

Rockwood Neighborhood Council

Annual Report 2016

The Rockwood Neighborhood Council (RNC) meets monthly, the first Tuesday of the month. No meetings are held in July, August or December. Meetings are held at Hutton Elementary School in the multipurpose room from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

Officers & Directors:

A. The year began with the election of officers and directors. Those highlighted were elected to a two year term joining the other officers continuing in their positions:

Chair: Dean Lynch (1 year remaining)

Vice Chair: **Greg Francis** (2 years)

Secretary: Mary Terhaar (1 year remaining)

Treasurer: **Kurt Helgerson** (2 years)

Directors: Ann Price, Jim Sullivan, Dave Vogel (1 year remaining)

Julie Banks, Carol Cunningham & Bernie Nelson (2 years)

Web Master: Paul Moorman (appointed)

B. The officers and directors make up the Executive Committee. It meets the third Tuesday of the month, as needed, determined by Chair.

C. Member involvement on Community Assembly (CA) and other committees

CA Representative: Julie Banks

Land Use Committee: Margaret Jones

South Hill Coalition: Ann Fennessy, Kelly Moorman

CA Representative to Plan Commission: Greg Francis

D. Rockwood Neighborhood Land Use Notification Committee

The committee was established to review land use issues forwarded to the neighborhood council from the City of Spokane. Members include: Julie Banks, Greg Francis, Margaret Jones, Dave Lucas & Jim Sullivan.

Neighborhood meetings:

A. Meeting attendance varied from 13-41 with an average attendance of 19 (14 voting members) plus visitors. Visitors averaged almost 4 per meeting.

B. Our meetings have been attended by numerous elected and city officials. The list includes City Councilmembers Lori Kinnear and Breean Beggs. Detective Ty Snider has represented the Spokane Police Department at most meetings.

C. Special Presentations:

Rick Dobrow, Interim Chief, Spokane Police Department

Tree health post windstorm –

Garth Davis, arborist, Spokane County Conservation District

Emergency Medical Services levy –

Bobby Williams, Chief, Spokane Fire Department

Spokane Public Library: changing to meet current use patterns –

Andrew Chanse, Director, Spokane Public Library

Spokane Edible Tree Project – Kendra Jones & Omar Akkari

STA Fare Analysis – Steve Blaska, Director of Operations, Spokane Transit Authority

Bart Logue, Police Ombudsman, City of Spokane

Melissa Wittstruck, neighborhood liaison with Office of Neighborhood Services

Lisa Key, Director of Planning Services, City of Spokane

Neighborhood involvement:

A. The Community Assembly is the organization representing all city neighborhoods. It is a quasi government organization with responsibility to inform the Office of the Mayor and the City Council. RNC has consistently participated with Julie Banks serving as our official representative and Greg Francis as the alternate. We were represented on the Land Use Committee by Margaret Jones and the Public Safety Committee by Julie Banks.

B. The South Hill Coalition is a coalition of 6 neighborhoods: Cliff/Cannon, Comstock, Manito/Cannon Hill, Lincoln Heights, Rockwood and Southgate. The Connectivity and Livability Strategic Plan was completed and approved by the Spokane City Council in 2014 and can be viewed at <http://www.southhillcoalition.org/> or from your neighborhood chair. The coalition has shifted focus to developing a structure for implementing the plan and working together in support of individual neighborhoods for the betterment of the whole. Ann Fennessy and Kelly Moorman are the neighborhood representatives.

C. Dean Lynch presented to the Spokane City Council at the Town Hall Meeting about neighborhood activities and concerns. Greg Francis created the graphics for the presentation.

D. Dave Vogel tackled the process for the development of a neighborhood brochure funded through the Office of Neighborhood Services. It took numerous rewrites and many members participated before a final design was accepted and printed.

E. The Community Assembly received funding as a line item in the City of Spokane budget. They decided to make \$500 available to each neighborhood with a focus on communication. RNC submitted a proposal to print additional brochures and to acquire reusable cloth shopping bags printed with the neighborhood logo to be used as welcoming packets for new residents to the neighborhood. Dave Lucas facilitated this project. The bags have been printed and the components are being assembled. The bags will include material from the City of Spokane, Avista, Visit Spokane and our neighborhood brochure. Businesses within the neighborhood boundaries or business owners who live in the neighborhood will have the opportunity to have promotional information included.

