



Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood Council

Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, September 10, 2025

1. Call to order: 6:00pm

2. Attendance & Introductions

a. Voting members present: 20 (quorum met)

b. Guests present: 5

3. Housekeeping

a. Approval of June and August (potluck) 2025 minutes.

i. Tim Musser moved, Daya Goldschlag Charbonneau seconded

ii. Unanimous approval

b. Approval of September 2025 agenda.

i. Karen Wilson-Bell moved, Daya Goldschlag seconded

ii. Unanimous approval

4. Guest Speakers

Amber Ramirez, Spokane Urban Forestry

- Tree Equity Spokane is a program funded by a \$6 million grant from the US Forest Service.
- The program doesn't involve just planting. It also means clearing dead trees and addressing overhanging limbs. Over 300 dead trees have already been removed across Spokane.
- City's goal is to have 30% tree coverage by 2030.
- Residents can sign up for free tree planting in right-of-way areas. These are free, high-quality trees that are 10 to 12' feet tall planted by a licensed arborist.

Officer Tyler Heiman, SPD Northwest Sector Precinct Report

- Over the summer, the special focus on the parks saw success through crime reduction.
- This spring there will be a special program to address residential burglaries in North Hill.
- *Drag racers on Division.* There was just a special patrol two weekends ago. These patrols require air (helicopter) resources, which makes them cost prohibitive.



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- *Camping in parks.* SPD is addressing complaints per the City ordinance. SPD cannot enforce unless the people refuse to leave or refuse services. Contrary to rumors, there is no 3-day grace period for transients to leave.
- *RV camping.* Circumstances are different from situation to situation. In one case, a problem RV was moved to an RV park after the owner finally opted to accept resources.

5. Discussion and Voting Items

a. Cedar Street vacation proposed by Trinity Catholic School

Neither the City nor Trinity has approached the EGNC regarding the proposal. Nearby residents voiced strong opposition to this proposal because of the chaotic parking situation and no public benefits to vacating. In the past Trinity has assured neighbors that parking as well and pickup and drop-off processes would be respectful, but the reality is that there are nonstop cars and staff park in the street. The street vacation is also apparently part of larger plans to expand the school-owned blocks into a campus. Residents have collected 30+ signatures opposing the vacation because of the lack of justification, and representatives from several major City departments have stated that it will have no benefit.

A Sept. 22 meeting at City Council will determine whether the vacation can move forward. Anyone interested in speaking to City Council must register by Sept. 19. Signatures opposing the vacation must be lodged by Sept. 17.

The EGNC took an informal vote to gauge sentiment:

- 13 were opposed to the vacation, 0 were in support of vacation, 7 were open to requesting more info

A formal vote was held. Motion: To support the nearby residents in their opposition to the street vacation until more information was available and a satisfactory rationale was presented.

- Gene Brake moved, Ted Stevens seconded
- 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 6 abstentions

b. Pedestrian, Traffic and Transportation (PeTT) committee representative

Since Carlie Hoffman moved, the EGNC has lacked a PeTT representative. The Safe Streets program is going through a 'process shift' and could use an E-G representative for input.



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Gene Brake volunteered to serve as the PeTT representative.

A formal vote was held. Motion: To appoint Gene as the EGNC PeTT representative.

- i. Eileen Kazura moved, Tim Musser seconded
- ii. Unanimous approval

6. Committee reports

Community Assembly (Linda Carroll)

- In conjunction with PlanSpokane.com, CA is reviewing planning documents. Current language is broad and is being refined (e.g., "desires" of neighborhoods was swapped for "needs and aims").
- Of immediate concern is the projects sent forward for traffic calming: 2nd/Cannon curb bumpouts and Spruce Street Stairs. Buckeye/Washington is TBD.
- Provided deadlines on traffic projects, including the public meeting on Nov. 12, 4-6pm at City Council chambers.

Office of Neighborhood Services (Heather Hamlin, ONS director)

- The annual Neighborhood Summit is Oct. 25.
- City Council is looking at changing meeting days.

Spring Cleanup (Jeff Thomas)

- Dump passes are still available. Pick them up at the Emerson-Garfield Farmers' Market.
- There are no updates on the damaged windshield at the Spring Cleanup. Jeff said he would follow up with the truck owner to check the outcome.

Community Safety Committee (Ted Stevens)

- Chief Hall spoke at the most recent meeting and said crime stats are down, but officers are as frustrated by their inability to enforce.

Transitions New Leaf (Sarah Lickfold)

- Website has been changed from help4women.org to transitionsspokane.org.
- Fundraiser is coming up!

Corbin Senior Activity Center (Tim Musser)

- No major updates. Community support is always welcome.

Emerson-Garfield Farmers' Market (Anne Luttrull)



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- 2025 Season Finale is on September 26!

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

- The NPAC did not meet in September.

North Monroe Business District (E.J. Iannelli)

- Monroe Day at the Emerson-Garfield Farmers' Market is June 20.

Treasurer (Judy Heaton)

- Balance is \$842.98

Spokane City Council (CM Zack Zappone)

- Statistics show a decrease in violent crimes and property crimes over the past two years. Those stats depend on good reporting, which means calling Crime Check (or 911 in emergencies) when there are crimes to report.
- The funding for the traffic project at Washington/Buckeye has already been allocated. The project is now going through a second outreach process. The four-year process cycle for these projects has not been working. In the future, projects will be scored using a matrix.
- Cora and Euclid speed bumps have gone in and are proving effective, although they required plenty of advocacy.
- Kids at Play signs might encourage people to slow down.
- Please fill out survey about City Council meeting day changes.
- Q. Are camping and obstruction banned citywide? Yes.

8. General Announcements

a. Clay Elliot is no longer attending EGNC meetings. The council needs a Building Stronger Neighborhoods rep. Please consider volunteering for this important position.

9. Adjournment: 7:47pm