

Rockwood Neighborhood Council Meeting

November 7, 2017

Hutton Elementary Library

Call to Order: 7:05 pm

Chair: Dave Lucas

Quorum: Yes. Total neighbors: 16 Voting members: 15 Non-Voting: 1 Visitors: 3

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

Treasurer Report: Dave Lucas on behalf of Kurt Helgerson
No change in account.

Executive Board Actions:

The sign for the fourth triangle park, at 12th and Rockwood, was dedicated on November 1.

City Council Representatives:

Council Members Lori Kinnear and Breean Beggs were unable to attend due to election night commitments.

Spokane Police Department: Detective Ty Snider

Det. Snider distributed maps specific to Rockwood Neighborhood showing calls for service for September and for October.

He noted an increase in assaults and reminded all to be aware of their surroundings.

However, most assaults are by people known to each other.

Not included on the maps are suspicious circumstances. These are responded to whenever possible. It is important to report these since they can be added to the data base that determines the Hot Spot designation.

This is the time of year when there is a significant increase in vehicle thefts due to keys left in cars while they warm up. Four incidents just today.

For questions about policies, procedures, or specific incidents, Det. Snider offered his email: tsnider@spokanepolice.org

Presentation: Leroy Eadie Director, Spokane Parks & Recreation

Riverfront Park

Mr. Eadie reviewed the plans and the financing for the Riverfront Park improvements.

The Red Wagon Meadow has an improved pathway from the street down to the wagon, allowing strollers and wheelchairs better access across what was once just grass.

The Howard Street Bridge South was in bad shape and has been completely rebuilt. It will have a step-down feature that brings people closer to the water.

The Rotary Fountain was a surprise, needing lots of repair. The underground portion and the plumbing required a significant amount of rebuilding but the above ground design has not changed. It should open in the spring of 2018.

The Ice Ribbon will open December 8. There will be a charge for ice skating, but it will be available in the summer for roller skating/blading for free.

The Sky Ride required major maintenance but should be open after the first of the year.

The Looff Carrousel horses have been restored. They will have new building with controlled temperature and humidity, expected to open in the spring.

There are plans for a Regional Playground, The Great Floods Play Area, at the north end of the park for ages 5-12, using ice age floods as a theme. Construction 2018-2019.

During park renovation, as many trees as possible were preserved since they have grown significantly since planting for Expo. Another planning consideration has been outreach to people with disabilities. For people who are blind, one design consideration that came from community suggestions has been to slightly raise the edges of pathways so they can be felt with a cane.

The West Havermale Island play area will become Power Play, for younger children. It will have a hydroelectric power theme.

The Pavilion remodel is still in the design process, with construction expected through late 2019. The goal for the Pavilion cover is to have an indoor/outdoor space that will provide shade and weather protection. One of the proposed features is an elevated area looking out over the river.

The remaining two Butterfly structures will be restored. There is one standing and one in storage.

There are 4 designs under consideration for major art installation(s) near the old YMCA space.

The Blue Bridge did not need to be replaced, only maintained. The rusted sidewalks will be removed and the view of the river restored.

Mr. Eadie pronounced the new Salish name for Canada Island, snxw mene, as "sin huh' muh nay." It means Salmon People.

The budget for the park improvements comes from the \$64 million bond approved by the voters, from interest earned on bond monies not yet spent, from grants, and from utilities that use the bridges for water pipes, etc.

Overall the park strives to increase programming and events, both large and small, to be interesting and accessible to a broad spectrum of citizens. As many events as possible should be low cost or no cost to attend.

More information is at <https://my.spokanecity.org/riverfrontpark>

Thornton Murphy Park

The South Hill library is looking for a new, larger space. Thornton Murphy has some unused space near the Southside Senior Activity Center. There is thought being given, only in the conceptual stage, for a collaboration similar to Shadle Park and its library. The library leases that land from the Park Dept for \$1/year.

Grant Park

There is planning for additional parking at the east end of the park, to serve the park, the school, and the Perry District retail area. No funding yet.

Manito Park

Mirror Pond

The Friends of Manito group has done work over the years to maintain the pond. The new pathway is finished and should help with erosion. The surrounding plantings have been repaired. The biggest improvement in water quality comes from not feeding the ducks. Three thoughts under consideration: Draining the pond and removing the sludge in 2018; Improving the filtration system. The city water supply has chemicals that kill microbes, but these microbes are important to keep the pond clean. Circulating the water by using it to irrigate the park and replacing it with fresh water.

