

Rockwood Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2009
Hutton Elementary School, Cafeteria
Spokane, Washington

Item 1: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jill Boyd at 7:00pm.

Item 2: Introductions of Board members, officers and members

Item 3: The agenda for the March 2009 meeting was made available.

Item 4: The minutes for the previous meeting were approved with an addendum stating that the majority of RNC residents present at the 02/03/09 meeting were opposed to the removal of the stop signs within the boundaries of the Rockwood Neighborhood.

Item 5: Treasurer's Report – effective 02/27/09

Account total is \$3,959.96

Item 6: Neighborhood Resource Officer Report

No Resource Officer present. Officer dean Draper will be at the April meeting.

Item 7: Community Assembly Report: none

Item 8: Historic Committee Report:

- Bench style, "Heritage Mission Straight Back Bench" was approved by the Spokane Parks Department.
 - Design may be revised by the Park Dept.
 - Material is metal with powder coating, brown.
 - Discussion: extra arm may discourage sleeping
 - A **motion** was made to give Marilyn A authority to attempt to obtain approval with or without arms. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Item 9: Neighborhoods USA (NUSA):

- RNC volunteers may help out, then can attend workshops at no cost. Jill B will be volunteering.
- The meeting is expected to bring more than \$1 million into the Spokane community.
- NUSA is about healthy communities.

Item 10: Envision Spokane Discussion

Handout provided and is filed with these minutes.

Discussion points:

- West Central Neighborhood statement was distributed to RNC members via e-mail.
- A comment was made that RNC was listed as being on the BOD of Envision Spokane. It was stated that all participating neighborhoods were automatically on the BOD.
- A concern was brought up whether RNC is responsible for Envision Spokane BOD decisions that were made by Carol and Kurt.
- The Bill of Rights process ends this month (March 2009). Eight town meetings have already been held and four more are scheduled after which the current BOD will disband.
- In mid-April a new BOD will take the new document and work to get it on the election ballot. About 3000 signatures are required to place it on the ballot. The new BOD will consist of individuals, not neighborhood/union/business representatives.
- RNC never voted to support Envision Spokane, just to participate for information gathering.
- The question was raised regarding RNC liability possibly being similar to a political campaign?
- RNC should have had a vote in all steps of the process.
 - Did Envision Spokane put RNC's tax exempt status in jeopardy?
 - RNC voted to participate in exploring the potential of Envision Spokane, but has never made the decision to endorse it.

- According to one RNC Envision Spokane delegate: the process took on a life of its own; the process was fast-tracked to be on the heels of the US Presidential election. Felt that RNC agreed to lend resources to the Envision Spokane BOD to participate in work groups to know what Envision Spokane was doing, but not to endorse.
- Other RNC members felt that neighborhoods were used or abused.
- To clarify RNC's role: RNC voted to participate in work groups. RNC does not endorse the final document.
- A **motion** was made to send a letter to Envision Spokane stating that RNC is divesting itself from the process and has never endorsed the document. The motion was seconded. John P offered to write a letter and send to RNC members present at this meeting for approval. Discussion:
 - There were many concerns regarding financial onus.
 - The three Envision Spokane groups met separately to come up with their lists of items they wanted to include in the Bill of Rights. Fifty ideas were suggested. Town hall meetings are modifying the original document.
 - The Envision Spokane corporate shell is to assume the responsibilities.
 - Vote on above motion: unanimous in favor with the exception of one abstention.

Item 11: Stop Sign Issue:

See handout attached to the 03/03/09 RNC meeting agenda.

History:

- Years ago: the RNC Traffic Committee recommended traffic calming devices; the All City Traffic Committee was formed; Traffic Awareness week was developed.
- RNC became a 501(c)(3) entity. RNC has no money to use for traffic calming devices.

Discussion:

- RNC needs to partner with other organizations to get more votes to put traffic issues before the City Council.
- An idea was suggested to pass out post cards to neighbors to sign to send to the mayor to request a vote against the removal of stop signs. A couple of RNC members will work together to canvass the neighborhood.
- Traffic engineers to be prepared to present a proposal to the neighborhood in May.
- Ask the City Council if they are supporting a new arterial and its effective timeline.
- RNC member to meet with City Council member to determine their position.

Item 12: Zoning Changes – State Farm Insurance office on Grand Avenue

- Blue house at 1507 S. Grand, .22 acre
- The State Farm agent plans to keep the house almost as is but fix it up with a handicap ramp, landscaping, parking, wider entrance. He expects there will be approximately 5 customers per day.
- Agent's representative will send Jill B the zoning application and notices.

Item 13: *Rockwood News*: online newsletter coming soon

Meeting adjourned at 9:20PM

Respectfully Submitted,
 Sonja Sallquist
 Secretary