouraged everyone to continue submitting comments to PlanSpokane during the open comment period, especially regarding fire safety/evacuations.

Farmer's Market (Anne Luttrull)

- Two more weekends of Emerson-Garfield Farmer's Market. The last Farmer's Market is on Friday, September 25th, and will include an apple cider press. Costumes are also encouraged. Please come!

Christmas Tree Lighting in Emerson Park (Katie Joy Newhouse)

- The Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony in Emerson Park is set for Sunday, November 29th, one hour before dusk. Indaba Coffee Roasters will be providing hot cocoa during the event.
- A local non-profit has not been selected yet for donations.

7. Public/Community Announcements

All other committee/community reports were submitted in writing by their respective representatives and are included with the meeting agenda.

8. Adjournment: 7:25pm