



Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood Council

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Meeting Started: 6:01

Voting Members Present: 23

Guests Present: 10

Minutes:

Motion to Approve Minutes: Linda Carroll

Seconded to Approve Minutes: Timothy Diko

Gina McKenzie motioned to amend the September Minutes to include comments about fluoridation matter that was voted on in August. There was not a second to approve motion.

Minutes Pass (21 in favor/1 Abstention/1 opposed)

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

Guest Speaker:

Northwest Sector Precinct Report:

- LT Jake Jenson graveyard is happy to report that the area focus the past couple of months, surrounding planet fitness, has seen a reduction in crime. At the moment, there aren't any crime hotspots to report.

Olivia Hinds, Gonzaga Center for Climate Topic: Climate resilience

- Presenters were Olivia, Dean, and Logan from the Climate Center. They are based on the Gonzaga campus and their goal is to be more community outreach based. The three main focuses of the organization are climate literacy, climate resilience and their event and lecture series. The group goes into schools focusing on grades 2-5 and gives climate change lessons and leaves lesson plans for teacher's reference. Lecture event series takes place every two weeks and is open to the public. To join our mailing list:

<https://lists.gonzaga.edu/dada/mail.cgi/list/GUCLIMATECNTR>

- Beat the Heat Research:

<https://www.gonzaga.edu/climate-institute/our-work/climate-resilience-project/beat-the-heat#:~:text=Gonzaga%20University's%20Climate%20Institute%20%22Beat,effect%20of%20a%20heat%20dome.>

Jennifer Soto, Spokane Public Schools Topic: Crosswalk at Spofford

- Jennifer Soto, Risk Management Specialist for Spokane Public Schools, was at the meeting to request support for a new crosswalk to be added at Spofford and Howard Street. She summarized the reason for wanting the new crosswalk is a result of increasing foot traffic, mainly students, crossing the road. There is a crosswalk one block to the North and South, but pedestrians aren't using them and she is requesting support for a more direct and closer access point. Jennifer has discussed with the City and was told there is a lack of funds. This matter has not been heard by the School Districts School Board. Her recommendation is for the painted crosswalk lines and an updated street sign.
- This will be on the EGNC next month to vote on a letter of support.

Toni Lodge, NATIVE Project Topic: Letter of support for WQTIF application

- Toni Lodge, CEO of the Native Project presented the current project they are working on and request a letter of support for WQTIF funding. The Native Project is an Urban Indian Health, HRSA/330 clinic. The Native Projects serves everybody. The clinic is seeing an increasing need for expanded mental health, substance abuse and BH services for youth and adolescence. The Native Project has purchased land to build a clinic for the purpose of expanding access to address these specific needs. Toni has been raising funds for this project since 2019. All approvals needed have been granted. They are applying for \$100K from the WQTIF and would like a letter of support from the EGNC. They anticipate the project will be completed around November 2024.

Discussion Items:

Corbin Tennis Courts

- They have started the demolition on the Corbin Park tennis courts. The demolition and court prep will be completed this fall and the striping will be done next spring.

North Central hosting debate for Districts 1, 2 and 3

- Spokane Public Radio will be facilitating the debate which will be held Wednesday, October 18 at North Central High School Auditorium at 6:30PM. If you would like to submit questions that will

be considered for the City Council members in the debate, email them to chaseyouthcandidatedebate@gmail.com.

Spokane Municipal Code Change Regarding Neighborhood Councils

- Patrick Striker, Director of ONS, is proposing a change to the City Charter that would put term limits on the Neighborhood Council Executive Team and CA Representatives. The term limits are being proposed at 2 years. This would also standardize the Neighborhood Council elections process, which would be held in October. This would affect EGNC by putting term limits on officers and moving elections from April to October. This is a legislative issue that will go before City Council. Patrick will be present at the District meeting on Tuesday, October 17 at West Central Community where you can attend and provide feedback on the proposed change. There is concern of the impact on smaller Neighborhood Councils who don't have enough volunteers to adhere to rotation of executive board. The proposed code change does have a waiver however the criteria of obtaining a waiver has not been made clear.

