

## **Rockwood Neighborhood Council Meeting**

**May 2, 2017**

### **Hutton Elementary School Multipurpose Room**

**Call to Order:** 7:00 pm

Chair: Dave Lucas

**Quorum:** Yes.

Total neighbors: 21    Voting residents: 12    Non-voting residents: 9    Visitors: 3

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

**Treasurer Report:** Kurt Helgerson

Our taxes were filed. We received a \$12 donation which was added to the bank account.

#### **Executive Board Actions**

None noted from April 25 meeting.

#### **City Council Representatives:**

Council Member Breean Beggs unable to attend.

Council Member Lori Kinnear:

The selection of the new fire chief is moving along, with a field of 17 narrowed to 5 finalists. Both of our Council Members are on the selection committee with other members representing a broad spectrum of the community. Interviews will be next week.

The South Hill Bluff Incident: The area bulldozed adjoins the Comstock Neighborhood. Avista has offered to take the lead in planning remediation. They have experience with land conservation and restoration. CM Kinnear and the rest of the City Council are working to determine how this happened to prevent future incidents.

CM Kinnear is working on a drone ordinance to manage hazards to air navigation, particularly near our airports.

She is also working to update the tree ordinance which has not been updated since the 1990s. One goal is to improve the tree canopy, acknowledging the important role it plays in runoff water management and keeping the river clean.

**Spokane Police Department:** Detective Ty Snyder

Det. Snyder distributed maps of the neighborhood for each of the two previous months showing crime incidents. He encouraged everyone to take pictures of their valuables, easy to do with a phone. These can then be used later to recall items and descriptions if they are missing.

As for credit cards, he suggested keeping record of the numbers of cards, both current and expired. When calling Crime Check regarding stolen cards, they will need the card number and specifically where it was recently used, e.g. not just Walmart, but which Walmart. There have been a number of embezzlement and internet theft cases lately and these take many hours to investigate. Gonzaga U accounting students have assisted on some of these as class projects, doing data entry and looking for discrepancies. Det. Snyder would like to develop an outreach to local businesses to discuss prevention of such crimes. He anticipates an increase in property crimes with the coming of summer. He noted that Michelle McGlynn-Bell, a chronic South Hill offender, has been again seen in the neighborhood.

**Presentation:** Officer Dion Mason, East Central Neighborhood Resource Officer  
Officer Mason distributed a list of his 17 tips to deter property crime. (These will be sent out with the minutes.) He cited statistics: 65% of residential burglary occurs during the day, 34% enter through the front door, 22% through the back door, and 9% through the garage, and most of these doors were not secured. Only 15% of stolen property is recovered. He strongly recommends locking all doors, all the time. He endorses keypad key boxes rather than attempting to hide a backup key. Det. Snyder also spoke well of “Ring” systems, and other monitoring products. Officer Mason offered other tips: taking pictures of bicycles and their serial numbers if available. These are items that are easily stolen and expensive to replace. If you find an item that might be used for fingerprints carefully place it in a paper bag rather than plastic to preserve the prints. During questions and discussion it was suggested that joining the Nextdoor online group is helpful in connecting neighbors and watching out for perpetrators. Also, establishing good routines, such as all family members habitually locking doors, increases safety. LED bulbs are inexpensive ways to keep lights on when not home. The flicker of a TV is a deterrent to a thief.

**Traffic Calming Projects:** Ann Fennessy

The red light funding from 2016 was for speed feedback signs on the southern portion of Rockwood Blvd. Installation started recently, between Ivory and Helena. The application for 2017 will be for signs on the northern portion. There are also temporary mobile signs in the neighborhood this month. There will be vehicle assessment strips at the Garfield triangle park to see if traffic calming measures are needed.

**Community Development Block Grant Application:** Dave Lucas

There is a guideline for percentage of low/medium income housing in a neighborhood to qualify for CDBG. Rockwood did not meet the cutoff for the next grant cycle.

**Committee Reports**

**Community Assembly:** Julie Banks

The next meeting is this Thursday. Julie is a member of the Mayor’s Housing Definitions and Standards Committee, which aims to provide resources (not regulation) to improve liveability specific to Spokane.

**Land Use Committee:** Margaret Jones, unable to attend.

**PeTT (Pedestrian, Transportation, Traffic) Committee:** No representative.  
Greg Francis noted that the PeTT committee is an arm of Community Assembly. There is a sidewalk levy proposal under consideration, but it may be delayed to develop ideas that will be supported throughout the city.

**South Hill Coalition:** Ann Fennessy  
No news.

**Plan Commission:** Greg Francis  
Preparations are underway for next year's budget.

**Summer neighborhood activity:** Dave Lucas  
The proposed activity is an outdoor movie night at Hutton Elementary on Saturday August 19. The funding for this is hoped to come from a grant from the Community Assembly designed to increase attendance at neighborhood council meetings. A motion was made to move forward with the grant application, seconded, and approved with no dissent. (Quorum established, as noted at the top of the minutes.)

**Neighborhood Cleanup:** Carol Cunningham  
The reminder postcard goes out this week. There will be another postcard in the fall for the two later events. The dumpsters will be at Hutton this Saturday, 9-12. The dump pass distribution will be June 24.

**New Business:**  
East Central Neighborhood is proposing an expansion of community court to include a location there, as well as the existing community court held at the downtown library. They have requested that other neighborhood councils endorse this proposal. A motion to do so was made, seconded, and approved without dissent.

Neighborhood notification: Thai Bamboo is building on 29<sup>th</sup> near Applebee's. There will be a hearing on May 4 at the South Hill Library, 5 pm. There have been concerns about traffic flow on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Open Topics:**  
This time is available for any neighbor to raise an issue for open discourse. Individual time to speak may be limited to time available.  
There was discussion about other areas of traffic concern. The intersection at Garfield and 29<sup>th</sup> is a very difficult pedestrian crossing. Other pedestrian challenges are at Pittsburg and 29<sup>th</sup>, and at 10<sup>th</sup> and Rockwood Blvd.

**Announcements and other items:**  
None.

**Topic for next meeting:**

To be announced.

**Meeting adjourned:** 8:35 pm

Minutes submitted by Mary Terhaar

**Next meeting:**

Tuesday June 6, 7 pm in the multipurpose room/cafeteria.