

## Rockwood Neighborhood Council Meeting

October 1, 2013

Hutton Elementary School Cafeteria

**Call to Order:** 7:00

**Quorum:** Yes

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

**Treasurers Report:**

- No change since last report. Total bank balance: \$2246.88

**Executive Board actions:** None

**City Council Representatives:** Neither Jon Snyder nor Michael Allen were in attendance.

**Spokane Police Department:**

- Lt. Tom Hendren, the new police department representative for the Rockwood Neighborhood, introduce himself to those new to our meetings, and opened his presentation to questions from the group.  
The #1 focus of the Police Dept is addressing our crime rate. Violent crime as well as property crime is around 5%.  
Graffiti was reported as an ongoing problem in our neighborhood. Officer Jen DeRuwe is now handling the graffiti abatement program. Most of the “tagging” our neighborhood is plagued with seems to be nuisance vandalism. Photos can help identify any gang related activity. At the present time there is no neighborhood representative program for graffiti abatement, but a program is expected to be developed by Officer DeRuwe. In 2014 volunteer groups will be recruited for “paint over days”.  
The department believes they have a solid case against the 2 people arrested in the Syringa area burglaries. The stolen property was recovered.  
Neighbors were encouraged to contact police when incidents occur, even when no police action is evident. Separate reports can develop into patterns which can help police to apprehend the “bad guys” and reduce crime rates. Unfortunately, current department staffing levels require reports to be prioritized and all reports cannot be addressed at the time of the call.  
Email address is [thendren@spokanepolice.org](mailto:thendren@spokanepolice.org).

**Spokane Police Ombudsman:** Melissa Nystrom :

- The Ombudsman’s office is making available a “Student Guide to Police Practices” pamphlet and bookmarks. The Human Rights Commission is looking for commissioners. Applications and information are below:

<http://www.spokanecity.org/documents/boards/committee-board-application-2011.pdf><http://www.spokanecity.org/government/bcc/info/default.aspx?bccid=1144>

#### **Photo Red Traffic Calming: - Jackie Caro & Bob Turner**

- Jackie Caro, Office of Neighborhood Services, [jcaro@spokanecity.org](mailto:jcaro@spokanecity.org) and Bob Turner, Traffic Engineer – City of Spokane, presented information about the HAWK (High-Intensity Activated cross **W**alk) beacon. Based on engineering studies, the City is recommending the HAWK beacon be used at the Grand & 18<sup>th</sup> crossing rather than the yellow flashing LED type in service on North Hamilton. The Grand St tree canopy poses some unique considerations when choosing a street crossing light. The mechanism to activate the light is ADA compliant and placement is being coordinated with STA. The mechanism cannot be programmed to control the time between pedestrian crossings. However, given the traffic and pedestrian patterns on Grand, slowing traffic should not create a major problem. Some neighbors were concerned with cut-through traffic on neighborhood streets. Crosswalk striping at intersections on either side of 18<sup>th</sup> St will be removed to encourage pedestrians to use the HAWK crosswalk. However, all intersections are considered “crosswalks” even those without striping. A handout was made available showing what drivers and pedestrians see when the light is activated. The City is taking public comment and will work with the neighborhood. Email Dean Lynch [flynch10@comcast.net](mailto:flynch10@comcast.net), Bob Turner or Jackie Caro [jcaro@spokanecity.org](mailto:jcaro@spokanecity.org). The installation is slated for the 2014 construction season.

#### **South Hill Coalition Planning Update – Terry Warrick**

- The South Hill Coalition participated in the Lower South Hill Block Party on September 21<sup>st</sup> in the parking lot of Huckleberrys at 10<sup>th</sup> & Monroe St. We received great feedback from the neighborhood community on: Connectivity improvement issues throughout the neighborhoods; signage and “way finding” concepts for the neighborhood; and ideas for protecting and enhancing our neighborhood character. The Coalition Steering Committee will be meeting with our consultants from MIG on Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> to review our goals and projects. Keep in the loop via the newsletters (send an email to [info@SouthHillCoalition.org](mailto:info@SouthHillCoalition.org)) or follow on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/SouthHillCoalition](http://www.Facebook.com/SouthHillCoalition).

#### **Community Assembly Rep: Julie Banks**

- The Community Assembly is meeting next week. Two upcoming events are being offered at the South Side Senior Center. On October 7<sup>th</sup> an event planning class is being held from 6:00-7:00 and on October 8<sup>th</sup> a gang awareness forum will take place from 6:00-7:00.

#### **Committee Reports:**

- PeTT – Dean Reynolds – The committee meets monthly to discuss traffic calming policies and the Comprehensive Plan. The deadline for traffic calming project submittal is March 1<sup>st</sup>. We should start considering new projects by November.

- Land Use – Margaret Jones - This committee is involved with general guidelines and what neighborhoods want to look like. They are looking for what information is available before land use changes happen.

**Unfinished Business/Ongoing topics:**

- Hutton Update: Dean Lynch – An open house was held on September 17<sup>th</sup>, approximately 150 people attended. Committees have been working hard to insure the building fits with the historic nature of the neighborhood. Exterior lighting will meet city code and security needs. October 7<sup>th</sup> is the next committee meeting and a public open house is scheduled for November 5, 2013, in the gym from 5:30pm-7:00pm. This will be the same day as our next RNC meeting, so come a little early and check out the plans. The Hutton students will be housed in the old Jefferson Building next year. A proposed nickname for the school is Camp Hutton.
- Neighborhood Cleanup: Carol Cunningham - There are two cleanup opportunities being offered this year. On October 16<sup>th</sup> a special curbside pick-up will take place....details on the postcard mailed to neighborhood residents. On October 26<sup>th</sup> dump passes will be made available on the south side of Hutton School between 10:00am and noon. Carol will be out of town this year so a volunteer is needed to distribute the passes. No one came forward to volunteer. Dean will make some calls.
- The Rockwood Blvd construction is scheduled for completion by mid-October.
- The January meeting will be our “annual” meeting and office/board member elections. We need to elect 3 board members, a vice-chair and a treasurer. Dean called for volunteers for the nominating committee. No one volunteered.

**Announcements:** Our next meeting will be held on November 5. There will be no meeting in December.

Agenda topics for November: Public hearing on Hutton Elementary School redevelopment.

**Adjournment:** 8:20pm

Respectfully submitted,

Linda McHenry, Secretary

Rockwood Neighborhood Council