

Rockwood Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes
October 6th, 2005
St. John's Cathedral, Jewett House Guild Room
Spokane Washington

- I. Chair Pam Behring called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
- II. The minutes from September were reviewed and approved. Members and guests were introduced.
- III. The Treasurer's Report showed a balance of \$1891.39, with \$234.13 in our General Fund, \$960.64 in our Pillar Fund, \$30.62 in the Traffic Fund, \$596.00 in Traffic Device Fund, and \$70.00 in the Planter Fund. There was a motion and approval in September, to appoint Kathie Hawkins as our registered agent for the neighborhood, since Paul Fitzpatrick has resigned his position on the board. Kathie completed the filing of our annual report and sent it to the state with the \$10.00 filing fee.

The neighborhood deposited \$1215.00 for the Rockwood Walking Map. We in turn wrote a check to Lawson Printing for \$1200 to print the maps, and refunded the remaining \$15.00 to Marilyn Akerhielm, who is still collecting funds to reimburse herself for the remaining cost of the map.

- IV. Pillar Report - Ron Green came and spoke to us about the condition and repairs necessary to update the lower Rockwood pillars. Ron is retired and his hobby is restoring wooden boats.

Ron suggested that we stabilize the existing structures so as to not distract from the pillars antiquity. He stated that it was almost impossible to remove the roof of the pillar without totally dismantling them. Ron thinks it would be best to use a cherry picker, or similar device to repair and replace the damaged shingles, and then paint the entire roof with an epoxy to protect it from weather damage. It was suggested that we restore wildlife access and install a clean out to prevent build up of debris in the pillars. The pillars were originally intended to be wildlife shelters. Ron estimated that the cost to repair each pillar would be between \$2000 and \$3000.

The pillar fund has \$960 in it currently so we will need to find help with funding to repair the pillars. Several options were suggested:

- Have our Historic Committee contact the city for financial assistance.
- Contact East Central Neighborhood since they technically possess the pillar on the East side of Rockwood. They may be willing to assist or pay entirely for the repair of their pillar since they receive CD funds.
- Continue fund raising in the neighborhood privately and from businesses.

V. Discussion with the Planning Department

1. Steve Franks came and spoke to us about the Grand District zoning changes. It was suggested that the Rockwood Neighborhood create a local Historic District, since we have part of our neighborhood designated as a historic district already. This would be an instrument to protect the neighborhood from non-conforming construction. This would be a standardized blueprint to control design, or preserve the current historical design that exists in the neighborhood today. These guidelines would provide clear, but flexible regulations as to how new residential construction should be designed. Currently, the City of Spokane has two such districts. The Hillyard Business District and Corbin Park residential district have design guidelines in place. All residents in our neighborhood would have to sign the guidelines. Marla Bates is the planner that we need to contact about these issues.

2. New Residential Zoning – In 2001, a new comprehensive plan was adopted by the City of Spokane. Currently, most of the city is zoned single family. Much of the city was over zoned in the early 1950's for anticipated growth that didn't happen. The city is now looking closely at certain areas that are improperly zoned and will down zone those properties. It is possible that an existing multi-family dwelling would be down zoned to single family. This would be considered a non-conforming use and any such building would not be rebuilt multi-family if it were to be totally destroyed by fire, for example. A single family residence would be that only acceptable replacement in that designated area.

Grand Boulevard has some areas that need to be down zoned. If citizens would like a zoning change in the neighborhood, they must write letters and ask the city for a zone change and go through the individual process. 12 members of the neighborhood voted for the down zoning of Grand Boulevard between 17th and 25th to R1.

3. 20th and Grand – Dave Compton spoke about the 2 applications submitted to the city for a medical building on the north side of 20th and a condo complex on the south side of 20th. Both these buildings would require a special permit to be granted by the city as the zoning is currently R3. The medical building application is technically complete. Residents within 400 feet will receive notice of application. The comment period will then open and that is the time residents can send letters of approval or disapproval of the project. Then there will be a public hearing after the comment period is complete, which in this particular instance would be sometime in December.

There was a motion by John Prosser that the Rockwood Neighborhood does not support a special permit for either building beyond what the current zoning allows. Bernie Nelson seconded the motion.

We had a consensus with 11 votes in favor of the motion.

A letter will be written by the Rockwood Chair which will go to the City Hearing Examiner.

VI. Announcements-

- The Rockwood Neighborhood Fall Clean Green will be held from 9am to 1pm on October 29th at Hutton Elementary
- A Forum for the District 2 city council candidates will be held on October 27th at Wilson School. The Comstock Neighborhood is conducting the forum.
- It was stated that Mary Verner could not attend tonight's meeting as she was attending the Ethics Commission meeting that took place tonight as well. Dallas Hawkins who is running for City Council District 2, position 2, attended the second half of our meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathie Hawkins

Acting Secretary