



Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood Council

Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, December 10, 2025

1. Call to order: 6:02pm

2. Attendance & Introductions

a. *Voting members present:* 18 (quorum met), 3 pending

b. *Guests present:* 1

3. Housekeeping

a. *Approval of November 2025 minutes.*

- i. Mary Charbonneau moved, Katie Schneider seconded
- ii. Unanimous approval

b. *Approval of December 2025 agenda*

Motion to approve with the addition of a) Megan Kennedy (North Monroe Business District) and b) Michelle Taylor (St. Andrew's).

- i. Tim Musser moved, Jeff Thomas seconded
- ii. Unanimous approval

4. Guest Speakers

Spokane Police Department

- No representative present. Eileen will reach out to SPD and the Northwest Precinct Offer (NRO Tim Hendren) for info.

City Council Dist. 3

- None present. The District 3 councilmembers were unable to attend tonight.

5. Discussion and Voting Items

a. Holiday Tree Lighting in Corbin Park

- Katie Joy Newhouse left the meeting and was unable to report. Mary Charbonneau, who was present at the event, said the turnout was amazing; she heard nothing but positive feedback. A local church and Indaba provided cocoa and served 500 cups. Santa and Mrs. Claus were there.



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Spokane City Credit Union (SCCU) sponsored the event in full. Women and Children's Free Restaurant benefitted from the food drive that was a part of the event.

b. North Monroe Business District (NMBD) and West Quadrant Tax Increment Financing (WQTIF)

- Megan Kennedy, chair of North Monroe Business District, reminded the council that the NMBD extends from Boone to the North Hill.
- The NMBD has an interest in applying for WQTIF funds. North Monroe is only section of Emerson-Garfield that qualifies for WQTIF funding. Infrastructure improvements are what the TIF funds.
- Specifically, the NMBD is looking to apply for:
 - Fixing planter boxes: There is a design issue where the car bumpers are hitting concrete before curb.
 - South end of Monroe (above the river): Investing in design work and feasibility study for revitalization and traffic improvements.
- Megan is planning to present these asks to the WQTIF Neighborhood Project Advisory Committee (NPAC) in March.

Motion to provide EGNC endorsement of the NMBD's presentation to the WQTIF NPAC.

- i. Eileen Kazura moved, Tim Musser seconded
- ii. Unanimous approval

c. Open forum about EGNC priorities and operations in 2026.

EGNC Chair Eileen Kazura led a group conversation about

Q: What aspects of our meeting time do you value the most?

- A. Things that bring people together. Events: Tree lighting, farmers' market, potluck
- A. People want to make the neighborhood better
- A. Enjoy the SPD reports and the City Council as well as opportunity to offer feedback (speed bumps!)
- A. Appreciate the dissemination of info and having access to City Council to better understand the whys.
- A. A place you can connect with different groups and projects, find ways to work together.
- A. Reports from social service agencies. E-G is not a NIMBY neighborhood.
- A. The idea of coming together and meeting neighbors/businesses.
- A. Neighborhood cleanup.

Q. What would you change?

- A. Succession planning and allowing people to cycle off. Participation at all levels.



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- A. Maybe we don't need detailed reports from committees. Less time spent on recapping, more time engaging.
- A. Guests should be more time constrained in their comments to prevent rambling. Timekeeper?
- A. SPD, City Council and Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) could move to quarterly reports. (And ONS is already doing so.)
- A. Maybe rotating SPD, SFD and other agencies to provide updates.
- A. The phenomenon of too few hands is felt across multiple organizations. Is there space for more ad hoc project-style work to create a pipeline?
- A. Get more people to come.
- A. Term limits and succession mentoring/apprenticeships.

Q. Two of our last three meetings went over 90 minutes. How important is that 90 minutes?

- A. Essential. Otherwise people stop attending.

To help with stricter timekeeping, Eileen will aim to distribute the next agenda a week earlier and include agenda reports. (Committee liaisons will have to communicate their reports in writing or indicate whether there is something worth discussing.)

6. Committee and Community Reports

Office of Neighborhood Services (Gabby Ryan)

- ONS updates are included in the agenda packet.
- Applications are open for the 2026 cohort of the Spokane Neighborhood Leadership Academy (SNLA).

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church (Michelle Taylor)

- The church is doing its best to engage with and support communities. On the front porch of the church there is a black bin with yellow top. Have extra clothing? Drop it off there.
- There is a Christmas Eve service.

Community Assembly (Linda Carroll)

- The coming year is going to be important for citywide planning. City councilmembers have expressed a desire to meet with neighborhood councils to solicit input.
- Linda was nominated to be the CA liaison to the Planning Commission.

Spring Cleanup (Jeff Thomas)

- Probably no major updates until February

North Monroe Business District (Megan Kennedy)



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- A Very Merry Monroe (merrymonroe.com) continues. Shop with Heart is this coming weekend. Dec. 20 is Caroling Along the Corridor.

Building Stronger Neighborhoods (Vacant)

- Interested in serving? E-mail Eileen at chair@emersongarfield.org

Land Use (Vacant)

- Interested in serving? E-mail Eileen at chair@emersongarfield.org

Corbin Senior Activity Center (Tim Musser)

- Not present

Emerson-Garfield Farmers' Market (Anne Luttrull)

- Not present.

Pedestrian, Traffic & Transportation (PeTT) (Gene Brake)

- A big topic is transit planning, including bus routes in Peaceful Valley. Spokane Transit survey online runs until Dec. 15.
- Currently, sidewalks are maintained by homeowners. However, this is untenable in some situations. Corbin Park residents received \$20k+ repair estimates for their heaved sidewalks. If you have a sidewalk issue, reach out to Kitty Klitzke.

Community Safety Committee (Ted Stevens)

- Not present.

Transitions New Leaf (Sarah Lickfold)

- Working on budget because HUD funding is shifting. Nonprofit affordable housing providers are being severely impacted. Also focusing on credit scores, which can negatively impact the affordable housing demographic.

West Central Community Center (Heath Kays)

- Not present.

West Quadrant Tax Increment Financing Neighborhood Project Advisory Committee (E.J. Iannelli)

- No report

Treasurer (Katie Schneider)

- Waiting for access to financial reports from SCCU.

8. Vote on January Meeting

Motion to skip January meeting.

- i. Karen Wilson-Bell moved, Tim Musser seconded
- ii. Unanimous approval

9. Adjournment: 7:23pm