



Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood Council

Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, October 8, 2025

1. Call to order: 6:00pm

2. Attendance & Introductions

a. *Voting members present:* 18 (quorum met), 3 pending

b. *Guests present:* 12

3. Housekeeping

a. *Approval of September 2025 minutes.*

i. Mary Charbonneau moved, Anne Luttrull seconded

ii. Unanimous approval

b. *Approval of October 2025 agenda.*

i. Anne Luttrull moved, Mary Charbonneau seconded

ii. Unanimous approval

4. Guest Speakers

Officer Tim Hendren, SPD Northwest Sector Precinct Report

- The big issue at the moment is car camping and rogue RVs. Call 311 or Crime Check. Be sure to keep reporting, even if you feel like you're not making any headway. Call volume is actionable data.
- Q. How many illegal camping citations have been issued in line with the new ordinance? A. Can't quantify. Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) falls under a different purview.
- Comment: Thanks for taking care of the RV issue on Addams.
- Q. Update on Kobe Hibachi nuisance property on Division? A. There is an open case with code enforcement. Team is working on it, still moving through the process.

Mayor Lisa Brown, 2025 Report

- For regular updates throughout the year, sign up for the weekly e-mail report.

Per Mayor Brown:

- She appreciates neighborhood councils. They are a real strength of the city.
- She inherited a budget with rising expenses. To achieve a balanced budget, she and her team had to look at how to streamline with as few layoffs as possible.



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- Neighborhood resource officers and traffic patrols were brought back by popular demand.
- There are still budget issues, and that means taking a hard look at the financials.
- Almost 70% of the general fund goes to public safety (incl. departments that deal with public safety).
- Administration is also looking at selling some City property to bring in more revenue.
- Emphasis on affordable housing, including permit streamlining, to address one component of the homelessness crisis (another component being mental health/drugs).
- Contrary to rumors, police are enforcing law. New ordinances are designed to get people into services and gives officers more discretion. Looking to expand both engagement (outreach) and enforcement. Call 311 to log issues. Looking to coordinate response to incidents to ID the most effective solution.
- Ordinance is citywide, although 2/3 of open drug use, loitering charges are downtown. Chief Hall is looking to expand "High Utilizer" initiative. HUs are people who keep cycling through the system.
- Mayor has been going on ride-alongs with SPD, garbage trucks, 311 & Code Enforcement team to get an on-the-ground look at things.
- Q. Does the new ordinance address where campers and car sleepers can go? A. Yes, Cannon Street shelter is a "navigation center" that can accommodate up to 80 people. Don't want to concentrate all the people into one place, hence the scattered-site, smaller-scale model. Crisis stabilization center (County run) is another option; County is planning on expanding.
- Q. What is the law on fentanyl use in City? How effective is Narcan? And is the focus of the fire department on fires or drug users? A. Fentanyl use is illegal. When it comes to fentanyl, have to address supply as much as users. There is an individual who prosecutes drug crimes full time in Spokane. SFD is stringent about response times and reports to City Council regularly on those response times.
- Q. What do we do when we find people sleeping in our alley or between houses? A. Call 311. If there is obvious danger, call 911. Hoping to develop real-time response in City to engage with those transients right away. Free lighting will be distributed to residents to cut down on rogue camping. Chief Hall is also looking to have beds reserved in the jail for individuals who repeatedly refuse services.
- Be sure to look at line items in Together Spokane, which addresses many quality of life issues by pooling resources between parks, schools, etc.

5. Discussion and Voting Items



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a. Proposed vacation of Cedar Street between Carlisle and Montgomery

- NB: This topic was brought to the EGNC in September by residents who were unhappy with the proposed street vacation. EGNC voted to oppose the street vacation at the September meeting due to neighbor concerns and lack of justifications made to council for the vacation. Conversation will continue at City Council on Nov. 3.
- Several members of Trinity Catholic School and neighboring residents were in attendance to provide their views.
- Lou Turner from Trinity Catholic: Trinity is a small Catholic school in Spokane, part of the Diocese of St. Anthony's. Serves K–8 kids and has educare (0–5). Charges tuition; 40% student body is Catholic; 85% of student body is on assistance. Trinity has already outgrown its new building and wants to expand.
- Trinity wants to work with community. Street vacation is purely based on safety; not a land grab. Proposed building is a single-story structure.
- William Gibson, a resident, stated that he believes there are two myths: 1. That this is just a parking issue. It is about residents losing access to the street. Residents were "tortured" for 8 years with bumper-to-bumper cars, blocking driveways, parking in front of fire hydrant. Neighbors were not consulted on parking and traffic routing. 2. Student safety. A Trinity rep, in an interview with KXLY, said that kids are battling cars/dodging. Yet the vacation seems to be laying the groundwork for a 5,775-square-foot building that is scheduled for construction on one of the corners. 51 neighbors have expressed adamant opposition to the vacation. They have oral and written statements from 7 major city departments stating that no public benefit would come from the Cedar Street vacation. Trinity Catholic owns 3/4 of the corners of the street in question.
- Linda Carroll: This is privatizing a public street.
- Gene Brake: Long personal history with the Church. Agrees that the school has outgrown the space. Should not force the expansion on neighborhood residents. School has encroached and consumed the church itself. Against street vacation.
- Max Nelson lives next door to the proposed building site and says he was never approached by Trinity. Trinity reps said that their architect and builder offered guidance on liaising with the neighbors, which involved approaching only a single residence.

