

Rockwood Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes
May 5, 2009
Hutton Elementary School, Cafeteria
Spokane, Washington

Mark Barron, Hutton Maintenance, was introduced

1. **The meeting was called to order** by Chairman Jill Boyd at 7:00PM.
2. **Executive Board members** were introduced
3. **The agenda** for the May 5, 2009 meeting was made available and approved.
4. **Minutes** from the April 7, 2009 meeting were read and approved.
5. **Community Assembly & Rockwood News**
 - Clean Green was successful with donations of approximately \$377 going to the bench fund.
 - There was a \$2000 donation for the bench fund from a Rockwood resident.
 - Taylor Bressler has ordered the benches.
 - RNC has enough to pay the City for the benches. We now need a \$1000 grant from Spokane Preservation Advocates for setting them in concrete.
 - "Rockwood News"
 - Marilyn asked the Mayor's office to remove the "detour" arrow directing traffic to Garfield during the Southeast Blvd re-surfacing project. The sign has been removed.
 - A potential hazard was mentioned: at one point it was noticed that there were 11 cars and 1 fire truck backed up to get onto Garfield.
 - Marilyn e-mailed Dallas Hawkins (street committee) asking whether there is a plan to repaint the crosswalks and 20MPH signs for Hutton School. Response was that parks and school zones would be done for sure.
6. **Historic Committee Report**

None.
7. **Louise Sullivan, Manager, Spokane Library, South Hill Branch**
 - Handouts x3 filed with these minutes.
 - Discussion covered various services provided by the Spokane Library, including Grant search, audio books.
 - Fifty PCs were purchased with funding from the Gates Foundation.
 - A question was raised as to why the library is closed on Sundays.
 - This was a financial decision – Spokane City libraries are funded from the General Fund. County libraries are open on Sunday, but they are funded from a different source.
 - A user survey performed 2-3 years ago indicated users overwhelmingly preferred the library be open Monday rather than Sunday.
8. **Stop Sign Issue in Rockwood Neighborhood** - Gerry Gemmil, Assistant Director, City of Spokane Public Works.

Not coming tonight. The Director prefers to come himself.
9. **Should Municipal Court Judges be Citizens of the City** – Bryan Whittaker, Atty at Law
 - He briefly covered the right-of-way law and some of the legal issues posed.
 - Note: He indicated he was in favor of the stop signs remaining.
 - Should Municipal Court Judges be citizens:
 - He covered the concept of "districting" and the Charter of the City of Spokane. Rockwood is in the 2nd District.
 - The Charter creates districting, but the municipal court doesn't fall within the Charter.
 - To run for municipal court the candidate must be a resident for 1 or more years, be a voting resident, and currently if he/she moves from the electing districe he/she can

complete his/her term. Conversely, if the Mayor moves outside the city limits that office is immediately vacant.

- o Note: He is running for Municipal Court Judge.

10. **Treasurer's report:**

None.

11. **Q & A**

None.

12. **Other Business:**

- **NUSA** - Jonathan Mallihan, Director of Office of Neighborhood Services
 - o Discussed the upcoming Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) meeting, 5/20 – 5/23/09.
 - o NUSA mission is to share information and ideas among neighborhoods.
 - o Neighborhoods have similar issues: planning, historic, bicycle streets, crime reduction, etc.
 - o Volunteers requested to host neighborhood pride tours, register attendees, attend the conference.
 - o Web page: www.NUSASpokane.org
 - o About 400 have signed up to attend the meeting. Attendance usually is between 800 – 1000. Likely down due to the economy.
- **Mike Allen** – for Richard Rush, City Council, regarding stop sign issue
 - o Stop sign removal is an Administrative decision, ie, under the Mayor's jurisdiction.
 - o National studies show that uncontrolled intersections have less accidents than controlled.
 - o Stop sign issue won't come before the City Council.
 - o Question: as strong mayor, does Mayor Verner work for the City Council?
 - o Administrative decisions come from the Mayor's office; financial decisions come from the City Council.
 - o The City Council can advocate on our behalf.
 - o Note: he is in favor of retaining the stop signs.
 - o His advice is to go to the source (Mayor Verner) for a decision.
 - o Jill would like to collaborate with the Council, police and engineering departments.
- **Future agenda:**
 - o It was mentioned by Bryan Whittaker that other neighborhoods have "candidates & issues" night. Jill will set up.
- **211** – Becky Niles, Supervisor, First Call for Help
 - o Handouts (First Call For Help – Spokane Mental Health 24x7 services) filed with these minutes.
 - o 211 is a national set-aside phone number. Dialing it routes to a live person M – F 8AM – 5PM.
 - o Accesses community resources. Washington has one database of resources for the whole state.
 - o Web page: www.Win211.org
 - Lists requirements for use of the various resources, then only provides a list of services the user is eligible for.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Sonja Sallquist
Secretary