

**Rockwood Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2007
St. John's Cathedral, Jewett House Guild Room
Spokane Washington**

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair John Prosser at 7:00 pm.

2. Those present were: (* Voting Member)

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| • John Prosser | Chairman * |
| • Dallas Hawkins | Vice-Chair* |
| • Peggy Johnson | Treasurer* |
| • Gail Prosser | Director* |
| • Carol Cunningham | Director* |
| • Kathie Hawkins | Director* |
| • Bernie Nelson | Director* |
| • Walt Johnson | Resident* |

3. The agenda was approved as presented.

4. January minutes were approved as written. February minutes were amended and approved.

5. City Council Report

Councilmember Mary Verner reported that the (2) proposals initiated By Councilman Stark for traffic impact funding with "Photo red" funding had passed at the Council level.

It is expected that the formal proposal for traffic impact fees should wrap up by April.

Ms Verner reported on a need for a sub-area traffic study to serve as a baseline to be used in planning. They are looking for ways to fund this study.

Ms Verner outlined the "Principles of Surplus Spending" being considered in the Finance Committee.

A motion by RNC Committee: "Any year there is a surplus over anticipated revenues in Spokane; they shall be put away for future use or project, and spent using principles of prudent management. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.

Walt Johnson asked Ms Verner why the city does not enforce codes on lawn care, sidewalk maintenance, and snow removal? Ms Verner explained that violation of city code is currently a criminal offense and there is resistance. An effort is underway to move code violations to a civil offense to provide for fining rather than jailing.

6. Traffic Committee - Oral and written report by Dallas Hawkins -

Regarding: The 2007 S.E. Blvd street rehabilitation project.

This spring the City of Spokane plans to rehabilitate the street from SE Blvd from 29th Avenue north to 10th Avenue as part of the ten year street bond.

A portion of this roadway system currently includes a shared bike lane, which is part of the city wide bike route system. This bike lane route is not dedicated for exclusively bikes because parking is permitted along the route. Because this is a bike lane that is shared with vehicles, bike lane signage and marking are not usually installed. In this case, there are some old-style bike lane signs which remain in some places along the route which were installed in the 1970's.

This project has gone out to bid and will begin in the spring. It is clear that time is now limited to consider changes to this project that may cause delays and add new expenses. Currently Engineering Services plans are to rehabilitate this street project to its current configuration, which includes the shared bike route and still provides space to create a dedicated bike lane in each direction with signage and proper markings, when funds become available to add those features. It is notable that in order to convert the shared bike lane to a dedicated one, a public process would be used to determine if residents would support the removal of street parking along this route.

The Bicycle Advisory Board, along with some East Central Neighborhood people have asked the City to add bike lane signage and markings and remove parking along the street in order to make this route a dedicated bike lane. They also are requesting that the street bond program pay for the signage and street markings, which we estimate may cost between \$ 75,000 and \$ 100,000.

At the request of the Bicycle Advisory Board and some members of the public, Council woman Mary Verner will facilitate a meeting next week with representatives of the BAB and CSAC. We will hold a discussion concerning bike lane funding and the SE Blvd project, and perhaps discuss other street bond projects and bike routes as well.

To date, it has been the policy of the Citizens Streets Advisory Commission and Engineering Services to return roadways to their original configuration when they are rehabilitated using street bond revenue. Because the costs of street bond projects continue to rise, and because we determined early on that we could not afford to include expenses not directly related to street rehabilitation, the CSAC has not included the cost of comprehensive plan improvements in our rehabilitation projects. We are very concerned that funds may not be available in coming years to complete all of the projects that have been identified in the ten year street bond program.

I am interested in receiving comments from members of the Rockwood Neighborhood Council concerning this issue. Please direct your written comments to me by email at dal-kath@comcast.net, by telephone to (509) 981-5224, or submit your comments by mail to Dallas Hawkins, C/O Engineering Services, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd. Spokane WA 99201-3335.

A motion to "Leave the current use of Southeast Blvd as is" - 4 Yes, 2 No, 2 Abstain

8. The treasurer's report was presented. Balance \$3977.55. A gain of .20 interest.

9. Next month agenda items

- **Update on Olmsted Triangle Parks Application**
- **Update on Cloninger request for Right of Way vacation.**
- **Update on CSAC/Bicycle Advisory Board meeting**
- **RNC position on 29th Ave speed limit in Lincoln Heights 20 to 30 MPH**

14. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

**Respectfully Submitted,
John Prosser, Chair**