

Rockwood Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2008
St. John's Cathedral, Jewett House Guild Room
Spokane, Washington

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

Item 2: Those present were:

Jill Boyd
Douglas Cox
Jerry Cox
Sondra Cox
Carol Cunningham
Ron Erickson
Kurt Gauss
Marianne Guenther
Margaret Johnson
Walter Johnson
Gail Prosser
John Prosser
Walt Ricker
Sonja Sallquist

Item 3: The agenda for April 2008 was reviewed and approved.
Motion and second to approve – passed unanimously.

Item 4: The minutes for March 2008
Motion and second to approve – passed unanimously.

Items 5-6: City Council report.
No council member present.

Item 7: Washington Public Campaign - Art Hathaway
Stated purpose of the Washington Public Campaign:

- To make elections more democratic;
- To make it possible for any individual to run for office;
- To ask incumbent legislators to pass legislation for participation through public financing.

Notes:

- A 9-minute explanatory video was played and fliers were made available (copy of flier filed with minutes).
- State of WA passed a law authorizing locally funded elections, but it must go through public referendum to take effect, then cities/counties can decide how to fund it.
- Spokane Mayor will study the issue and suggest financing options.
- Spokane County would need to become a home-ruled county because it currently can not put a referendum before voters.
- A petition was made available for signatures, as well as donation envelopes.
- Additional information available on website: www.washclean.org

Item 8: Discussion points:

- Has Washington Public Campaign talked with Envision Spokane? No.
- Candidate must choose entirely public or private financing.
- Just for local offices, not state
- Timeline? None.

Item 9: Scholarships Envision Spokane Pres Advocates

- A one day “democracy school” is available for a cost of \$60.
- The first meeting of the permanent Envision Spokane board to initially take place the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Motion and seconded: to support both sending the Rockwood representatives to the one day “democracy school” for \$60 each, if needed, and Marilyn A’s membership in Spokane Historical Advocates for \$25 from the RNC General Fund. Vote: all in favor, no opposed, no abstained.

Item 10: Envision Liaison Guidelines

Discussion:

- RNC representative(s) should bring RNC interests and concerns to the Envision Spokane (ES) table.
- RNC representative should speak and act on behalf of the RNC group.
- RNC rep should ask ES to reach out to other groups.
- Wherever possible, ES should postpone voting on an item until representatives have had a chance to go back to their neighborhood council to obtain feedback.
- Concerns:
 - Who is “legal defense fund”?
 - Who is “Center for Justice”?
 - RNC needs to be careful and know what these groups represent.
 - Kurt will obtain information and send out to RNC members via e-mail.
 - Business interests should be represented in ES. Missing is the union business side.
- Handout of ES meeting notes taken by Kurt is filed with these RNC minutes.
- Will there be alternates (other than Kurt and Carol) to the ES meeting?

Item 11: Neighborhood Planning Report

- CANPAC = Community Assembly Neighborhood Planning Action Committee
- \$550K has been allocated for neighborhood planning. The City Council needs a plan for spending it. CANPAC is working on this.
- Planners will be brought in as contract workers for the project. If 3 planners are hired they can work on 9 – 12 neighborhood plans.
- Chaz Bates (Studio Cascade) is a planner who lives in Rockwood neighborhood who is willing to be a stakeholder. He is not a city employee and is not yet sanctioned by the city.
- John will e-mail out dates that Chaz Bates has free.

Item 13: Meeting Time/Place

Meeting location:

- It has been suggested that we move the RNC meetings back to Hutton School.
- Interested: Yes – 11; Opposed – 0; Abstained – 2.
- Gail P will check with Hutton

Day of the week for the RNC meeting was discussed:

- 1st Tuesday of the month, if possible.
- Not Monday due to City Council meetings

Would need to change RNC neighborhood web page and disseminate changes to the meeting location/time.

Item 12: Webmaster

Webmaster was Kathy Hawkins who is no longer a voting member.

Does RNC want to create an elected webmaster or ask for a volunteer?

Walt volunteered to be webmaster.

Motion: that the chair appoint a webmaster. Passed.

Item 14: Summer Picnic

It was suggested that a RNC summer picnic be held in the Olmsted Triangle Parks in the neighborhood.

There will be a signup sheet for this potluck.

Item 13: Traffic Committee.

- PETT committee meetings are the 2nd Tues of the month.
- May PETT meeting should have sidewalk maintenance on the agenda.
- Some communities have warnings and fines for sidewalks in poor repair.
- Start with cars parked on sidewalks, then bushes.
- Spokane Master Bike plan meeting Tues 4/22/08 6PM Southside Senior Center.

Item 14: Historic Committee.

- No report.

Item 15: Treasurer's Report.

- \$.21 increase from last month to \$3636.68.
- Outstanding check to Gina S.
- Clean Green raised \$785 in donations. A discussion followed on where to apply this donated money. All members agreed to put it in the Bench Fund.

Item 18: Correspondences, Announcements.

- Neighborhood maps can be found at www.spokanecity.gov
- Friends of Comstock e-mail was sent out to RNC members.
- Positions available:
 - salary review committee
 - CA volunteers – 3 positions for sounding board to the sustainability task force that is looking at effects of peak oil and global warming on the city, e.g., bicycle blvds, light bulbs.

Item 19: Open Forum.

- A request was made to send out the meeting announcement/reminder by the weekend before the meeting.
- Commercial fertilizer vs. organic – will RNC take a stand?
- Gang tagging is showing up again.
 - Incidents should be reported to the nearest COP shop - Lincoln Hts.
 - Gang Awareness and Prevention (GAP) is a program through CA.
 - A graffiti ordinance that allows arrest for suspicion if an individual is found with a marker and not a painter was suggested.
 - The state has allocated %1.5 million for graffiti eradication. If GAP is approved for a portion of the money, Geiger work release workers would be used.

Item 20: Agenda items for Next Meeting.

- Picnic
- Moving meeting date/time
- Clean green update

Item 21: Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Sonja Sallquist
Secretary