

**Rockwood Neighborhood Council Meeting**  
**February 4, 2020**  
**Hutton Elementary Library**

Call to Order: 7: 05 pm  
Chair: Dave Lucas

**Quorum:** Yes

Total: 22

Voting residents: 13      New Residents: 5      Total Residents: 18

Visitors: 4, including Melissa Wittstruck, Office of Neighborhood & Planning Services

**Previous Meeting Minutes:** January, approved as submitted.

**Treasurer Report:** Dave Lucas for Tanya Starkel  
No change in account

**Executive Board Actions:**

Met Jan 14. No actions taken.

**City Council Members:** Lori Kinnear and Betsy Wilkerson

CM Kinnear introduced Betsy Wilkerson, newly appointed to fill the seat previously held by Breean Beggs. She summarized the selection process, where 32 applications were considered. From that group 7 were interviewed, and then the City Council settled on Betsy Wilkerson.

CM Wilkerson took the opportunity to talk about her background. She is the owner and operator of an assisted living home for people with disabilities in Browne's Addition. She lives in the East Central neighborhood, on the Altamont Loop. She has done work in non-profits and volunteering, thus her emphasis on collaborative work. She has triplet grandchildren in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Her legislative assistant is Mark Carlos. She encouraged people to feel comfortable asking questions about her life and experiences.

In response to a request to list her priorities, she noted that she is not a politician, but her world is mental health. While acknowledging the need for more infrastructure, she sees improvements. Inland Behavioral Health just doubled the number of beds they offer for children's crisis stabilization. She looks forward to bringing these voices to the table of policy-making.

One neighbor recounted living near the assisted living house that CM Wilkerson's parents operated before retirement. They spoke about what a good neighbor the house was, not simply meeting standard but using best practice.

**Spokane Police Department:** Officer Jake Willard

Officer Willard presented the monthly neighborhood crime analysis heat map. For the most recent month, crime is down citywide 4%. However, in the P6 zone, which includes Rockwood, Lincoln Heights, and Southgate, it is up 14%. Even in the last week there were 72 calls for service compared to 63 the previous. The most activity was seen near 10<sup>th</sup> & Rockwood, and 20<sup>th</sup> & Syringa. He reminded that calls to Crime Check regarding suspicious

activity or complaints about problem houses add up and can result in hot spot emphasis or nuisance abatement actions. He agreed with a neighbor's hypothesis that the warmer weather has contributed to the increase in crime. Officer Willard works out of 2809 E 29<sup>th</sup>, the COPS Southeast office, facing the parking lot at Lincoln Heights shopping center, across from Joann Fabrics. He is always looking for volunteers for that location to supplement his efforts in crime prevention, safety, and community connection. He emphasizes getting to know your neighbor and not leaving car keys in an empty vehicle as simple but critical ways to reduce the chances of being a crime victim.

**Traffic Calming Grant application:** Tim Hilliard and Dave Lucas

There were three items suggested for the grant application. One was for a sidewalk improvement, but that is not covered by the grant. Another was an inquiry about traffic calming along a stretch off Grand, but it was not actually submitted. The third was for pedestrian safety on 18<sup>th</sup> between Grand and Upper Terrace. The neighbors there have worked on possibilities with the City and gained consensus along the street. The working idea is for traffic circles at Hatch, Sherman, and Latawah. However, the grant program has recently changed. The previous project limit of \$50,000 has been lifted. The new decision process will consider the number of people affected and if similar projects can be implemented in several neighborhoods, trying to get economy of scale. Additionally, the City would like to see more neighborhoods receiving grants. There are 29 neighborhoods in the city, not all of them as organized as Rockwood. The new application does not need a neighborhood to choose a specific traffic calming measure, simply that a particular location needs study. Thus, the 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue request may not result in traffic circles, and the City will probably take into account the impact measures on 18<sup>th</sup> would have on nearby streets. Applications will be archived so if they are not approved one year, they will be considered the next. The routine of submitting a specific plan one year, having it funded the next, and installed the following year will no longer be the norm.

In discussion it was noted that school traffic cameras are set to increase by 2 each year, contributing to the traffic calming funds. Sidewalks, bike routes, and greenways are covered by other funding sources. A bike and pedestrian planner has been hired by the City. The discussion, confirmed by Melissa Wittstruck from the City, indicated that there would be before and after studies to assess if the traffic problem just moved or was actually calmed. Under the new system City traffic engineers have the discretion to modify or expand a project. There was a motion on the floor, seconded, and then modified. The person who first made the motion accepted the modification. The revised motion was to submit a traffic calming application for the stretch of 18<sup>th</sup> between Upper Terrace and Grand, including consideration of the full traffic system in the area, the traffic mix and impact on other streets. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**Committee Reports**

**Building Stronger Neighborhoods:**

**Community Assembly:** Dave Lucas

In years past the city has sent representatives to the NUSA conference. (Neighborhoods USA). Instead, this year there will be workshops in Spokane to train local leaders in partnership with other areas in our region.

