

## Rockwood Neighborhood Council Meeting

March 6, 2018

### Hutton Elementary Library

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

Chair: Dave Lucas

**Quorum:** Yes.

Total residents: 18 Voting residents: 12

Non-Voting: 6 (3 became eligible to vote after attending the meeting) Visitors: 4

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the February 2018 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:**

None

**City Council Representatives:** Lori Kinnear and Breean Beggs

CM Kinnear reported on the Public Safety meeting last Monday. The new name for the group is Public Safety and Community Health. They are working with Spokane Public Schools and Spokane Police Dept regarding school safety and gun violence. They are also looking at ways to deter vehicle theft. There was a 17% increase in incidents in January, most of which could have been easily deterred, so they are looking for ways to educate for prevention.

The City Council voted to eliminate fees on permits for car charging stations and for solar panels. Tesla is providing up to \$1000 reimbursement costs for public charging stations. The Historic Preservation ordinance took a year to craft, and was finally signed by the Mayor.

CM Beggs reviewed the City symposiums, the previous one on homelessness, this week's on the Spokane River, and the next one on safety, schools, and guns.

He noted that in the past we were losing 20% of local water supply through leaky city pipes. This is much improved now, due in part to a satellite application that can detect leaks. There have also been improved standards for irrigation on City and private land.

He is the chair of the Council's Public Infrastructure Committee.

The state has passed legislation on zombie homes to allow the City to partner with banks to step in and secure problem properties during foreclosure.

The City and County are working to utilize \$2.4M from the state to develop a triage and treatment center for people picked up by police who appear to be impaired by drugs or

mental health crisis. This voluntary program would allow 24-72 hours for people to be stabilized or enter treatment.

Spokane will have a pilot project for supervision for auto crime offenders once they have been released from incarceration. Currently there is no followup.

In response to questions CM Beggs reported on the storm water runoff tanks, that all are either under construction or completed. These serve to hold runoff until the water treatment plant has room to treat before allowing it to flow into the river.

The speed cameras at Ridgeview Elementary should be in use in September.

The trees along Manito and Rockwood are scheduled to be trimmed but there is only \$100K per year for all trimming across the city.

**Spokane Police Department:** Detective Ty Snider

Det. Snider distributed recent crime maps for the neighborhood. He predicts that as the weather warms criminals will become more active. "See it, report it". For example, an unfamiliar car sitting for several days might be stolen, so call it in to Crime Check. He discussed the Spokane Police Foundation, which is a nonprofit started by local businesses to support SPD. Donations fund outreach programs, training, equipment, and technology that are not in the City budget. Two community programs he mentioned are YPI, Youth and Police Initiative, and PAL, Police Activities League, both of which engage young people through positive interaction with law enforcement. There will be a fundraiser, Breakfast with the Chief, at 7:30 March 22 at the Davenport. More information is at [spokanepolicefoundation.org](http://spokanepolicefoundation.org)

**Presentation:** Andrew Chanse, Director Spokane Public Library

Mr. Chanse came in response to concerns about moving the South Hill Library. He recapped a study in 2015 about how libraries could best serve the public in the future, beyond providing books on shelves. In 2016, with community input, the library board developed an overview of the branches with the Downtown library as the center, regional hubs at Shadle and South Hill, networking with the smaller neighborhood libraries. Shadle has room to expand but South Hill does not. Both the Hastings and the Albertsons on 37<sup>th</sup> are not under consideration because the owners will only lease, not sell the properties. Under-utilized city property adjacent to Thornton Murphy Park is being considered, offering one of the few large pieces of open land on the south side. It could provide 30K sq ft for a plus room for parking. On the part of the City, there would be adjustments to public transit, walking access, and traffic calming. Other positives could be taking advantage of indoor/outdoor programming using the park, smart space use with the Southside Community Center, and enabling people able to combine with trips to the shopping area.

In examining other options, the question arose about why the regional library concept, answered by sustainability. Another option would be to not have a regional library on the south side. Tracking has shown that 50% of patrons within the East Side Library neighborhood travel to the South Side library instead. Consideration has been given to expanding services at the East Side Library, which would probably necessitate relocating it. If the South Hill Library remains as is, there would be investment to redirect parking flow.

In response to questions:

Mr. Chanse gave the calculation used to determine parking based on square footage. If a second story were added to the current South Hill library, it would need 20-25 additional parking spaces.

Current facilities are inadequate for 21<sup>st</sup> century literacies. The highest circulation is still print, although there has been some dip as people use other formats for accessing books. Libraries also serve as a gathering place, for collaboration and for neighborhood access to new technologies such as 3D printing. Discussion is underway with Spokane Public Schools to make facilities more meaningful for students.

