



# Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood Council

Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, February 11, 2026

1. Call to order: 6:02pm

## 2. Attendance & Introductions

a. Voting members present: 18 (quorum met)

b. Guests present: 6

## 3. Housekeeping

a. Approval of December 2025 minutes.

- i. Mary Charbonneau moved, Lori Gibson seconded
- ii. Unanimous approval

b. Approval of February 2026 agenda

- i. Lori Gibson moved, Daya Goldschlag seconded
- ii. Unanimous approval

## 4. Guest Speakers

### Gerianne Armstrong

- Gerianne has stepped down as executive director of the Salvation Army Way Out Center to take a new position as the first ED at the nonprofit group [Breast Intentions](#).
- She will miss being a part of the EGNC and views her experience as proof of neighborhood councils' ability to foster positive community relationships.

### Spokane Police Department (Tom Hendren)

- Reminder that Cpt. Hendren oversees the Northwest Precinct.
- The SPD is almost back to being fully staffed, a "pretty remarkable" development compared to one year ago.
- Increased the number of detectives in the department, which will allow them to bring back the investigative units. One is a gun violence unit to target youth and young adult shootings.
- Homicides were down in 2025 compared to previous years.
- Saw double-digit reductions in most crime categories, part of a nationwide trends.
- Some targeted approaches in the NW were effective in reducing crimes.



# Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood Council

Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, February 11, 2026

## City Council Dist. 3 (Zack Zappone)

- Update on Washington & Buckeye: Moved forward on adjusting the stoplight timing to a phased model. At \$200k, it will be roughly the same cost as (actually slightly more than) the alternative project.
- Update on Cedar Street vacation: There will be a meeting tomorrow night at the West Central Community Center about the street vacation. Previous meetings were about backgrounding. This meeting is looking for potential solutions.
- City Council is updating rules and procedures. Trying to make things more transparent when it comes to community feedback. Current proposal is to switch CC meetings to Wednesdays. Will go into effect in September. Also looking at changing the agenda to better indicate draft ordinances versus pending versus finalized. Finally, looking at testimony and ways to increase testimony beyond small pool: 20 individuals accounted for 50% of testimony heard last year.
- Safe Streets for All: Use 311 to submit comments about traffic calming.

## Spokane Transit Authority (Don Skillingstad and Jeff Hall)

- General update on the Division Street Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project.
- Seen the lilac stations downtown? This would be version 2. Ten miles long. Would run from downtown northwards.
- Project includes 43 uniquely branded stations. Eventually one lane in each direction on Division will be repurposed. Many years of traffic studies have already been conducted to support this.
- Transit signal priority will allow buses to modulate light timings slightly to get through intersections and improve transit times.
- Original project was supposed to go to Mead. With delays in North-South freeway, project was rethought and modified. Ruby/Division couplet area will still get Business Access and Transit (BAT) lanes. Route will now end at Hastings Park & Ride. All else has been shifted to a future phase.
- North-South Corridor appears to still be on track for 2030 completion, which means that future phase could be accelerated.
- The project is well into the design phase.
- All being well, construction is anticipated to start in 2028. Will be 2.5 years of construction and 7 to 8 months of testing. Planned open will be in Sept. 2030.
- Total cost is expected to be \$166,505,000. Over half of that amount is already secured. These numbers will change as new information arises.

## Spokane Arts STA Companion Project (Karen Mobley, Skyler Oberst)



# Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood Council

## Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, February 11, 2026

- Bus stops will receive unique designs through a region-wide call for artists.
- There are 4 or 5 stops in Emerson-Garfield that will receive designs. Components will include glass surrounds/windcreens, railings, garbage cans and identifying flags.
- A five-question survey was circulated during the meeting to get a fix on neighborhood stories and character. The primary question is: What's the character of your neighborhood? That character is informed by things like identifying visual images from the neighborhood, significant historical events, notable residents and cultural groups.
- The survey will also be e-mailed out via the Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) and, later, the EGNC.

### 5. Discussion and Voting Items

#### a. Concerns about Comprehensive Plan revisions (Linda Carroll)

- The Comprehensive Plan, which is currently under revision, has issued a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that could lead to exploitative and unregulated development.
- There are 3 alternatives: 1. No change. 2. Polar development as seen in Hillyard and West Plains. 3. More distributed development.
- Currently neighborhood councils and CA have no voice in the matter.
- E-G is between two corridors. Under the draft EIS, empty lots are going to see rapid development. A likely outcome is that historic Craftsman homes will be torn down to make way for quick-build housing.
- The current development frenzy has resulted in the city being overbuilt for mid- to high-income homes. It is only underbuilt in lower-income, affordable housing, which is the type that has most been needed.
- Steering committee of the county are considering home ownership as an important component.
- State Department of Commerce is driving this deregulation furor but has a narrow definition of home ownership.
- Comments on the draft EIS are still being accepted until Feb. 18 at the [Plan Spokane website](#).

*Motion for Linda to submit comments and questions to the Planning Commission on behalf of the EGNC.*

- i. Daya Goldschlag moved, Mary Charbonneau seconded
- ii. Unanimous approval

#### b. EGNC elections in April

- Reminder that there will be an election for EGNC leadership in April.



# Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood Council

Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, February 11, 2026

- Crystal Glanz-Kreutz, (now former) vice chair and communications lead, submitted her resignation in January citing changing life circumstances.
- Eileen will be stepping down from the chair position. E.J. will be stepping down as secretary. This will leave all executive positions vacant.

## c. Holiday Tree Lighting in Corbin Park (Katie Joy Newhouse)

- There was damage to the electrical outlet. It will cost between \$800 and \$1,200 to replace it.
- Gabby Ryan recommended approaching the Spokane Parks Foundation for funding.

## 6. Select Committee and Community Reports

### Emerson-Garfield Farmers' Market (Anne Luttrull)

- The market will be held in Emerson Park again.
- Volunteers and sponsors are needed.

### Transitions New Leaf (Sarah Lickfold)

- Rogue Heart Media drop off point for the annual [Mardi Bra event](#).

### Spring Cleanup (Jeff Thomas)

- This year's Spring Cleanup is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 16.
- The Dept. of Corrections is no longer contributing crews to assist. Faith Bible Church will contribute volunteers.
- Q. Dump passes? A. Not heard anything yet.

### Office of Neighborhood Services (Gabby Ryan)

- Sign up for the ONS newsletter: [tinyurl.com/ONSnewsletter](https://tinyurl.com/ONSnewsletter).
- Come down to City Hall between 8am and 5pm for SLOW DOWN speed signs.
- Applications are open for 2026 Community Engagement grants (\$850).

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

## 9. Adjournment: 7:35pm