**Welcome Bags:** Dave Lucas

A big batch of bags has been prepared over the last few weeks. Toni and Tanya are doing many of the deliveries.

**Land Use:** Toni Sharkey

The Downtown Plan is being updated. A brochure was distributed describing it as “everyone’s neighborhood.” One of the goals noted was to reduce surface parking lots and consolidate parking in garages. There were other strategies to increase appeal, access, and liveability. The Planning Services Dept. is conducting a survey which can be completed by phone at (509) 625-6500 or at email [spokanedowntownplan.org](mailto:spokanedowntownplan.org). Deadline Feb. 15.

**Neighborhood Safety:** Tim Hilliard

No updates.

**Neighborhood Cleanup:** Dave Lucas for Suzanne Tresko

There has been a change in the cleanup program resulting in reduced funding for neighborhood cleanup projects such as our dumpster event in the spring, dump pass distribution, and the curbside large item pickup in the fall. Details yet to be determined.

**Neighborhood Updates**

The City proposes changing the street name at South Rockwood & 10<sup>th</sup> to be consistent with the roadway. There is concern among residents at Canterbury Court about the effect on mail delivery. Dave will follow up. According to Melissa the project contact person at Planning Services is Tami Palmquist, Associate Planner.

**Spokane Public Library:** Dana Dalrymple, Nonprofits Librarian

- February events include features on Black History and a series on Religions & Philosophies.
- The Downtown Library closes for renovation at the end of the month and opens at The Plaza Mar 2. The Northwest Room will be closed for the duration but there may be some access to research help at The MAC.
- During construction, the Shadle Library has transitioned to the Northtown Mall. It is open mall hours, so more than previous.
- The South Hill Library will stock extra books during this construction period.
- There will be a Volunteer Fair at the South Hill Library March 30, with representatives from groups such as KYRS and COPS. Other groups looking for volunteers should contact the library for a space.

**Announcements:** Melissa Wittstruck

- The 2020 Census plays a critical role in how Representatives and federal monies are allotted. It is estimated that every missed person costs Washington state \$30,000 per year in funding for things like schools, roads, planning, libraries, and community housing. The local Census team is hiring at \$17.50 per hour, with part time, flexible schedules. There will be a public forum on Feb 6 at 7:30 at Shadle Park High School.

- The Grand Blvd. planning project covers from 27<sup>th</sup> to 34<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to all who completed the online survey. The next planning workshop/open house is February 27, drop in from 2-7:30, at St. Marks at 24<sup>th</sup> & Grand. You can add your name to the mailing list for updates at email [grandboulevardplan@spokanecity.org](mailto:grandboulevardplan@spokanecity.org). (There's a video with some of our neighbors on the walking tour at <https://vimeo.com/374506715> )
- Amendments to the Comp Plan have been submitted, with a training Feb 13 at West Central Community Center, 6-7 pm. None of the amendments impact the Rockwood neighborhood.

### **Open Topics**

This time is available for any neighbor to raise an issue for open discussion. Individual time to speak may be limited to time available.

Meeting adjourned: 8:35 pm

Minutes submitted by Mary Terhaar

### **Next meeting:**

Tuesday March 3, 7pm

### **After-meeting notes:**

- From Melissa Wittstruck, this is document wording about the street name changes:
- Public Hearing/testimony Feb 26, 4:00 in the City Council Chambers regarding 8 proposed street name changes.
- Proposal 5: Rename S. Rockwood Blvd. between 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> to E. Rockwood Blvd. Currently there is one half block assigned with a S. prefix between two segments of Rockwood with an E. prefix direction.....This is confusing and unintuitive for emergency responders and the proposed changes would bring the roadways into alignment with the current SMC (Spokane Municipal Code) that curvilinear roadways should not change name or prefix direction.
- Proposal 6: Rename E. 18<sup>th</sup> Ave between E. Southeast Blvd. and S. Southeast Blvd. to E. and S. Southeast Blvd. (Perry is the logical cutoff here between the S. and E. designations of Southeast Blvd. so one 18<sup>th</sup> segment should get S. and two 18<sup>th</sup> segments should get E.) This is a continuous roadway that currently in the span of 4 blocks changes from E. Southeast Blvd. to E. 18<sup>th</sup> Ave. to S. Southeast Blvd. This is confusing and unintuitive for emergency responders and the proposed changes would bring the roadways into alignment with the current SMC that curvilinear roadways should not change name or prefix direction.