The Parks Dept is working with Dept of Fish and Wildlife to protect the pond inhabitants such as frogs, fish, and turtles.

Tennis Courts

The USTA offers a grant to resurface community courts, but the Manito courts are too deteriorated for that. Uses being discussed are tennis courts, pickle ball courts, or something else.

Olmsted Park Sign: Jim Price

The Triangle Park at 12th and Rockwood finally has a sign, the last of our neighborhood's 4 Olmsted triangle parks to get one. This has been a project over the last year and a half requiring historical research and patient persistence. This small park has been nurtured over the last 50 years by the Rockwood Garden Club. It represents a great synergy between neighbors and government. The Parks Dept maintains the park, the Water Dept irrigates and mows, and the Garden Club preserves the beauty and tranquility of the space. (And now Jim Price got the sign!)

Traffic Calming Projects: Ann Fennessy

No news.

Spokane Public Library: Dana Dalrymple

The featured author for Spokane Is Reading, Wiley Cash, will be speaking at the Downtown Library on November 9 at 7 pm.

November is Native American Heritage Month, so there will be emphasis on that theme at the libraries. Also, November is National Novel Writing Month.

See www.spokanelibrary.org for a complete list of events.

Committee Reports

Community Assembly: Julie Banks

Julie has served as the neighborhood representative to the Community Assembly for 5 years. She is leaving that position, so there is a call for volunteers.

The CA has added \$1000 for each neighborhood for neighborhood cleanup for next year. The CA is accepting nominations for two annual volunteer awards, one for service by a CA representative, and one for a member of the Neighborhood Council who deserves special recognition for their work in the neighborhood. The city website has a link to the nomination forms and a list of past recipients. The deadline is November 17.

Land Use Committee: Margaret Jones, unable to attend.

PeTT (Pedestrian, Transportation, Traffic) Committee: No representative.

Plan Commission, etc.: Greg Francis

The Mayor and City Council representatives will be at the South Hill Library on Thursday at 6pm to discuss the proposed budget. It includes 10 new positions for police officers. The final public hearing will be November 20. If unable to attend check

<https://my.spokanecity.org/budget>. There is an interactive portion that allows citizens to make their own version of the budget.

Spokane firefighters will get tablets to share information with hospitals in real time.

The historic preservation and demolition ordinance draft is still under development. CM Lori Kinnear is a strong proponent of the project. The hearing before the Plan Commission and consideration by the City Council are scheduled for January.

Plan Commission is working on draft changes to the building code that will allow taller buildings along Spokane Falls Blvd. These changes should be available for review after the first of the year.

Infill Housing Initiatives encourage development of underused lots rather than expanding at the edges of the city. Phase I will change the rules to encourage smaller buildings and pocket development. The final hearing will be in December.

Sign Code update changes will make it more difficult to replace existing billboards. The code is being rewritten to make other portions of the code compatible with the changes.

Changes in the code for home maintenance are being developed and there will be formal hearings once they are written.

Office of Neighborhood Services: Melissa Wittstruck

A brochure on the Snow Plan went out with the utility bills. There will be no ticketing for parking or sidewalk clearing since this is an educational year. In response to a question Melissa clarified that if parking is already not allowed on the odd numbered side of the street, use the even numbered side. For neighbors that need help with shoveling, there is a group called Community Minded Enterprises that can help. The Office of Neighborhood Services can be reached by calling 311.

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.

Dean Lynch shared that tree maintenance will be done on the islands in the neighborhood in January and February. There are 76 trees to be pruned, 14 to be replaced.

Announcements and other items:

There will be no neighborhood meeting in December.

The January meeting is one week later than usual due to the school holiday.

There will be elections for board positions at the January meeting:

The Vice Chair takes attendance and maintains the membership spreadsheets.

The Treasurer submits the annual state paperwork to maintain non-profit status, and monitors the bank account.

The Executive Board Members attend the neighborhood meeting and the board meeting monthly. They also help organize and take part in neighborhood council activities.

Attendance at the January meeting gives members voting status. Alternatively, voting status can be met by attending 3 meetings during the year.

Topics for next meeting:

To come with emailed meeting reminder for January.

Meeting adjourned: 8:40 pm

Minutes submitted by Mary Terhaar

Next meeting:

Tuesday January 9 at 7 pm