Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood Council

Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, November 17, 2026

1. Call to order: 6:07 PM

2. Attendance & Introductions

a. Voting members present: 17 (quorum met)
b. Guests present: 2

3. Housekeeping

a. *Approval of October 2026 minutes*
   i. Michelle Taylor moved, Anne Luttrull seconded
   ii. 16 in favor, 0 no, 1 abstention

4. Guest Speakers

Spokane Police Department (no rep)

City Council Dist. 3 (Zack Zappone**)**

- The mayor and city council members are setting up a matching grant fund for neighborhood councils. The city council is pushing for the fund to offer up to $50,000 – to be determined.
- Healthcare rates are projected to increase as high as 30 percent for city employees, causing strain on the city's budget.
- Maintaining Spokane libraries is a top concern as the city takes on these increase healthcare costs. Generally, every three years, libraries have the opportunity to renew, and potentially, up the levy rate to help with funding. However, as this does not take place until next year, the city is looking for other ways to support libraries.
- The city council members are working with Downtown Spokane BID (Business Improvement District) on a new proposal to add foot traffic/bicycle policeman to the downtown area. However, there is pushback from downtown businesses as the proposal currently has the funding coming out of the businesses' allotted budget of $1.8 million – to be determined.
- Zack presented a question - **which area of Downtown should city council members prioritize cleaning up** (see map below)? Please send responses to **zzappone@spokanecity.org**.

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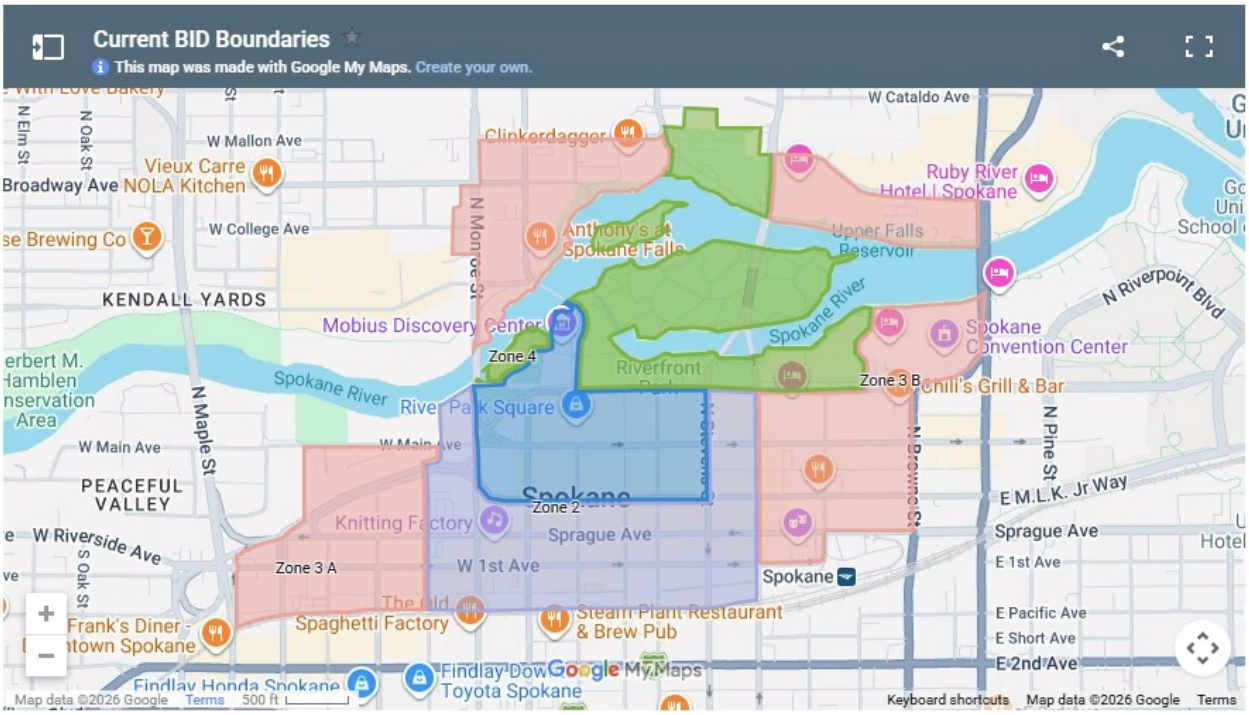

Parametrix/Spokane Arts (Jillian Emery, Sheila Evans**)**

- Presented updates on the Divison Street BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) project which included:
    - Civil design has transitioned to the 90% design phase.
    - The station architectural design is ongoing.
    - The station artwork project is ongoing.
    - Continuing the risk and readiness review process with FTA.
    - Completed environmental reviews.
- For more information, please review the provided powerpoint, "Spokane Transit: Division Street BRT".

5. Discussion and Voting Items (Chair**)**

- The next EGNC meeting will start at 5:00 PM and include a potluck. Everyone attending is encouraged to bring something to share. Assignments were given to bring the following serving utensils:
    - Water jug – Tim Musser
    - Plasticware/utensils - EJ Iannelli

- Napkins - Katie Joy Newhouse
- Plates - Sarah Lickfold
- Cups - Christine DePriest

- Neighborhood resident, Lauren Schubring, reached out to the EGNC to propose closing streets surrounding Corbin Park during Halloween to make it safer for children. There was discussion among the members of the best way to accomplish this. Ideas like reaching out to our neighborhood's PeTT (Pedestrian, Traffic, and Transportion) representative, Gene Blake, or applying to the city for a block party permit were suggested. Nothing definitive was decided.

6. Select Committee and Community Reports

Clean-up Program (Jeff Thomas)

- No more dump passes until next year.

Christmas Tree Lighting in Corbin Park (Katie Joy Newhouse)

- The neighborhood Christmas Tree Lighting is on Sunday, November 29th, from 3:30-4:30 PM.
- The Salvation Army will be accepting non-perishable food donations during the event.
- The Christmas Tree will stay lit from December 2026 through January 2027.

Transitions (Sarah Lickfold)

- Transitions is assembling 200 holiday backpacks to give to women being served at the Women's Hearth. Donations are needed. Please click HERE to see the list of needed items.

7. Public/Community Announcements

- Applications to be a part of the 2027 Spokane Neighborhood Leadership Academy cohort are now open and being accepted until the end of December 2026. The Spokane Neighborhood Leadership Academy (SNLA) is a four-month program (February-May 2027) designed to equip new and emerging neighborhood council leaders with knowledge, skills, and resources to increase engagement and effectively address their priorities. Click HERE if you would like to apply.

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- North Monroe District is kicking off the holidays with their Very Merry Kick-Off Celebration on Saturday, November 28th, 12:00-3:00 PM, which includes a scavenger hunt, Santa photos, games, and face painting. Please come!

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

8. Adjournment: 7:25 PM