F. The City of Spokane formula for allocation of Community Development Block Grant Funding continues to evolve. Rockwood Neighborhood was allocated \$12,000 in 2016 to be used for curb cuts/handicap accessible ramps and/or capital projects for a qualified 501 C 3 nonprofit organization. Curb cuts that would meet requirements have not been identified so the Executive Committee narrowed the list of 15 preapproved capital projects

down to four: Transitions-Women's Hearth, House of Charity, Martin Luther King Jr Family Outreach Center and Women and Children's Free Restaurant & Community Kitchen. Each of these four was viewed favorably by the neighborhood but our first two choices were already fully funded so our allotment will go to capital improvements for the Catholic Charities Respite Program in the House of Charity.

Traffic Issues:

A. RNC submitted an application in 2013 to the Photo Red Traffic Calming Program for an island and crosswalk at Rockwood Blvd and Arthur St. It was completed in 2015 and has increased safety for children walking to Hutton Elementary School. On one occasion, children were using that crosswalk on their way to school when a car approached and stopped. A distracted driver then rear ended the stopped vehicle. Fortunately no one was seriously injured and it was a vehicle on vehicle accident, not a vehicle on child accident. In addition to the increased safety, the island is an attractive greenscape addition that is maintained (watered, weeded and pruned) by neighbors.

B. RNC submitted an application in 2015 to the Photo Red Traffic Calming Program for the installation of 2 semi-permanent solar powered Radar Speed Feedback Signs on Rockwood Blvd between Garfield Rd and Southeast Blvd. The application was approved with modifications that the installations be permanent and not moveable. They were to be installed in 2016 but were delayed so we look forward to seeing them the first part of 2017.

C. RNC submitted an application in 2016 to the Photo Red Traffic Calming Program for the installation of two permanent solar powered Radar Speed Feedback Signs on the northern portion of Rockwood Blvd between Garfield Rd and 12th Ave. Unfortunately there was a glitch and the application was not received so this proposal did not receive consideration. It is a potential for submission in 2017.

D. Manito/Cannon Hill Neighborhood Council submitted an application for two solar powered Radar Speed Feedback Signs for Grand Blvd between 17th and 21st avenues. Since this arterial is the border between the new neighborhoods, they requested our endorsement of the proposal. The RNC agreed to support the proposal with the encouragement that consideration be made for the amount of signage on Grand Blvd.

E. RNC participated in the Mobile Radar Speed Feedback Sign program. The portable signs are used to document the speed of vehicles and to remind drivers of the speed limit. The signs are operated by solar energy so collection of data can be affected by sign location (shadowed by trees or buildings) and the weather. We had two locations in 2016:
1900 block of S Syringa (northbound traffic)
500 Block of E 21st (eastbound traffic)

F. RNC was pleased to see Garfield Rd receive a grind and overlay from Rockwood Blvd to 26th Ave as part of the city street maintenance efforts. That is a highly used roadway for people getting to Manito Shopping Center and to Hutton Elementary.

Clean up:

RNC again participated in the City neighborhood cleanup program. We had roll off bins in the spring where people could bring their yard waste and trash for pickup. Inmates from Geiger Correctional Facility provided the muscle to make the transfers. In the fall we had dump passes of \$5, \$10 and \$25 as well as curb side pickup. The cleanup program continues to be popular but the City's fall deadline of October 31 for program completion is problematic because many of the leaves have not fallen in time for the pickup.

Neighborhood generated activity:

Jim Price realized that there are 4 Olmstead Triangle Parks within the Rockwood Neighborhood boundary but that only 3 are signed as such. The fourth is at the intersection of 12th Ave, Rockwood Blvd and Sherman St. He is pursuing the possibility of a fourth sign with the Parks Department and the neighbors who maintain the park.

The RNC bylaws were revised as part of a City wide effort to be sure they were compatible with the responsibility associated with Land Use notifications. These were reviewed and approved by the voting membership at the June 7th meeting.

I thank all of those who have attended meetings, served on committees or otherwise represented the neighborhood. I also thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Dean Lynch, Chair
Rockwood Neighborhood Council