



Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood Council

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Meeting Started: 6:00pm

Voting Members Present: 22

Guests Present: 8

Minutes: Add to the minutes that Gina McKenzie brought up the vacation of the Euclid Hill.

Motion to Approve Minutes as Changed: Karl Boldt

Seconded to Approve Minutes: Patti Marland-Stevens

Minutes with changes approved unanimously.

Chair's Report (E.J. Iannelli):

- Last month we identified locations for the photo red camera application. These were added to a formal resolution that was provided after the meeting. These were submitted to Council Member Zappone's assistant. While we didn't vote on the specific language of the resolution, Council Member Zappone confirmed that the submission is acceptable.
- Voted to submit Letter of Support for Corbin Senior Center. E.J. submitted the letter after the last meeting.

Guest Speaker:

Lieutenant Rich Meyer, Northwest Sector Precinct Report:

- Officer Meyer discussed the reorganization of the Neighborhood Resource Officer program. The team is committed to having one of the program officers attend the EGNC meetings each month. He discussed traffic being a top problem in a recent meeting he attended, and this remains a main focus. Another update with the reorganization is that previously code enforcement handled abandoned vehicles, but this now falls under the Spokane Police Department, with two new officers being added to support this. Call crime check if you suspect an abandoned vehicle, speeders or reckless driving. Council Member Zappone stated that there is a current grant being submitted for additional license plate readers.

Discussion Items:

Euclid Street Vacation Proposal

- E.J. suggested to begin the street vacation discussion to define the what, why and when. Gina stated that the hill is very steep and can be dangerous and would like to hear more about what a street vacation entails as a potential way to make the area safer. Katie mentioned that in addition to considering a street vacation, to also include for consideration of all traffic mitigation strategies. Carlie discussed that having several members attending the traffic calming workshops could potentially help this spot get prioritized at the traffic calming workshops. Gene discussed that traffic calming and Spokane Streets Department have chosen not to take action at the time. E.J. asked Council Member Zappone for recommendations on how to address this issue. His recommendation was to pass a resolution stating this is a priority issue. E.J. recommended tabling this until next month's meeting in an effort to have a more informed agenda action item.

EGNC Elections in April

- E.J. discussed getting back on track with annual elections. This has gotten a bit off track due to COVID/remote meetings. The elections will be held in April.

Excused Absence Protocol/Vote Counts

- Katie reminded the group to email her prior to the meeting if they will be unable to attend.

Action Items:

NW Blvd Traffic Island Weeding Day

- E.J. summarized our decision to hold a weeding day for this traffic island, and asked that we decide on a date. The group ultimately decided against May 6th due to Bloomsday and hold off until weeds tend to be heavier in late May/June. The group decided to postpone date selection until next month's meeting.

Mobile Speed Feedback Application:

- The application will be submitted before the next meeting, and we need to select only three locations to include and the time of year. Voting members voted for 3 locations, and the top 3 will be included in the application. The top 3 with the recommended time is:
 - Atlantic & Buckeye (westbound) July
 - Euclid & Atlantic (westbound): summer months
 - Post & Jackson (southbound): summer months

Motion to approve Sandra Neperud as the CA Alternate: Tim Musser

Seconded to Approve Sandra Neperud as the CA Alternate: Eileen Kazura

Reports:

Spokane City Council (Zack Zappone):

- Council Member Zappone provided an update on the Howard Street Project which is for the start of a bike lane beginning at Riverfront Park by the Arena. The first two blocks heading north of the project were approved. The ultimate goal is for the project to connect to Corbin Park. This will be a 2-lane cycle track. The barriers will be three feet tall and will have flower baskets.
- The Post Street Bridge is scheduled to open at the end of the year and Council Member Zappone wanted feedback if that should be a local access road, which would prioritize bikes and pedestrians. The consensus of those who provided feedback was to make it a local access road.
- The City Council will not be relocating for the foreseeable future.
- The City is in the process of doing a camera expansion. A proposal was signed on how to tie the funding that will come in from the additional cameras to have a sustainable bike program. This program would include street cleaners and snowplows specifically designed for the bike lanes as well as city staff to maintain and clean the bike lanes. Carlie brought up concerns of traffic calming funding equipment and recommended a cap on this type of purchase.
- General facility charges and impact fees is being evaluated and how to address sewer and water infrastructure that hasn't been updated in 20 years. The infrastructure cost is either tied to the new development which increases prices \$10K-\$20K per home or it is passed on to all rate payers. The EG area is not as expensive as South Hill, Indian Trail or some of the areas with hills due to no hills and its grid.
- STA's City Center Line is launching in July. The line runs from Browne's Addition to the Community College. Currently considering the idea of a promotional free period and a way to provide a sliding fee program for riders based on the FPL.

