

## Rockwood Neighborhood Council Meeting

February 5, 2013

### Hutton Elementary School Cafeteria

**Call to Order:** The meeting of the Rockwood Neighborhood Council was called to order at 7:00pm by Chair, Dean Lynch. Attendance was recorded and attendees made introductions.

**Quorum:** A quorum was present.

**Treasurer's Report:** Peggy Johnson reported no changes in treasurer's report since the last meeting. Bank account total is \$2270.00. General Fund: \$30.65, Pillar Fund: \$1537.56, Charity Fund: \$40.00, Traffic Devices: \$591.79, Planters \$70.00, Benches \$0.00.

**Executive Committee Action:** The Executive Board met on 1/30/2013. Discussions included Dean's letter to the Mayor asking for fog line striping on Rockwood and conduit for water and electricity to the area of the proposed traffic calming triangle at Helena & Rockwood. Also discussed was the new Mailchimp mail delivery system, and the need to revisit and update by-laws.

**Approval of minutes:** Minutes approved as presented.

**Hutton School Update:** Dean Lynch reported that there was no update on the Hutton School Rehab project. The Neighborhood Council representatives are meeting next Monday.

**City Council Representatives** were not in attendance.

#### Guests:

**Captain Frank Scalise, Spokane Police Department,** reported that in January the police department was reorganized. The mission is to reduce crime and partner with the community. The reorganization creates three bureaus. They include Tactical and Strategic Operations, Business Services and Field Operations. The org chart can be found at the link below.

<http://www.spokanepolice.org/documents/2013%20Org%20final%20chart.pdf>

The Tactical and Strategic Operations bureau includes the gang & drug unit, anti-crime team, neighborhood conditions unit, and resource officers.

The Business Services bureau includes records, accounting, payroll, etc. The Field Operations bureau includes patrol, dispatch and major crimes.

Captain Scalise distributed neighborhood crime maps. And reminded us that the three best ways to help prevent property crime are to "lock it", turn on the lights (porch, inside and outside motion lights), and know your neighbors. If we want to organize neighborhood block watches, some additional training is available through COPS.

For traffic issues, call 625-4150 to report the type of traffic problem and time of day the incidents take place. Leave your contact information. The report goes into the queue and the police will work the area at the time you report the most frequent violations.

The City is planning a graffiti abatement event to take place mid to late spring. They will be recruiting people and groups to participate in a “painting” day to cover graffiti around the city. The thought is that when graffiti is not responded to it encourages more of the same and invites bad elements into the neighborhoods. Before neighbors take the initiative to cover graffiti, get permission from the homeowner whose property is marked and take a picture to report to the police. The police keep track of graffiti and follow the trends to help prevent further marking.

A neighbor asked Captain Scalise to express his thanks to Police Chief Straub for personally coming to the scene of the police officer involved shooting in the Huckleberry’s parking lot.

**Tim Burns, Police Ombudsman**, reported that the Office of Ombudsman has moved to the main floor in the City Hall building. He invited people to stop in if they had occasion to visit City Hall.

On February 25<sup>th</sup> the Ombudsman’s annual report will be presented to the City Council. The presentation will be made available on the City of Spokane’s Channel 5 as well as at the Ombudsman website.

Mr. Burns encourage everyone to vote in the special election. There are three propositions to consider, including Prop 1 which will empower the Office of the Ombudsman to conduct independent investigations of citizen complaints against the police department. Mr. Burns will be discussing Prop 1 with Council President Ben Stuckart on the next Council Connections being aired on Channel 5.

**South Hill Coalition Planning Update:** Don Lamp reported that additional questionnaires are being made available through schools and to neighborhood organizations to gather more input from youth in the community. The committee is preparing for meetings with selected city staff next month around the 9 issues that have surfaced as priorities for the project.

**Community Assembly Representative Report:** Julie Banks was unable to attend, but submitted her report to Dean Lynch. The Comprehensive Plan, including the Pedestrian Master Plan is being revisited and updated. Our district’s hearing is being held February 11<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm at the ESD101 building, 4204 S Regal. There will be a follow up meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup> in the City Council Chambers. Dean encouraged everyone to attend.

The Land Use and Pedestrian/Transportation Committees need RNC representatives.

#### **Old Business:**

Don Lamp reported on the progress of our traffic calming project application. The committee is working on a proposal for a triangle at Rockwood & Arthur. When installed, the triangle will

provide a safer closing for school children as well as slow traffic on Rockwood. The committee could use some engineering expertise as there are some issues around maintaining access to a driveway. A motion was made and seconded and unanimously approved to go forward with the triangle proposal to include the element of a permanent radar speed monitor if allowed under the regulations of the proposal.

With the LID being a nonstarter at this point, the group discussed other ways to incorporate traffic calming measure into the neighborhood. Crosswalks, solar powdered speed indicator and a radar gun were suggested. Dean has been involved with working with the City on similar projects and indicated that it will take time and perseverance, but a committed neighborhood group can make inroads.

**New Business:** Dean is crafting a letter to the Mayor requesting conduit be installed for water and electric services to the Rockwood & Helena intersection and the Rockwood & Arthur intersection in anticipation of future traffic calming projects.

It was brought to the groups attention that historically the RNC has been responsible for the maintenance of planters on 29<sup>th</sup> across from the Manito Shopping Center as well as the horse trough planter on Grand in Manito Park. Dean called for volunteers. Peggy Johnson, Anne Tribe and Linda McHenry will tend the 29<sup>th</sup> Ave planters and Dave Vogel will take care of the horse trough.

The National Night Out Against Crime is being held August 6<sup>th</sup> in Spokane. This is a good chance to engage with our neighbors and enjoy the summer evening. Dean suggested a block party at the triangle park or school and called for volunteers to help organize. There were no volunteers at this time, but we have plenty of time to get something going if the desire is there. Linda McHenry indicated that her neighborhood will be holding their annual party again this year.

**Announcements:** none

**Good of the order:** none

**Agenda topics for March meeting:** Walt Johnson would like 5 minutes to bring everyone up-to-date on the website.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Linda McHenry, Secretary