

Rockwood Neighborhood Council Meeting

February 7, 2017

Hutton Elementary School Community/Art Room

Call to Order: 7:00 pm

Chair: Dave Lucas

Quorum: Yes.

Total residents: 11. Voting residents: 10. Visitors: 2.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the January meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept as presented carried.

Treasurer Report: Kurt Helgerson, updated by Dave Lucas.

No change.

Executive Board Actions

None noted from January 17 meeting.

Spokane Police Department: Detective Ty Snyder, updated by Dave Lucas.

No specific items to pass on.

Dave cited posts from Nextdoor Rockwood about coyotes and about prowlers.

City Council Representatives:

Council Member Breean Beggs, unable to attend.

Council Member Lori Kinnear spoke about the search for a new fire chief to replace retiring Bobby Williams. Brian Schaeffer is Interim Chief, and also a candidate under consideration. There is an outreach for candidates to get the most "robust" selection process possible. The goal is a decision by April or May.

The new Streets Dept. director is Gary Kaesemeyer who previously led the Sewer Maintenance Dept. CM Kinnear noted that Spokane has 22000 miles of streets to plow. There was discussion about the difficulties in plowing hills. Special equipment is needed for cul-de-sacs, so they are often the last to be plowed. Also plows with gates to keep driveways clear are slower and prone to breakdown. CM Kinnear will be meeting with the Traffic Dept. next week.

State legislators representing Spokane have a bill in committee to fund 2 police officers to supervise property crime offenders who have been released. This will be a pilot project to provide supervision and wrap-around services such as mental health and addiction treatment, in an effort to reduce re-offending.

The Spokane Comprehensive Plan is the blueprint for how Spokane wants to develop as a city. The document is reviewed every 3 years and proposed changes are available online at MySpokane.org. Hearings with the City Council are expected in the spring.

Traffic calming funds from Red Light monies will be used for speed feedback signs on Grand south of 18th. CM Kinnear distributed a list of all the District 2 neighborhood projects funded.

There was a question about speed limits at the Olmstead triangle parks. CM Kinnear will follow up on that.

Construction is progressing on Riverfront Park renovations. CM Kinnear offered that the 7th floor windows of City Hall have an excellent overview of the extensive changes.

The City is working on a District Model of services where staff and managers from individual departments are allocated to specific council districts to become more specialized and knowledgeable about issues in their district. The goal is to get collaboration on projects across department lines and stake holders, including representatives of neighborhood councils.

CM Kinnear is working to get better lighting under the freeway where LC students park, addressing safety concerns.

Presentation: Andrew Chanse, Director Spokane Public Libraries

There will be an April ballot measure for renewal of the library levy lid lift that was first passed in 2013. It would continue the current rate for a duration of 7 years. That is 7cents per \$1000 assessed valuation. Mr. Chanse listed a few of the ways levy funds have been used: expanded hours at 3 branches, Sunday hours at Shadle branch, digital offerings such as Lynda.com classes, streaming videos, downloadables, facilities upkeep, and outreach to senior homes and daycares. Additionally the library offers business market research resources.

There has been a 30% increase in use of programs. 2016 broke all circulation records with 2.3 million items checked out. With the continuation of levy funds the aspirations are to add Sunday hours to the South Hill branch and to continue to evolve services and partner with other entities such as Spokane Public Schools and Mobius.

The South Hill branch has outgrown its current location. Conversations and planning have begun about how to proceed, hoping for a project outline in 2018.

The library system is primarily funded by the City General Fund and also receives money from the Spokane Public Library Foundation, Friends of the Spokane Public Library, and state grants.

During discussion Mr. Chanse was asked if Sunday hours might decrease crowding during the week. The experience at Shadle shows the Sunday hours are very popular and actually bring in new users.

West Central neighborhood is some distance from library facilities and there is consideration of a Redbox type kiosk.

Mr. Chanse reiterated that the levy renewal is not an increase, but rather a continuation of current rates. His email is director@spokanelibrary.org.

Unfinished Business and Ongoing Topics

Neighborhood Welcome Packets: Dave Lucas

The bags will be filled this week and distributed to new neighbors. An updated list of inclusions will be appended to the minutes.

Community Development Block Grant Application: Dave Lucas

The CDB grant for this year is anticipated to be \$10900. Options for use are a) to a non-profit from the list compiled by the City b) to a neighborhood project authorized by the City or c) to a sidewalk safety issue such as curb cutouts.

Committee Reports

Community Assembly: Julie Banks

There will be a survey inquiring about the top three issues that neighborhoods have with new housing or retail developments. The goal is to help the neighborhoods work effectively with developers.

There will again be grants to the neighborhoods to increase participation in neighborhood councils. Last year RNC received \$500 which was used for the welcome packets and additional printing of the neighborhood brochures.

The District Model, as mentioned by CM Kinnear, will provide each neighborhood with management level people from different City departments, along with other district stakeholders and a representative of the neighborhood council, in order to address neighborhood-driven topics or concerns. These could be along the lines of reducing crime, increasing property values, promoting development, the Mayor's Affordable Housing initiative, or engaging in specific projects. The next meeting will be Feb. 23, and then quarterly after that.

There will be a survey of neighborhoods with the goal in increasing attendance at neighborhood meetings. What needs can the Rockwood Neighborhood Council meet? One suggestion was that everyone bring a friend to the next meeting.

At the March 20 City Council meeting the Rockwood Neighborhood Council (Dave Lucas) will present on the neighborhood activities.

Land Use Committee: Margaret Jones, unable to attend.

PeTT (Pedestrian, Transportation, Traffic) Committee: No representative

Plan Commission: Greg Francis

More examples from the review of the Comprehensive Plan: there are 125 changes proposed for arterials, from the City Engineering Dept; the Community Assembly had asked for more accessible language, and that has been implemented.

Traffic Calming Projects: Ann Fennessy

Red Light funds:

The 2017 application for arterial traffic calming proposes two speed feedback signs on Rockwood Blvd between 10th and Garfield. A motion to submit this proposal was seconded and approved. (The southern end devices should be installed this spring.)

There is still funding available for a residential project and for a third project, either arterial or residential. The deadline is April 26. Rough draft proposals for projects should be submitted to the RNC executive board, which meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

South Hill Coalition: Ann Fennessy

The Parks Dept. is developing plans to improve Comstock Park. There are 3 different Master Plan scenarios under review by the neighborhood.

The Manito neighborhood is in discussion with the City regarding traffic revisions on Grand between 29th and 33rd for traffic calming and pedestrian safety.

New Business:

There is a vacancy on the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee. The term is 4 years, and applicants need a recommendation from the neighborhood council. Contact Dave Lucas at rockwooddave7@gmail.com.

Announcements and other items:

None.

Topic for next meeting:

Nancy Voermans will present on County Proposition 1, regarding funding for 911 and other emergency communication systems, to be on the April ballot. She is the executive assistant to Spokane County CEO Gary Gemmill.

Meeting adjourned: 8:35 pm

Minutes submitted by Mary Terhaar

Next meeting:

Tuesday March 7, 7 pm in the Community Art Room

Addendum to the minutes:

Items currently included in the neighborhood welcome packets:

Rockwood Neighborhood Council brochure

Nothing Bundt Cakes certificate for a free Bundtlet

Avista information packet and "Smash Light"

Inlander "Annual Manual"

City of Spokane Water Dept. information packet and "Stop the Flow" kit, leak detector

Spokane Public Library information

Spokane Fire Department information

Spokane Transit information and schedules for neighborhood busses

Visit Spokane information

Items from several other local businesses

Other items relevant to the neighborhood are encouraged and can be included at any time.