Action Items:

Motion to Write Letter of Support for the Native Project: Tim Musser

Second to Write Letter of Support for the Native Project: Linda Carrol

Motion to Write Letter of Support for the Native Project passes (22 in favor/1 abstention)

Reports:

Spokane City Council (Karen Stratton): (not present but provided update)

- City Council received the mayor's 2024 proposed budget, and we are currently in discussions. One item of significance is the administration's proposal to utilize \$2M from Traffic Calming funds to help balance the budget. It has been suggested these funds could be used to provide traffic patrol officers in the neighborhoods. City Council members have expressed great concern with this proposal and discussions are continuing.
- The City and County will be in arbitration regarding the SCRAPS contract and euthanasia practices. While both entities agree that animals should be euthanized if they are sick or dangerous – the major disagreement concerns the practice of euthanizing animals due to space constraints. City Council is against this rationale.
- Discussions continue regarding the creation of a Regional Homeless Authority. The City of Spokane Valley has decided not to participate in these discussions or any future regional authority.
- City Council members are walking against hate, following recent and repeated vandalism to the crosswalk and Odyssey building in the Perry District along with the mural at Spokane Falls Blvd.

and Howard. The walk is scheduled for Thursday, October 12, at 12:50 p.m. Walk begins on the edge of Grant Park at 10th and Perry and proceeds downtown.

ONS (Gabby Ryan): not present

Clean Up Program (Karl Boldt): Jeff Thomas has volunteered to be on the Clean Up Program.

Emerson-Garfield Farmers Market (Anne Luttrull):

- Anne wanted to thank volunteers Tim and Lois Musser, E.J. Iannelli, Dani DeJaegher, Timothy Diko and Alex Golikov. There will be a petition for next year. There is still a need of sponsors.

Building Stronger Neighborhoods (Alexandra Golikov):

- Reminder that there is 10 days left to register for the Neighborhood Summit. Gabby Ryan is our liaison, and she can facilitate updating the EGNC's page on the city website.

Land Use (Bill Heaton):

- The last meeting focused on tenants and landlords' rights and the municipal code change which took place in April, which is available on the city's website.

Pedestrian, Traffic, and Transportation (Carlie Hoffman):

- A Southgate resident presented to the group regarding school distances for walking vs bussing. Middle school students walking distance was reduced this year, and they are finding in their neighborhood that there is a lack of safe routes to the school within the walking distance. The current distance is 1.5 miles (by the crow flies, not sidewalk routes). PeTT continued with a discussion of this issues, including viewing maps and child maturity issues. If you have any comments or concerns, please email Carlie at ag4646@gmail.com and she will bring them up at the next meeting.

North Monroe Business District (Anne Luttrull):

- In the last meeting the main street funding model was discussed. This model was removed on Mayor Condon's tenure. Focusing on getting ARPA funds to help businesses spruce up store front.

Corbin Senior Activity Center (Tim):

- There continues to be a need of volunteer drivers.

Community Assembly (Eileen Kazura):

- There are \$7K community engagement funds leftover.

Motion to Apply for \$850 Community Engagement Funds for the Corbin Park Holiday Tree lighting Ceremony. Timothy Musser

Second to Approve \$850 Community Engagement Funds for the Corbin Park Holiday Tree lighting Ceremony. Heath Kays

Motion Passes Unanimously (22 in favor)

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

- City responded to our request for a mobile speed sign just west of Division. It was vandalized.

West Central Community Center (Heath Kays): The Community center did not secure CDBG funding. Moving forward with funding of sustainable endowment funding for the community center.

Way Out Center (Gerriann Armstrong):

- The center is doing great, there is an increase in applications. They are hiring Xmas-hiring bell ringers. This is a great opportunity for high school kids and people on disability. Gerianne is inviting 8 EGNC's to the Celebrate the Season event on November 17 at Northern Quest Casino.

Treasurer (Gene Brake):

- Balance today \$1,373.0.

Transitions (Sarah Lickfold):

- Their fundraiser was held Tuesday, October 10. They received their 2019 CDBG contract. The roofing project is out to bid.

WQTIF (E.J. Iannelli):

- No update

The meeting was adjourned at **7:45 PM.**