

Rockwood Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes
September 21st, 2006
St. John's Cathedral, Jewett House Guild Room
Spokane Washington

1. Chair John Prosser called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2- 4. The agenda for September and the minutes from June were reviewed and approved.
Members and guests were introduced.

Those present were:

- John Prosser	Chairman
- Dallas Hawkins	Vice Chair
- Gail Prosser	Director
- Carol Cunningham	Director
- Kathie Hawkins	Director
- Tina Bjorklund	Resident
- Mary Verner	City Council member
- Ron Green	Resident

5. Mary Verner provided us with a City Council report.

The City will soon approve the new street standards for Spokane. Mary indicated that she is working with city legal and staff to clarify the definitions of street rehabilitation and repair so that the public will understand how and what can be funded and where the money will come to support these standards.

Code enforcement is being restructured by the City and is now directed by Greg Hecht. Mary indicated that all city staff who will be involved with enforcement will be familiarized with the rules and procedures.

Dallas Hawkins asked Mary Verner if there would be any interest in working with the Police Department to create a new ordinance to remove and ticket vehicles that are parked for extended periods of time on public streets, where the vehicle's license tabs are expired. Mary indicated that she is interested in participating in sponsorship of such an ordinance. Dallas indicated that Rob Chiappe is the lead person for the police department and has offered to draft the ordinance for review by City legal and the city council.

Mary indicated that a new inter-disciplinary team had been convened to work on issues related to Urban Forestry. This team is comprised of staff, elected officials and volunteers, and will work together to seek funding sources and formulate policies and procedures for a comprehensive Urban Forestry plan. Dallas Hawkins suggested that it would be beneficial to have someone from the Street Commission attend these meetings to share information. Mary indicated that that would be acceptable. The next meeting will be held on October 4th.

7. John Prosser announced that our secretary, Richard Siderius, has moved and that the position is now vacant. He asked for a volunteer to serve as Secretary until the end of the January 2007 meeting. Robert (Mac) McDonald offered to serve as secretary. A motion to have Mr. McDonald serve in this position was then made seconded and approved.

8. There was a discussion concerning the Washington State annual Corporate filing and the appointment of a new registered agent for our Corporation and 501C3. This topic included comments from Mr. Prosser that he had suggested that the Office of Neighborhood Services become the address of record for our registered agent.

Dallas Hawkins indicated that City Legal Department advises us that it is not comfortable having any city department serve in this capacity since they would be the de-facto registered agent. Dallas also remarked that it is far better to have the address be a business address that is open and staffed during regular business hours to receive mail and be legal served documents, as required by the Secretary of State.

A motion was made, seconded and approved that our elected Chairman shall serve as our registered agent for the neighborhood, and that a business address would be used for the State filing. It was noted that Paul Fitzpatrick has resigned his position on the board and is no longer interested in serving in this capacity. John Prosser will complete the filing of our annual report and sent it to the state with the \$10.00 filing fee.

9. Pillar Report. Marilyn Akerhielm was pleased to announce that Rockwood had been approved for a \$1000 Grant from Spokane Preservation Advocates to resort of Stone Pillars in the neighborhood in the summer of 2007. Ron Green spoke to us about the timing for the repairs as well as describing the products he would use to restore the wood on the pillars.

Ron thinks it would be best to use a cherry picker to repair and replace the damaged shingles and then paint the entire roof with an epoxy to protect it from weather damage. It was suggested that we restore wildlife access and install a clean out to prevent build up of debris in the pillars. The pillars were originally intended to be wildlife shelters. Ron estimated that the cost to repair each pillar would be approximately \$ 2000.

Dallas Hawkins suggested that some of the remainder of the pillar funds can be used to repair and re-point the mortar on the pillars, and has offered to get some bids and bring them back to the group for review. A suggestion was made that the Parks Department may be willing to pay for this work.

Discussion of other topics.

There was then a discussion concerning the 2009 NUSA (Neighborhoods USA) conference. John Prosser advised us that a neighborhood beautification project had begun that will plant street trees on the public right of way within our neighborhood, and that this project may qualify for 501C3 tax exempt status and be a good candidate for the NUSA neighborhood beautification contest prize.

Carol Cunningham remarked that the NUSA conference is a long way off and that the project may not be a good candidate for that prize. She went on to offer that non profits cannot use their status for tax exemption for private benefit. John and Dallas commented that it may be an appropriate tax exempt purpose and that we should seek a legal opinion.

John and Gail Prosser indicated that they are interested in asking the City to help Rockwood create a small park, or series of parks at the grass triangles located at Scott, 27th and Garfield. This idea was expanded by the group to consider installing plants, flowers, benches and a Gazebo at these locations.

Marilyn Akerhielm suggested that the park or parks be called the Olmsted Brothers Rockwood Park and suggested that Gail Prosser write a letter to Mike Stone at the Park's Department, on behalf of Rockwood. Those present asked that this project move forward.

John Prosser asked Mac McDonald draft language creating a process for RNC sponsorship of resident initiated neighborhood projects. John and Mac will bring this issue forward in October.

Marilyn Akerhielm brought a letter she had drafted to the Spokane Preservation Advocates to thank them for our grant. The letter was approved and signed by those present.

Marilyn then presented us with a draft of the stationery she would like us to use for our neighborhood council. Kathie Hawkins volunteered to create the stationary on the computer and bring it back for review and approval.

Dallas Hawkins thanked both Marilyn Akerhielm and Ron Green for the efforts to date on the Pillar project. John Prosser agreed and also thanked Ron Green and Marilyn.

10. Traffic Report. Gail Prosser indicated that the top three issues of the neighborhood as discussed at the June meeting are:

1. Traffic and Pedestrian safety issues.
2. Code enforcement
3. Attendance at neighborhood meetings
4. Historical concerns

Gail had asked the Pedestrian and Traffic Committee volunteers to prioritize their top ten issues of important to work on in the future. This list was discussed by the group.

11. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report showed a balance of \$3689.87, with \$394.44 in our General Fund, \$2455.81 in our Pillar Fund, \$40.00 in the Charity Fund, \$ 729.00 in the Traffic device Fund, and \$70.00 in the Planter Fund.

12. Correspondence and Announcements

Kathie Hawkins made a motion to send a letter of thanks to the ladies who plant the planters each year for our neighborhood. The motion was seconded and approved and the group asked Kathie to write a letter on behalf of the RNC.

John Prosser commented that the Cloniger project privately funded a zoning change request to build an office building at the property located where the old Montessori school had been.

John handed out a survey from Spokane Libraries.

Tina Bjorklund, a neighborhood resident (~~address removed by a vote of the RNC board 6/3/2009~~), indicated that she is quite upset that her next-door neighbor just installed a 40 foot permanent metal storage container in his back yard which had created an eyesore. She advised us that she had gone down to the City and learned that the metal container is legal and is considered a secondary structure. John commented that perhaps she can take this issue to Mary Verner and Brad Stark for help.

14. John Prosser indicated that agenda items for October would include: 1. Mac's presentation of language for approved neighborhood projects. 2. New letterhead review. 3. NUSA Clarity on neighborhood beautification contest.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm
Respectfully Submitted,
Dallas Hawkins
Acting Secretary