General comments and discussion:

- Trinity reps stressed the value of working together. Yet engagement only seems to have taken place after the proposal was rejected.
- Complaints of hiding large school expansion behind the guise of safety.
- City Council has recommended walking and bike easement for the street in question.



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- A public meeting is scheduled for Oct. 22 at 5pm at Trinity Catholic. However, residents do not feel the location is neutral ground.
- EGNC Chair will try to arrange a meeting between City Council members and parties from Trinity and immediate neighbors to voice concerns and hopefully arrive at mutually acceptable solutions.
- EGNC declined to take an oppositional stance on the issue in the hope that a resolution could be achieved.

6. Committee and Community Reports

Salvation Army Way Out Center (Geriann Armstrong)

- Going to be competing for funding.
- Seeing an encouraging 85% success rate of people who've exited program remaining in permanent housing.
- Volunteers needed, including holiday bell ringers and kettlers.
- Go to MakingSpokaneBetter.org for info or to donate.

St. Andrew's Church (Michelle Taylor)

- Have been conducting more community outreach.
- Coffee and community program on front stoop on Sundays from 11 to noon. All are welcome.

Office of Neighborhood Services (Gabby Ryan)

- Applications are open on Oct. 15 for 2026 cohort of Spokane Neighborhood Leadership Academy (SNLA). Will be info sessions in Nov. and Dec. for interested folks.
- City budget can now fund neighborhood improvement projects.
- Community Assembly Good Neighbor Awards are back. If you have a nomination, scan QR code on flyer or [go to City website](#) by Nov. 10. Ceremony on Sat, Dec. 13.

Corbin Park Tree Lighting (Katie Joy Newhouse)

- Event is funded by SCCU this year.
- Announcements will be going out soon.
- Date/time is always the Sunday after Thanksgiving, an hour before dusk.

Building Stronger Neighborhoods (Vacant)

- Interested in serving? E-mail Eileen at chair@emersongarfield.org

Spring Cleanup (Jeff Thomas)

- Not present.

Community Assembly (Linda Carroll)



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- City budget has a 2-year arc. City Council will begin budget discussions on Nov. 3 & 10, will vote Nov. 17. If you are interested in city budget questions, go to earliest meeting.
- Changes to CDBG funding. Beginning circa mid-November, CHHS will open request for CDBG funding proposals. Uses not limited to parks. One significant difference is that neighborhoods must partner with experienced nonprofit. Completed responses due Jan. 15, 2026, scored by CHHS' affordable housing committee. Total available is \$400k.

Corbin Senior Activity Center (Tim Musser)

- Not present

Emerson-Garfield Farmers' Market (Anne Luttrull)

- Season sales were \$5k better than last year.
- 2026 SNAP match will be going down to \$10 from \$25.
- Volunteers needed to help set up and tear down.

Land Use (Bill Heaton)

- Next meeting is Thurs, Oct. 23 at 5:30, West Central Community Center. Looking for updates on Comprehensive Plan rewrites.

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

- Division Street Transit-oriented Project info session on Oct. 22 from 6pm to 8pm at Wonder Building. Open house/workshop to provide feedback. Improved bus stops, signage, equipment, rolled out in 2028. Adaptive design list.
- Buckeye/Washington meeting will take place separately.

Community Safety Committee (Ted Stevens)

- Chief Hall spoke on offenders, enforcement and holding at the jail.
- Crime stats are trending downward nationally. In spite of the numbers, people don't feel that way.
- Ombudsman is the civilian accountability for the SPD.

Transitions New Leaf (Sarah Lickfold)

- People Who Care fundraiser was yesterday. Thanks to those who came out to show their support.

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

- Heard a presentation from the owners of Bong's Market in West Central. Will likely be voting on the project in the coming months.

Treasurer (Bill Heaton)

- Account balance is \$759.01.

8. General Announcements



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a. This bullet point exists to see if anyone is reading the full minutes. If you have read this, please indicate your awareness at the next meeting by saying, "The October minutes were better than Shakespeare."

9. Adjournment: 7:54pm