



# Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood Council

Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, June 11, 2025

**1. Call to order:** 6:05pm

**2. Attendance & Introductions**

*a. Voting members present: 22 (quorum met)*

*b. Guests present: 3*

**3. Housekeeping**

*a. Approval of May 2025 minutes.*

Judy Heaton requested an edit to reflect the corrected \$807.51 EGNC account balance.

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

*a. Approval of June 2025 agenda.*

Katie Schneider requested an edit to include a clear vote on the Community Engagement grant.

- i. Katie Schneider moved, Judy Heaton seconded
- ii. Unanimous approval

**4. Guest Speakers**

## **SPD Northwest Sector Precinct Report**

- No SPD representative was present

## **Senator Marcus Riccelli**

- Constituents should have received pamphlets in the mail with an update from the last legislative session.
- Lawmakers are tasked to create a balanced budget every two years. These were grueling sessions, all the more challenging because of the budget deficit. The objective was to scrub the budget and look for efficiencies while trying to protect key essential services.
- Sen. Riccelli's top priorities included housing and food security. He is working to push North Spokane Corridor project to completion.



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- Sen. Riccelli is proud of several achievements. One was securing \$3 million for a regional crisis stabilization center, another was creating a law enforcement training facility.
- One goal is to establish a minimum level of senior income for property tax. Sen Riccelli is working with Rep. Voltz to propose an exemption based on duration of home ownership, possibly 25+ years.
- Q: Property prices have doubled, which means taxes have doubled. Hyperinflation has affected homeowners' ability to pay property tax. Maybe there are creative ways to increase or diversify the tax base?
- Q: Why the elimination of the minimum parking requirement? A. Was designed to incentivize more housing development.
- Q. What about taxing empty properties? A. Sen. Riccelli is on a committee to develop a policy along those lines with a phased-in approach.
- Q. What are you seeing as a state concern? What is Washingtonians' biggest worry? A. Eastern and Central WA would be severely impacted by loss of Medicare/Medicaid coverage — a 'crisis level' issue. Additionally, services like special education and behavioral health could be impacted with societal repercussions.
- Sen. Riccelli and other lawmakers will be at the Emerson-Garfield Farmers' Market on Fri., June 13 to answer questions in person.

### **Spokane City Council** (CM Zack Zappone)

- Spokane Transit Authority update: There was a story on KXLY about the CEO search. CM Zappone voted against the idea of bringing only one candidate forward for public review.
- Monday, June 16 is the vote on Home Starts Here homeless ordinances. It is part of a multi-pronged "all-above" approach to addressing homelessness.
- Q. How many people are considered an encampment? A. It can be just 1 if they have 'camping' equipment.
- The City's approach to the ICE protest taking place this minute is to allow for civil disobedience but not allow transgression of obstruction laws.
- Buckeye and Washington traffic-calming project: There will be a town hall meeting in September for the 2026 project on how to address the intersection.



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- Euclid traffic-calming project: Funding of speed bumps passed City Council. The City recorded average speeds in the area over a single day: 28 MPH on Euclid, 32 MPH on Cora (with extreme speeds up to 70 MPH). Ideally, the neighborhood would like to see speed mitigation in all three locations (Euclid hill, Euclid, Cora), with priority on Euclid hill.

### 5. Voting Items

#### Signing the Good Neighbor Agreement with Jewels Helping Hands

- Katie Schneider voiced concern about the lack of accountability in the agreement. A discussion followed about recourse for potential problems and Jewels Helping Hands' reputation in the community.
- Gina McKenzie proposed a motion to not sign the Good Neighbor Agreement
  - i. Gina McKenzie moved, Bill Heaton seconded
  - ii. 7 votes in favor, 14 against, 1 abstention (motion failed)
- The Good Neighbor Agreement will be revisited at the August EGNC meeting.

#### July meeting

- The EGNC typically votes on whether or not to meet in July. EGNC Chair Eileen Kazura said that she anticipates council business to be light.
- Tim Musser proposed a motion to not meet in July
  - i. Tim Musser moved, Katie Schneider seconded
  - ii. Unanimous approval

#### Community Engagement (CE) Grant

- In the interest of transparency, Katie Schneider requested a follow-up vote that expressly mentions the Concert in the Park as a funding allocation.
- Katie Schneider proposed a motion that would distribute Emerson-Garfield's \$800 CE Grant in the following way: \$175 for a one-year Zoom license, with the remaining balance (\$625) to the Summer Concert.
  - i. Katie Schneider moved, Bill Heaton seconded



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ii. 21 votes in favor, 1 abstention

## 6. Discussion Items

None.

## 7. Committee reports

### Office of Neighborhood Services (Gabby Ryan; absent)

- No report.

### Spring Cleanup (Jeff Thomas)

- The Spring Cleanup resulted in the removal of 22.4 tons of garbage, 1.6 tons of organics and 3.63 tons of metal recycling. \$235 will be deposited into the EGNC account from metal recycling.

### Community Assembly (Linda Carroll)

- [PlanSpokane.com](http://PlanSpokane.com) is laying the groundwork for 2046 via Comprehensive Plan updates. Kevin Freibott was the main presenter at the recent CA meeting.
- One of Linda's personal focus points is developing guidance for commercial development, for which three options are available: 1. Maintain the status quo. 2. Concentrate it in Hillyard and West Plains. 3. Concentrate it downtown.
- There is some urgency because the planning process is scheduled to wrap up within the next year. The results of the process during this period will determine policy and emphases for the next two decades.

### C.O.P.S.

- No report

### Corbin Senior Activity Center (Tim Musser)

- The center's yard sale fundraiser will be on June 21, the same day as the Corbin Park Yard Sale.

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

- The season opener on June 6 was very well attended, and there was lots of positive feedback on the new location in Emerson Park.

### Land Use Committee (Bill Heaton)

- No report.

### North Monroe Business District (E.J. Iannelli)



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- Monroe Day at the Emerson-Garfield Farmers' Market is June 20.

## **PeTT Committee** (vacant)

- A new PeTT representative is needed.

## **Community Safety Committee** (Ted Stevens; absent)

- No report.

## **Transitions New Leaf** (Sarah Lickfold; absent)

- No report.

## **Treasurer** (Judy Heaton)

- Balance is \$807.51

## **West Central Community Center** (Heath Kays)

- No report.

## **Way Out Center** (Daniel)

- The center encourages its clients to shop with EBT cards and have 'grillups' as community-building events. People are welcome to drop by the grillups and attend.

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

- The NPAC voted to partially fund sidewalk and right-of-way improvements for a project by the private developer L.B. Stone.

## **8. General Announcements**

None.

## **8. Adjournment:** 7:43pm