



Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood Council

Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, November 12, 2025

1. Call to order: 6:00pm

2. Attendance & Introductions

a. Voting members present: 17 (quorum met), 3 pending

b. Guests present: 5

3. Housekeeping

a. Approval of October 2025 minutes.

- i. Mary Charbonneau moved, Karen Wilson-Bell seconded
- ii. Unanimous approval

b. Approval of November 2025 agenda.

Motion to approve with the addition of a) a photo speed camera at Garfield Elementary and b) Taylor Phillips' presentation on SNAP relief under Discussion items.

- i. Bill Heaton moved, Anne Luttrull seconded
- ii. Unanimous approval

4. Guest Speakers

Maddie Sontag, legislative assistant for Senator Marcus Riccelli

- Here to raise awareness about the role of the senator's office in the community, including assistance with food security, housing and other issues.
- The office is interested in helping constituents find the resources they need. "When in doubt, reach out." If they can't handle it, they can direct appropriately.

Zach Zappone, City Council Dist. 3

- The District 3 councilmembers are dealing with some controversial issues in neighborhood. There were two recent meetings on separate issues impacting Emerson-Garfield:
- *1. Washington and Buckeye traffic-calming measures*
 - Waiting for info based on meeting feedback
 - Preferred change among residents and meeting participants is to have a phased signal and improved signage



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- Currently examining cost comparison between that and second option, which is a "meander" restriping
 - Follow-up meeting is TBD but might not happen if preferred option is cost-effective
 - Comment: Appreciate the temporary speed bumps on Euclid and Cora. They worked.
 - New proposal for 2026 budget (starting in Jan.) is a dedicated transportation department at City
- *2. Trinity Catholic and Cedar Street Vacation*
 - 4-hour meeting at West Central Community Center
 - No agreement on outcome. Some were in support (largely affiliated with church), some were adamantly opposed (many residents)
 - There will be another meeting (TBD), likely before the end of the month
 - City Council will likely vote first week of December
 - One potential compromise is an easement that would allow pedestrian and bike traffic
- 2026 City Budget: There are two more opportunities to weigh in. \$13m deficit currently, looking to lessen impact of those cuts.
 - Currently no tax is paid on commercial parking. The council is weighing a proposed 12% (lot) or 6% (garage) tax rate. Est. \$2m revenue. The alternative is increasing utility rates.
- Q. Who can we appeal to when parking meter codes aren't recognized by the apps?
 - A. Call 311 or go to City Hall.
- Q. What's the deal with the cuts to the library budget and the threatened reductions in services and opening times?
 - A. There is a study session tomorrow to determine specifics.
- Q. Would the City leadership be willing to talk about the impact of buying local, especially during the holiday shopping season?
 - A. Yes.
- Comment: Applaud City Council on the new resolution that impacts camping and loitering.
 - A. Yes, and next step is finding places for people to go. Seems to be driving people toward services.
- Zach is also advocating to provide direct resources to neighborhood councils and for neighborhoods to have a neighborhood grant program, although it needs more buy-in from other CC members.

5. Discussion and Voting Items

a. Photo speed camera(s) near Garfield Elementary



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- Dawn Dietz, a crossing guard for Garfield Elementary, said flashing 20mph lights are ignored.
 - She calls Crime Check to get officers to address the traffic issues.
 - The speed of automobiles isn't just 30 mph. It's 40+. Co-worker was nearly deliberately run down, children are pulled out of the way of speeding cars on a regular basis.
 - Worst spots are Washington & Mansfield, Post & Mansfield
 - Another problem is also the distance between the lights. High-school students racing between lights contributes to that.
- Zach Zappone: Current administrations is trying to roll out more cameras. Looking to add 10 cameras in next 18 months.

b. Spring Cleanup business

- Cleanup coordinator Jeff Thomas reminded the EGNC that a resident suffered \$250 in accidental damage to their windshield at the Spring Cleanup in May.

Motion for EGNC pay 50% (\$110) with additional individual contributions welcome.

i. Bill Heaton moved, Mary Charbonneau seconded

ii. Unanimous approval

- Jeff also noted that Geiger Correctional Facility has conflicts with the Bloomsday and Torchlight Parade weekends. Should we move the Spring Cleanup to the second week of May or the last week of April to accommodate? Consensus was that Jeff has full discretion to change the date.

c. Corbin Park Tree Lighting

- Event coordinator Katie Joy Newhouse encouraged everyone in attendance to come to the event on Nov. 30 (Sunday after Thanksgiving), 3:30 to 4:30pm.
- She will use the opportunity to promote the EGNC December 10 potluck.
- She could also use some help with setup and teardown on Nov. 30.

d. "Oh, SNAP!" initiative

- Taylor Phillips is working on local mutual aid initiative to help fill the SNAP gap and support neighbors in need. Working title: "Oh SNAP!"
- She is still compiling information to present to the NMBD after discussing some of the logistics with business owners. This mutual aid initiative would be specific to the NMBD corridor and it scales to the EG neighborhood.
- She is not asking EGNC to take ownership of this initiative in any way, just looking for volunteers.
- The vision: Neighbors helping neighbors; Volunteers would assist in packaging dry goods for meals. Think lentil soups, etc. These would then be distributed to neighbors in need.



