

Rockwood Neighborhood Council

February 6, 2018

Hutton Elementary Library

Call to Order: 7:00 pm

Chair: Dave Lucas

Quorum: Yes. Total neighbors: 17 Voting neighbors: 16 Visitors: 6

Long time board member and community supporter, Carol Cunningham passed away in January. A moment of silence was observed in her memory.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the January meeting were not available. This will carry over to the next meeting.

Treasurer Report: Kurt Helgerson

The current account balance is \$2326.88, no change.

Executive Board Actions:

None noted.

New Business: Dave Lucas

We are collecting data on how people hear about our neighborhood council. We are checking to see which of our outreaches are effective. (To share ideas, please let Dave know or send an email rockwood.neighborhood.council@gmail.com)

City Council Representatives: Lori Kinnear and Breean Beggs

CM Kinnear, reporting on Monday's City Council meeting, spoke of the passage of funding for the SOAR program, which will contract with a local agency to assist people who are homeless in filling out forms necessary to get assistance. She also spoke of ongoing support to use surplus city property in the area around the new University District bridge. She attended the launch of the Catalyst project, with a building near that bridge, featuring state-of-the-art energy efficiency. She has collaborated for a long time on revising the Historic Preservation and Demolition ordinance, which will come up for a council vote next week. Regarding the Public Safety meeting, she noted that calls for medical service are up 30% over last year. Also, there is proactive work being done to reduce the city's vulnerability to wildfires.

CM Beggs reported on the passage of the Infill Housing Ordinance for single family homes. The next ordinance will be for multifamily homes. There are discussions around selling water to other locales. On Feb. 27 at 5:30 there will be a forum at City Hall regarding water quantity in the river. It will also be broadcast on Channel 5. The City has settled the case regarding the logging on The Bluff and was able to buy a 5 acre parcel of private land there at a discount. The ordinance for school radar speed cameras will allow for the funding of new traffic officers. The SPD is working on a proposal for four officers with an emphasis near schools during school transit times and out in the community at other times. The Ombudsman ordinance is in negotiation with the Police Union, particularly regarding internal affairs reports. The City budget shows a \$5 million surplus from 2017, most of which will go into a reserve/rainy day fund. Among the strategic investment in the budget there was \$52 million for streets, economic development zones, and related infrastructure to generate business. There was \$2 million for infrastructure to address homelessness. Funding is also supporting trails and sporting event venues. In answer to a question about affordable housing, CM Beggs agreed that there is less on the south side, more in the north and northwest neighborhoods. The increase in city revenue has come primarily through sales taxes, with an uptick in commercial activity. Not much has been due to property tax increase since that is limited to 1% per year. This has been a record year for new construction, particularly multi-family homes.

Spokane Police Department: Detective Ty Snider

Det. Snider distributed maps that contrasted the previous month's crime rates in 3 neighborhoods, Rockwood, S. Perry, and Downtown. Rockwood had the fewest incidents by far. In answer to a question it was clarified that a robbery is against a person, a burglary is against a building, and a theft is against an item. To increase the probability that a case will be worked, it is important to have evidence or witness, i.e. gotta have solvability. As examples, this can be from a RING device or home camera, or from finding items being resold. For camera evidence, a good still is actually better than a video because it can fit into a report.

For packages being shipped, "hold at station" can be arranged ahead of time, or get a P.O. box, use the address of that post office, and put the box number as "unit" next to the street address. Other possibilities would be to ship with "request signature"; to have it delivered to a neighbor who is home during the day; or have them watch for it on the expected day of delivery.

Presentation C.O.P.S. Community Oriented Policing Services

Officer Dion Mason, neighborhood resource officer; Patrick Striker, C.O.P.S. executive director; Abby Walthall, crime victim advocate; Kendall Eminger South Spokane C.O.P.S. The C.O.P.S. website has a wealth of information, with phone numbers, contacts, brochures, links to sites like code enforcement, sex offender locations, crime statistics, and jail roster.

There are 11 shop locations staffed by volunteers, so hours may vary. Each one has a NRO, neighborhood resource officer, whose job is to know the neighborhood. Among the services available are latent fingerprinting and CPTED. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design offers an assessment of a home's lighting, shrubbery, etc. Another program is NOP, which is Neighborhood Observation Patrol. This is a program that trains volunteers to drive or walk and get to know a neighborhood to monitor for things amiss. BlockWatch is another valuable program that C.O.P.S. can help set up. "Crime is not a police issue. It is a community issue."

The next Coffee With A Cop event will be Feb. 21, 1-3 pm at Twenty-Seventh Heaven Bake Shop near Grand & 12th.

Traffic Calming: Dave Lucas for Ann Fennessy

The upcoming project will be two speed feedback signs on the northern end of Rockwood Blvd.

Funding has been approved for a traffic study for Grand and 29th.

Cliff/Cannon neighborhood is requesting a traffic circle at 14th and Cedar.

For Garfield and 26th the most recent traffic count showed 3000 on a school day, in contrast to the 300 that would be expected in a residential neighborhood. Ann is gathering data on how other snowy cities use street modifications to reduce speeds.

For the next funding cycle, our neighborhood can submit 1 arterial project, 1 residential project, and one other. Cliff/Cannon is requesting our help in continuing work on the Tiger Trail.

The PeTT committee is considering a recommendation to reduce the speed limit on residential streets from 25 to 20 mph. Their next meeting is Feb 27, West Central Community Center, at 5:30.

Neighborhood Cleanup: Suzanne Tresko

The City funding for this year has increased from \$5500 to \$7500.

For Cleaning from the Corridor this year, neighborhoods can have volunteers clean up a specific area and the City will dispose of the debris.

CDBG:

For this year's Community Development Block Grant we don't expect any funds for our neighborhood.

Community Assembly:

We are still in need of a volunteer to represent the neighborhood to this group.

They hold their meetings the first Thursday of the month.

Plan Commission: Greg Francis

There is still time to comment on the building heights change being discussed for Spokane Falls Blvd across from Riverfront Park. The City website has information and a survey on its website. The Land Use Committee will have a presentation on the plan, Feb 15 at West Central Community Center, 5:30-7. Neighbors expressed concerns about shading on the park and about a mass of buildings at that entry to downtown. The Downtown Spokane Plan is being updated this year, so the building code revision will likely come up again. As with so many things in City government, decisions are complaint driven, so citizen input is invaluable.

Announcements:

The Citizens' Academy starts April 25 and runs 4 Wednesdays, from 6-9 pm. (update: The class is full. Names are being taken for the waiting list, and there will be another class in the Fall.)

Coffee with a Cop is Feb 21, see above for details.

The South Hill Library is now open on Sunday afternoons, 1-5 pm.

The Community Assembly sponsors a Community Engagement Grant, which will increase this year over the previous \$550. Rockwood used last year's grant for the neighborhood welcome bags, to print neighborhood flyers, and for the outdoor movie event.

The State of the City Address by Mayor Condon is this Friday. He will announce the SpoKind Campaign, as the City's response to hate crimes.

Adjourned at 8:30.

Minutes by Mary Terhaar