



Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood Council

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Meeting Started: 6:01

Voting Members Present: 27

Guests Present: 3

Minutes:

Motion to Approve October 2023 Minutes: Katie Joy Newhouse

Seconded to Approve October 2023 Minutes: Crystal Glanz-Kreutz

Minutes Pass Unanimously

Chair's Report (E.J. Iannelli): none

Guest Speaker:

Northwest Sector Precinct Report:

- Officer Jake Jenson who is the watch commander of the northwest region patrol presented. There is currently a hot spot at Division Street and Indiana. There is trespassing, open drug use and other crimes, especially during overnight hours. Police have increased patrol in this area.

Sarah Schwering, Spokane Transit Authority Topic: STA presents updates on the planned Division Street Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project.

- Don Skillingstad, BRT Project Manager, STA presented. Now that the City Line project has launched, the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project commenced. The BRT project is part of a larger STA plan, the "Division Connects" which started in 2019. Project development for BRT commenced in 2023. Don summarized the project would create Business Access and Transit (BAT) lanes, potential changes to the street lanes and profiles as well as routes, route frequency and potential new stations. He also provided a breakdown of the proposed project timeline including slated construction starting in 2027 with project completion in 2029. For more information about the project, visit

<https://www.spokanetransit.com/division-street-brt/>. Direct questions about the project to divisionbrt@spokanetransit.com.

Discussion Items

Update on North Central/Asphalt Art crosswalk

- The Council voted at the October meeting to support the North Central High School crosswalk as our neighborhood's crosswalk for the Asphalt Art project. Dani contacted the organization responsible for the Asphalt Art project and they said the North Central crosswalk would not qualify for the grant project. We have requested someone from the organization come to present to help us identify a qualifying area.

Recap on Nov 4 Neighborhood Summit

- Alexandra summarized the Neighborhood Summit meeting. The Keynote Speaker was City Councilwoman, Karen Stratton. The Summit focused on how to have a greater impact at the neighborhood level. If interested, there will be recordings of the Summit on the City website.

Adopt a Neighbor Program

- Our neighborhood council has been invited to be a facilitator to the Adopt a Neighbor Program. The program is for volunteers to help with shoveling/snow blowing sidewalks and driveways for residents in our neighborhood who aren't able to. A sign up sheet was sent around for those interested in volunteering. If you didn't sign up, and want to, reach out to Dani, EGNC Vice Chair who is managing the program for our neighborhood.

Update on Corbin Park Holiday Tree Lighting

- We were denied on our CE grant fund application. Katie Joy was able to get the following sponsors: North Monroe Business District, Rogue Heart Media, 1889 Salvage Co, Whittaker Family Furniture, Senske Services and Spokane Rotary Club 21. Donations of warm clothing and/or canned protein goods for Our Place will be accepted at the event. The event will be Sunday, November 26 at 3:00PM at Corbin Park. Katie Joy is wrapping up permitting/insurance with Spokane city. Please RSVP on public event on facebook. Katie Joy will be providing lighting dates and hours to Senske.

Website management

- Sandra will no longer be able to maintain EGNC website and social media accounts, or role as CA alternate. Crystal Glanz-Kreutz volunteered to fill this position. We will include in December action items voting on a new CA alternate.

FYI: 21 lots proposed near Drumheller Springs

- Whipple consulting having a community meeting Tuesday, November 14 at West Central Community Center. The meeting is regarding proposed lots near Drumheller Springs.

Action Items:

December holiday potluck prep

- The EGNC will be holding the December holiday potluck at 5:00PM on Wednesday, December 13, which is an hour before the council meeting, which will be a shorter meeting. Please consider bringing a dish to share. Plates, cutlery and napkins are being provided.

Reports:

Spokane City Council (Zappone):

- Council Member Zappone provided an update on the elections that were just held. In February there will be a new school bond and levy. Council also approved the library levy renewal which will also be February. The Parks Department will also be doing a 30-year operations levy. This would be a new property tax levy. He said that it would be about \$10 a month for a house assessed at \$350K. He updated that the budget does currently have \$2.8M coming out of traffic calming to preserve funding for law enforcement officers. CA sent over resolution that they do not support using traffic funds for police funding.

ONS (Gabby Ryan):

- The ONS is actively recruiting for the 2024 Spokane Neighborhood Leadership Academy cohort. It is a 5-month program. Applications are due Friday, January 5, 2024. You can nominate a volunteer for the WA State Volunteer Service Awards. There awards at all volunteer levels. To learn more or nominate someone visit <https://tinyurl.com/5n79t7f6> Nominations are also being accepted for Spirit of the CA award. To nominate someone, please visit my.spokanecity.org/neighborhoods.

Clean Up Program (Karl Boldt/Jeff Thomas):

- Karl said this event is tentatively scheduled for the third Saturday of May.

Emerson-Garfield Farmers Market (Anne Luttrull):

- The market was down \$10K from previous year. Market tried to pick up with other programs. Applied USDA to accept EBT next year. Looking for people to sponsor.

Building Stronger Neighborhoods (Alexandra Golikov):

- There is a BSN event, The Good Neighbor Celebration, on December 16, 2023. The event is at the Hive (2904 E Sprague Ave). To nominate someone for community members outstanding efforts the City of Spokane, Neighborhoods website.

Land Use (Bill Heaton):

- Bill provided an overview of Land Use, which is a subcommittee of CA. He is on the executive committee. Bill summarized that the Comprehensive Plan Growth Management Act was discussed at the last meeting and potential amendments to the plan. These amendments address density distribution, parking and are restrictive as far as growth population and density. Bill asked us to encourage other NC's to have land use committee representatives.

Pedestrian, Traffic, and Transportation (Carlie Hoffman):

- The last meeting focused on getting letter to CA about using traffic calming funds for traffic calming projects, not police officers.

North Monroe Business District (Anne Luttrull):

- Voted to give \$300 for tree lighting. They are recruiting for new officers.

Corbin Senior Activity Center (Claudia): not present

Community Assembly (Eileen Kazura):

- There is \$8K of remaining funds to be used for supplies that can be used by NC's. CA approved a letter to be sent to the City Council regarding the reallocation of PETT funds. The letter is requesting the City not use PETT funds for activities other than traffic calming.

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

- Call COPS shop to report abandon vehicles. She reminded the council that these calls will be prioritized. Call the COPS shop at 509-625-3348 or Gee directly at 509-714-6244.

West Central Community Center (Heath Kays): not present

Way Out Center (Gerriann Armstrong):

- The Center is working with an outreach team to try to get people connected with services. Next week is the corporate kettle kick off. The Celebrate the Seasons event is November 17, and the local sock drive is November 18 at the Trent Facility. A local band will be playing.

Treasurer (Gene Brake):

- Balance today \$1,373.00.

Transitions (Sarah Lickfold):

- They have their Holiday Wish list which links to Amazon. Transitions and other non-profits in housing are in discussion with the City about GFC fees. Sarah is doing advocacy regarding this so that they don't lose affordable housing.

WQTIF (E.J. Iannelli):

- E.J. updated that the Letter of recommendation for NH project was submitted. The Native Project grant was approved by WQTIF!

The meeting was adjourned at **7:53 PM**.