

## **Rockwood Neighborhood Council Meeting**

**March 7, 2017**

### **Hutton Elementary School Community/Art Room**

**Call to Order:** 7:00 pm

Chair: Dave Lucas

**Quorum:** Yes.

Total residents: 13 Voting residents: 9 Visitors: 3

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

**Treasurer Report:** Kurt Helgersen

No change.

#### **Executive Board Actions**

None noted from February 21 meeting.

At the March 20 City Council meeting the Rockwood Neighborhood Council (Dave Lucas and Greg Francis) will report on the neighborhood activities.

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

No specific items to pass on. More information will come with the presentation by Justin Lundren, to follow.

**City Council Representatives:** Council Member Breean Beggs will speak later in the meeting.

Council Member Lori Kinnear, unable to attend.

**Presentation:** Justin Lundgren, Assistant Chief, Spokane Police Department Proposition 1 on the April ballot renews the sales and use option for public safety. What this means is that it will continue the current 1/10<sup>th</sup> of 1% of local sales and use tax that is part of the funding for the County emergency communication system. That encompasses 911, Police, Fire, Emergency Medical Service (EMS), and Crime Check. The average household would see a cost of approximately \$12 per year, similar to what it is currently. Crime Check gets 2/3 of its funding through this tax. Other actions to be supported are replacing aging radios and computers, upgrading the backup command center, and improving Alert Spokane which is the system used to notify citizens by phone in case of emergency. A number of questions were asked about specifics of how the tax money will be allocated, but that information was not available.

Regarding neighborhood concerns about policing, Major Lundgren said the Patrol Anti Crime Team (PACT) is showing success as it focuses on emerging crime trends and chronic

offenders. Also the Targeted Crimes Unit (Property Crimes) is having an impact. Data is being collected for a Patrol Staffing Report to better assign personnel at peak times and in high need areas. Community Oriented Policing is designed to be pro-active rather than reactive. In response to a question he assured that police are patrolling the Rockwood neighborhood, whether their cars are obvious or not. On the City website under Police Dept. there is a spot marked View Crime Map showing locations of reported incidents.

### **Unfinished Business and Ongoing Topics**

#### **Traffic Calming Projects: Ann Fennessy**

Red Light funds:

One of the residential project proposals is to install 4 stop signs around the Olmsted Triangle Park at Garfield and 27<sup>th</sup>. This process is not a guarantee but it prompts the City to take a look at the problem and consider the proposal as well as other means to address it. A motion to submit the proposal was approved.

The technology for the Red Light Camera program is proprietary and 30% or more of the revenue goes to an Arizona company. In contrast, the School Zone cameras are not as restricted and most of the revenue stays in Spokane. If there is support or opposition for more school zone cameras it would be worthwhile to contact the City Council members, at [My.spokanecity.org/engage](http://My.spokanecity.org/engage).

A second residential project proposal was submitted but needs to be edited to fit the application format. It requests “no parking” signs with arrows to be installed on 20<sup>th</sup> where it meets Grand, 30 feet from the intersection. The hope is that these signs would reduce backup on Grand as traffic attempts to enter 20<sup>th</sup> when narrowed by parked cars. There was a motion to accept the proposal concept, acknowledging the need for editing. The motion was approved.

#### **Community Development Block Grant Application: Dave Lucas**

The CDBG application is due in June. Dave asked for a subcommittee to prioritize the non-profits requesting funding for capital improvement. He can be reached at [rockwooddave7@gmail.com](mailto:rockwooddave7@gmail.com).

#### **Neighborhood Survey: Greg Francis**

There was an impressive response, 215 surveys answered. Greg will sift the data and summarize at the next meeting.

### **Committee Reports**

**Community Assembly:** Julie Banks, unable to attend.

**Land Use Committee:** Margaret Jones, unable to attend.

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

**South Hill Coalition:** Ann Fennessy

No news.

**Plan Commission:** Greg Francis

The commission hearing for the Comprehensive Plan is March 8. It will come before the City Council in June.

**City Council:** Breean Beggs

**Streets:** One of the items under scrutiny is how to improve streets and plowing, especially around schools.

**Communication:** CM Beggs encouraged citizens to email their council members on any city issue because the number of public comments is not as large as might be expected. The new 311 phone number is designed to be “one-stop-shopping” to access all city offices.

**Ombudsman:** The Office of Police Ombudsman was established in 2008, and given increased oversight capacity in 2013. There is an ordinance coming to vote soon to confirm what had been a non-binding resolution, but it will not take effect until the next Police Guild contract is negotiated.

**City Attorney:** The City Attorney is appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council, and thus serves at the pleasure of the Mayor. There is some support to give the office more freedom to make legal decisions without political influence. There is a proposal under consideration to limit the time in office to 7 years, to only be subject to firing with cause, and to have it be a position appointed by the City Council.

**Traffic:** What started as several plans to manage traffic problem spots on Grand has evolved into a call for strategic planning for the whole distance from 8<sup>th</sup> to 43<sup>rd</sup>.

**Sidewalks:** There is currently no regular funding for sidewalk maintenance. A survey by the City indicated that citizens would support a limited tax for this purpose. The PeTT Committee (Pedestrian, Transportation, Traffic) is working on a ballot proposal. Maintenance is a shared responsibility of the City and the property owner. Calling Code Enforcement will tag a specific location as a danger spot and the City might then be liable if someone is injured there.

### **New Business:**

Summer neighborhood activity:

There were several suggestions among the survey responses for a summer neighborhood social. The RNC Executive Board is exploring the possibility of a family movie evening using an inflatable screen in one of the public spaces. This could be funded by neighborhood grant money, and supported by the Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS).

**Announcements and other items:**

None.

**Topic for next meeting:**

Interim City Attorney Mike Piccolo will review the Mayor's State of the City address and answer questions for the Mayor's Office.

**Meeting adjourned:** 8:35 pm

Minutes submitted by Mary Terhaar

**Next meeting:**

Tuesday April 11 , 7 pm in the cafeteria.

(Note this is a week later than usual, due to Spring Break.)