ONS (Gabby Ryan):

- 2023 Community Engagement Grant Training will be held in-person on Monday, March 13, at 6:30 p.m. West Central Community Center, Newton Room, 1603 N. Belt St.

Clean Up Program (Karl Boldt):

- Disposal passes will be the same as last year. You can get one \$25 voucher per month. This can be done online at www.mycityspokane.org or go to City Hall. If you need assistance, the COPS shop can help. Only about 1/3 of passes issued get used.
- In need of approximately 10 volunteers for the 14th Annual Spring Cleanup which will be held Saturday, May 20th at Faith Bible Church. To volunteer contact Karl at karl.boldt@gmail.com or call 509.868.9553. There will be donuts, and coffee for the volunteers, as well as pizza

afterwards. There will be one bin for clean green, and one for general refuse-which can take anything except non burnable items such as drywall and nail embedded wood. Salvation Army will be there to take items such as microwave ovens to refurbish. Metal recycle can also be brought to the event. There will be mailers sent out reminding EG residents about the event approximately 2 weeks prior.

Emerson-Garfield Farmers Market (Anne Luttrull):

- Market will be at the same location-2310 North Monroe. Needing volunteers to do market tours for patrons that need assistance. Also needing volunteers to assist with set up. The EGFMM season will run from June 2 through September 29.

Building Stronger Neighborhoods (Anne Luttrull):

- At the last meeting they discussed the CE grant training. The group discussed how to engage neighborhood council's that are not currently meeting. The goals for the group were discussed which included neighborhood council's out to the local news and including their events on the city ticker. The CA Handbook was updated to align with best practices. The next meeting will be March 18.

Land Use (Bill Heaton):

- There were two presentations at last week's meeting. The first was about long-range planning that involves the Housing Action Plan. The code changes discussed would allow greater density and few restrictions for current and new dwelling units. The summarized statistical data presented showed in the last ten years monthly rent has risen from \$650 to \$1,200. Home ownership affordability has deteriorated over the last three year, and home ownership continues to be less affordable than it was. The city is focusing on increasing density of housing by focusing on new build higher density structures while maintaining the respective neighborhood aesthetics.

Pedestrian, Traffic, and Transportation (Carlie Hoffman):

- There were two presentations at the previous month's meeting. The City of Spokane and the SRTC will be partnering to apply for a Safe Streets grant. The goal of this grant is to track car accidents and to find shared characteristics in an effort to fund low-cost remedies in high risk locations by increasing design safety. The second presentation was about the bike parking code that will require new buildings to have bike parking for residents inside the building as well as on street bike parking.

North Monroe Business District (Anne Luttrull):

- Meeting was cancelled, no update.

Corbin Senior Activity Center (Claudia Ouwerkerk):

- Claudia thanked the EGNC for the letter of support. She was contacted by an employee from the Washington State Association of Community Centers on the west side to discuss the programs at Corbin Activity Center and the collaboration with the EGNC. Mayor Nadine Woodward is going to be touring the Center.

Community Assembly (Eileen Kazura):

- The townhall scheduled for March 20 has been rescheduled. There are Neighbors Drive 25 signs available at the COPS shop. Patrick from ONS is working with the legal department for a work around on liability insurance for events.

C.O.P.S. (Gee Sutherlin):

- Located in the back of the Knox Presbyterian Church. You can pick up logs at the COPS shop to track nuisance houses. The new Director is Jeff Johnson. Gee said that there was an uptick in residents leaving vehicles running with keys in the ignition. She reminded the group not leave vehicle running or to leave items in the vehicle.

West Central Community Center (Heath Kays):

- Don't meet until next month.

Way Out Center (Gerriann Armstrong): not present

Treasurer (Gene Brake):

- Bank balance is \$785.83.

Transitions (Sarah Lickfold): not present

WQTIF (E.J. Iannelli): no update

The meeting was **adjourned at 7:41 PM.**