

Rockwood Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes
June 2, 2009
Hutton Elementary School, Cafeteria
Spokane, Washington

1. **The meeting was called to order** by Chairman Jill Boyd at 7:05PM.
2. **Executive Board members** were introduced
3. **The Treasurer's Report** was approved and filed with these minutes.
4. **Historic Committee Report:**
Benches have been ordered.
5. **Introduction - Task Force for Stop Signs:** Neil, Cami, Gina, Julie
6. **Introduction - Community Assembly Representative/moderator for Stop Sign Discussion:** John Prosser
7. **City of Spokane Director of Public Works – Stop Sign Discussion:** Dave Mandyke
 - None to be changed at this time. No stop signs or stop lights to be added or removed.
 - Traffic counts have recently been taken.
 - If signs are to change they will notify us first.
 - RNC member question: Why did they do traffic counts if signs are to stay? Answer: that commitment was made by the Mayor two months ago.
 - RNC member comment/question: other neighborhoods (Nevada/Lidgerwood) were also told their signs would be removed. Will they stay now? Dave will check on this.
 - Note: One sign was missing/stolen. It has been replaced.
 - RNC member comment/question: Upper Terrace – changing to minor collector? Larger planning system; long term. If signs removed, what is expected outcome? Uncontrolled is false sense of security.
 - RNC-produced postcard (filed with minutes) shows black dots where stop signs were to be removed. Dave confirmed that they won't be removed.
 - RNC member comment: stop signs are cheap and help control traffic.
 - RNC member question: What is the timeframe for re-evaluation? Dave: Not while he works for the city.
 - RNC member comment: Rockwood & Arthur p sign missing; truck seen going 50mph while kids were around.
 - Councilman Rush re: walking/biking. Cameras to evaluate behavior. Possible solution is streets with signs but no striped lanes for bikes.
 - Stop Sign Committee member question: This Fall the city regulation for sign placement/removal is up for approval. Will our signs be grandfathered in? They will meet with the neighborhood.
 - Comment: Dept of Public Works does not have the power of enforcement.
 - RNC comment: North-south freeway will be going through Nevada/Lidgerwood neighborhood, so why remove stop signs now?
 - RNC comment: Budget money is needed to retrofit streets to be bicycle/pedestrian friendly.
 - New criteria for stop signs – will likely be an Administrative Policy, but nothing revolutionary.
 - Traffic circles require a 60% approval.
 - Stop signs are included in a 6-year Plan (2009-2012) that is going to City Council.
 - RNC question: 29th & Garfield – any plans for traffic signal? No.
 - There is a new paradigm shift in decision-making process to include neighborhoods.

- RNC comment: with repaving, the crosswalk at 29th & Garfield was removed. Dave: Every intersection is a crosswalk.
- RNC question: What was the driving force in the planned stop sign removal? Dave: Don't like to control traffic on residential streets.
- RNC question: Should neighborhoods work together on what is the role of cars, etc? R. Rush: The Comprehensive Plan has facilities for walking, biking, paths, cars (we all drive).
- RNC comment: Bring the Traffic Engineers to a meeting.
- RNC comment: Street bonds help traffic move. Need sidewalk bond.
- Acknowledgement to Marilyn A for work on Pedestrian Traffic Committee.
- Marilyn A: with an emphasis on the neighborhood's historic nature, the city could put in brick crosswalks that would also act as rumble strips. Concern: These would make a huge noise if not done right.
- Rockwood Blvd to be torn up/repaved in 2013.
- Councilman M Allen: Leaders need to prioritize things like improvements to sidewalks, bike paths, etc.
- **Motion** (Note: RNC has 37 voting members):
 - A motion was proposed that RNC position itself on traffic signs that they remain as they currently are unless a suitable alternative is identified and funded prior to their removal and the neighborhood consulted.
 - The motion was seconded.
 - Question: Take it to Community Assembly? Yes, we can.
 - Yes: 24
 - No: 0
 - Abs: 0
 - Motion passed.

8. **Sign Code:** Gina S

- Churches & schools can have flashing signs that can be on until 10PM. Suggestion to make the turn off time be 6PM.
- Code allows digital signs in residential and office zones. Informal poll: Eliminate digital signs in neighborhoods and residential office areas? Most agreed.
- Councilman M Allen: sign code needs more discussion.

9. **Q & A**

- John P: on 9/21/06 a woman (Tina Bjorkland) commented at a RNC meeting.
 - A **motion** was made to revise the minutes form 9/21/06 to leave her name but eliminate her address.
 - The motion was seconded.
 - Passed unanimously.
- Benches
 - When will they arrive?
 - RNC OK'd giving money to Taylor Bressler to pay for the benches.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20PM

Respectfully Submitted,
 Sonja Sallquist
 Secretary