

Rockwood Neighborhood Council Meeting

April 11, 2017

Hutton Elementary School Multipurpose Room

Call to Order: 7:00 pm

Chair: Dave Lucas

Quorum: Yes.

Total residents: 17 Voting residents: 14 Non-voting residents: 3

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

Treasurer Report: Kurt Helgerson, unable to attend

Executive Board Actions

None noted from March 21 meeting.

Spokane Police Department: Detective Ty Snyder, unable to attend.

City Council Representatives:

Council Member Breean Beggs unable to attend.

Council Member Lori Kinnear, unable to attend.

Presentation: Mike Piccolo, City Attorney

Mayor Condon has asked the members of his Cabinet to attend community meetings to discuss his State of the City address. Mr. Piccolo gave out a brochure illustrating its 3 main categories of accomplishments as safer, smarter and healthier. From these he highlighted that household median income has increased 11% in the last 10 years, to about \$44,000. This strong increase is one measure of the success of a city. He also commented that one of the long term accomplishments has been that the Mayor and the City Council have practiced the skill of respectful disagreement, another measure of healthy success.

There are less than 1000 days left in the Mayor's term so the address lays out initiatives he plans to move on without delay. From the list, Mr. Piccolo spoke specifically about economic viability. One example of that is to reduce the amount of surplus city property by getting unneeded right-of-way land back into private hands.

His closing was that each of us has our own Spokane story about how "I am Spokane." He then responded to questions about Spokane Human Rights Commission authority, homelessness, streets, sidewalks, code enforcement (or lack thereof) and animal control.

Unfinished Business and Ongoing Topics

Olmsted Triangle Park Sign: Jim Price

Three of the neighborhood Olmsted triangle parks have signs, but the fourth does not. The one at the intersection of Sheridan, Sherman, and Rockwood will get one this year. Applause to Jim for pursuing this.

Traffic Calming Projects: Ann Fennessy

Ann remarked that sometimes there is a difference in philosophy between neighborhood residents and the city Traffic Dept. She noted this when working with the City to submit proposals to use Red Light Camera funds designated for traffic calming. The neighborhood proposal for the arterial traffic calming funds has been moved along in the process. That project would add 2 permanent speed feedback signs to the northern portion of Rockwood Blvd, similar to those that will be installed this summer on the southern portion.

The first residential project proposal, to install 4 stop signs around the Olmsted Triangle Park at Garfield and 27th was not accepted. The response was that speed concerns were better addressed by enforcement of existing traffic law. Additionally regulations do not allow stop signs on residential streets. In the past, these regulations have only been superseded by specific requests from the Mayor or City Council. There will be a monitor set up this summer to check traffic speed and flow on Garfield, so the need for traffic calming there continues to be evaluated.

The second residential project proposal, for “no parking” signs on 20th where it meets Grand, was similarly not accepted.

The application for temporary speed feedback signs has been submitted requesting placement on lower Rockwood in concert with the permanent signs being placed on upper Rockwood this Spring/ Summer.

Community Development Block Grant Application: Dave Lucas

The CDBG application is due in June, no updates at this time. This federal program may be eliminated so the Community Assembly is drafting a letter to our legislators describing how effective these funds have been in our neighborhoods. Others are encouraged to voice their opinion as well.

Committee Reports

Community Assembly: Julie Banks and Greg Francis

On April 29 there will be a Cleaning from the Corridor event. This is an annual City project to clean, pick up trash, paint and create murals. The focus this year is in the Monroe and Emerson-Garfield neighborhood.

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to Rockwood neighborhood last year was \$10900. For this year it can be applied to our own proposal for neighborhood community development (none currently under requested), for sidewalk cutouts (none currently proposed), or for capital improvement for a local non-profit. Julie will pass on the list of non-profit requests that have been approved by the City.

Land Use Committee: Margaret Jones, unable to attend.

PeTT (Pedestrian, Transportation, Traffic) Committee: No representative
Greg Francis reported that the bond to fund sidewalk repair may appear on the November ballot. The next meeting of the PeTT Committee will be devoted to discussion of sidewalk issues. CM Beggs is scheduled to attend. It will be April 25 at 7 pm at the West Central Community Center. All are welcome.

South Hill Coalition: Ann Fennessy
No news.

Plan Commission: Greg Francis
The City will begin a review of building height restrictions, specific to those along Spokane Falls Blvd, east from Washington. The existing guidelines are designed to keep building shade off Riverfront Park. Developers are requesting that the Plan Commission consider easing these restrictions.
The City is conducting a Snow Response Survey to review concerns about last winter. The link has gone out on social media, and it can be accessed at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Sposnow>.
(Note from Mary: the number of stars to rate concern is the opposite of what one would expect.)
The survey will be available until April 25.

Summer neighborhood activity:
The RNC Executive Board is planning a family movie evening using an inflatable screen, probably at Hutton.

Neighborhood Cleanup: Carol Cunningham
There will be four cleanup events, with one postcard going out with details for the year. The first event will be the on first Saturday in May, May 6, with garbage and green dumpsters at Hutton.
The second will be dump pass distribution on Saturday June 24, 9 am – noon, Hutton.
In the fall there will be an additional dump pass distribution and curbside pickup of large items.

New Business:
None.

Open Topics:
None noted.
This time is available for any neighbor to raise an issue for open discourse. Individual time to speak may be limited to time available.

Announcements and other items:
None.

Topic for next meeting:

Crime prevention and safety

Meeting adjourned: 8:30 pm

Minutes submitted by Mary Terhaar

Next meeting:

Tuesday May 2, 7 pm in the multipurpose room/cafeteria.