Should the South Hill and East Side libraries just be merged into one location? The area served by the East Side library is one of the poorest in the city, with one of the highest rates of people without a high school degree. It is important to keep a library in that community. A new location might be in the Chief Garry Park area.

Programming must be tailored to a neighborhood, to bring in people who might not have grown up using a library.

The projected time line is for design contract for a new South Hill library going to Integrus and Group 4 this week, finalizing plans this summer, a ballot measure in November, and implementation in 2019.

Mr. Chance offered his thanks to Dana Dalrymple for her monthly representation of the library at the Rockwood Neighborhood meetings.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Land Use Notifications:** Dave Lucas

- There is a request for a lot split at 2430 S Helena Ct.
- The Greenstone development proposed south of 29<sup>th</sup> will have single and multifamily homes with some commercial. Plans include public forums and public comment periods. Concerns have been expressed about traffic and loss of trees.

### **Traffic Calming Projects for 2019:** Dave Lucas for Ann Fennessey

Garfield is a concern. One proposal is for a speed hump (more gentle than a speed bump) between 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

Another use for project funds could be to partner with other neighborhoods on a traffic study for Grand Blvd.

There was a question about speed feedback signs on 21<sup>st</sup> between Hatch and Grand. We can request a portable sign for that spot to gather data.

On the southern portion of Rockwood, it appears that the permanent speed feedback signs have made a difference.

A motion was made to submit two projects for traffic calming grants:

- 1) speed hump on Garfield between 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>
  - 2) support Comstock Neighborhood Council in traffic study for Grand
- Motion was seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote.

There will be a forum on proposed 20 mph speed limits for all parks, 6 pm Mar 27, West Central Community Center.

**Neighborhood Cleanup Events:** Suzanne Tresko

Dump passes come in denominations of \$5, \$10, and \$25. They are only good for 2 weeks. They will be available at RNC meetings in May, June, and September, as well as at the dumpster event in May.

The dumpster a.k.a rolloff event will be the morning of May 12 at Hutton, for garbage and green waste.

There will be a curbside pickup in October, for three items, reservations needed.

Details will come out with a postcard to each resident in the neighborhood.

\$200 of dump passes will be set aside for use by Office of Neighborhood Services for cleanup of problem properties in the neighborhood.

**Community Engagement Grant:** Dave Lucas

This grant comes from the Community Assembly, to be used for the Neighborhood Council to reach out to residents. The application will be due next month. Possible items are more printing more neighborhood fliers for the welcome bags, and another movie party or outdoor activity. One suggestion was to invite food trucks to the event.

Dave Vogel is helping with the welcome bags. These have been well received by new residents.

**Community Assembly:** Greg Francis

- The position for neighborhood rep is still available.
- SCRAPS was the main presenter at the most recent CA meeting. They reported they are able to return 93% of recovered dogs due to tags or chips; far fewer cats. Of the estimated 250000 pets in their service area, only 25% are licensed. The fine for an unlicensed pet is \$200.
- Update on the 6 year street program: the next project will be Wellesley.
- Cleaning from the Corridor will be in Peaceful Valley, 9-12, Saturday April 28. This is part of Spokane Gives month, April, as well as part of the #SpoKind initiative.
- An information tidbit: any neighborhood council can use a park at no charge and COPS will provide liability insurance.

**Plan Commission:** Greg Francis

- The position for liaison between CA and Plan Commission is now open because Greg has become a member of the Plan Commission
- The proposal to change building height regulations along Spokane Falls Blvd will have a hearing before the PC March 28. There is still an opportunity to complete the survey on the City website; over 500 responses so far.

**Announcements:** Dave Lucas

- Temporary library cards are included in the neighborhood welcome bags.
- Spokane Ride to Care is a program through SNAP that allows patients who call 911 with less serious medical issues to be offered a ride to an urgent care center in a SNAP-contracted vehicle rather than an ambulance to an emergency room.
- The City is working on a redesign of Finch Arboretum, with a survey on priorities at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9WXQFZN>

- Spokane Crime Free Rental Property Training is a program for property owners, put on by COPS and SPD. It is a 2 day training, March 22 and 29, \$75. It is usually put on twice a year.

**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.

**Topics for next meeting:**

Garth Davis from Urban Forestry, talking about neighborhood trees and the spring tree giveaway.

**Meeting adjourned:** 8:45 pm

Minutes submitted by Mary Terhaar

**Next meeting:**

**Note later date due to spring break.**

Tuesday April 10 at 7 pm