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- Who is needed: Donors, business partners, volunteers to package and deliver. Volunteers to canvas EGN to build a list of recipients.
- Who is served: Families/Homes in Emerson-Garfield
- What: Dry good packaging and distribution
- When: OUTSIDE of normal business hours
- Where: NMBD commercial kitchens
- Why: Food is a human right and Emerson-Garfield has a long history of serving SNAP recipients, hence our push for SNAP at the farmers' market.
- If you are interested in helping out, e-mail tayphi509@gmail.com.

d. Bill and Judy Heaton departing Emerson-Garfield

- The Heatons have sold their neighborhood property and are no longer able to serve on the EGNC. This is their last meeting.
- Their departure leaves vacancies in the Treasurer position and on the Land Use Committee. (Next Land Use meeting is Dec. 11.)

Motion to approve Katie Schneider (self-nominated) for the Treasurer position to replace Judy.

- i. Linda Carroll moved, Judy Heaton seconded
- ii. Unanimous approval

6. Committee and Community Reports

Office of Neighborhood Services (Gabby Ryan)

- Leaf collection is happening now. Will likely continue through Nov. 22. FYI, collection areas have boundaries that don't correspond to neighborhoods. Please do not blow or rake your lawn leaves into the street. Visit tinyurl.com/leafpickupsokane for more.
- For snow removal info, visit tinyurl.com/snowremovalspokane. Please keep sidewalks clear. City social media usually announces updates faster than the website.
- PlanSpokane workshop on Nov. 18 (5–6:30pm) at Salk Middle School will help City plan for 2046. Land use, transportation, parks, governance are some of the topics that are covered.
- Sat, Nov. 22 is anticipated Ice Ribbon opening in Riverfront Park.
- Spokane Parks & Schools levy appears to have passed. Go to spokaneparks.org/levy for particulars.
- WA State Volunteer Service Awards nominations are open until Jan. 5.



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- Additionally, the Spokane Neighborhood Leadership Academy is still accepting applications until Dec. 15; gonzaga.edu/snla has more info.

Community Assembly (Linda Carroll)

- [PlanSpokane](#) is being talked about a lot. Mary Winkus is term-limited as Planning Commission Liaison; Linda is putting her name forward. Requested a vote of confidence to support her nomination.

Motion to endorse Linda Carroll as the new Planning Commission Liaison.

- i. Eileen Kazura moved, Michelle Taylor seconded
- ii. Unanimous approval

Salvation Army Way Out Center (Geriann Armstrong)

- Very busy; seeing an uptick in people accessing services.
- If you see people outside and you know the warming center is open, direct them toward the center.
- On Atlantic, there is a QR code that will direct you to shelter locations, capacity, etc.
- Way Out opens from 7pm to 7am when City activates shelters.
- Food bank is being remodeled and will have more of a "shopping" feel when it's done.
- You should start seeing bell ringers out soon, and in full force after Thanksgiving.
- A Christmas Party for current and past guests coming up.

North Monroe Business District (Megan Kennedy)

- The NMBD board has been concentrating on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.
- NMBD is looking to access WQTIF funds and make a proposal at the Jan. 7 NPAC meeting. One potential project is repairing the planter boxes on N. Monroe through better design.
- Visit merrymonroe.com for details on the A Very Merry Monroe shopping event.

Building Stronger Neighborhoods (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)

- No major news, but still looking for volunteers for the 2026 season.

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

- Not present. E-mailed a report with no updates.

Community Safety Committee (Ted Stevens)

- No meeting; not present.

Transitions New Leaf (Sarah Lickfold)



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- Not present.

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

- November meeting was postponed to Nov. 19.

Treasurer (Judy Heaton)

- Most recent account balance is \$759.01.

Land Use (Bill Heaton)

- Re-emphasized importance of attending PlanSpokane workshops and weighing in.
- The committee is working to streamline zoning.

8. General Announcements

a. The December 10 EGNC meeting is the annual Winter Potluck. Everyone from the neighborhood is welcome. It meets one hour earlier (5pm) for food and festivity before the start of the EGNC meeting at 6pm.

9. Adjournment: 7:33pm