

Rockwood Neighborhood Council Meeting
January 7, 2020
Hutton Elementary Library

Call to Order: 7:10 pm
Chair: Dave Lucas

Quorum: Yes

Total: 41

Voting residents: 24 New Residents: 8 Total Residents: 37

Visitors: 4, including

Giacobbe Byrd, Legislative Assistant to Lori Kinnear

Annica Eagle, our neighborhood liaison and Community Programs Coordinator for the City

Previous Meeting Minutes: November, approved as submitted.

Treasurer Report: Tanya Starkel

No activity on the account, balance \$2176.75

Executive Board Actions:

Met Dec 17. No actions taken.

City Council Members: Lori Kinnear

- CM Kinnear is the sole member representing our neighborhood on the City Council at the moment. The selection process for the successor to Breean Beggs is underway. The initial group of 30 applicants has been narrowed to 7. There will be interviews open to the public on Monday January 13, starting at 10 am in the Council Briefing Center. The new member is expected to be announced that evening.
- The first City Council meeting of the year saw new Mayor Woodward invited to join council members on the dais. The members pledged to work closely with the Mayor's office.
- The Grand Boulevard plan study covers Grand from 27th to 37th with particular attention paid to pedestrians and to the school crossings. There is an opportunity to give feedback online, deadline January 31.
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9x6SFC6>
"We will be living with results for years to come."
- In response to a question, CM Kinnear provided more details on the Grand proposal. One of the concepts is a more pedestrian/bike friendly corridor, with businesses closer to the street and parking set back. Is parking adequate? Parking lots vs. street parking leaking into neighborhoods. While public transit might not be ideal for shoppers, it could be a good fit for business employees and free up parking spaces.
- The City Budget has passed, with a healthy reserve and an increased bond rating.
- The City is moving to a more central downtown police precinct, with a policing model that encourages officers to get out of the car and interact with citizens. Chief

Meidl supports visibility and personal interactions to increase the perception of safety downtown.

- Verizon 5G wireless technology can be seen as cylinders added to tops of utility poles. This has been implemented without notification to neighbors, with some disruptions to yards and sidewalks. The City does not have jurisdiction, so they can't require notification. However, CM Kinnear's office has the contact information for the company representative in case there is unfinished or unsatisfactory cleanup.
- The PLANT ordinance has passed.

Spokane Police Department: Officer Jake Willard

Officer Willard presented the monthly neighborhood crime analysis in a different format, a "heat map." The overall City crime rate is down 15.96% over last year. For our district P6 which includes Rockwood, Lincoln Heights and Southgate, the last 28 days have shown a decrease of 28.75% over the previous 28 days. The area around Sumner and Grand has shown the most activity.

Noted on the map are spots of "suspicious activity." These are marked when people call in saying "something doesn't seem right" or similar observations. These are appreciated because they can show a pattern. There were 12 in the last month. Another use of complaint calls is to help shut down nuisance houses.

Regarding package thefts, if they are seen in real time, in progress, call 911. If after the fact, call Crime Check to document.

In response to a question, Officer Willard discussed speeding on side streets. He recommends people call about a particular area, and encourage their neighbors to call as well, increasing the likelihood of followup. One neighbor recounted their positive experience, calling monthly to request a speeding emphasis at a particular location. The traffic hotline recording to leave information is 625-4150. After each patrol, they received a phone call with information on the followup.

In addition to his other duties, Officer Willard is the Neighborhood Resource Officer at COPS Southeast. There are many volunteer opportunities there, from paws on patrol to horse patrols to neighborhood observation patrols, as well as staffing the desk at the shop. He says "I need as much help as I can get" especially in the office. He notes that all these components make the system more responsive and effective for citizens.

Elections: The Rockwood Neighborhood Council Executive Board is made up of 4 administrative positions and 6 board members. The current offices are Chair Dave Lucas, Vice-Chair Greg Francis, Secretary Mary Terhaar, Treasurer Tanya Starkel, and Board Members Tim Hilliard, Jim Sullivan, Nicole Palmerton, Suzanne Tresko, Ellen Robey, and one vacant position. Of these, the Vice Chair position and the last three board positions listed are up for election. There was a review of the duties for these positions and the commitment to an additional meeting each month. The qualification for a voting member is to have attended at least 2 meetings in 2019 or the annual meeting in January 2019. The first voting was for the position of Vice-Chair. Greg agreed to stand for election if no one else would consider it. No one offered. His name was put in nomination, seconded, and confirmed by voice acclaim with no objections.

For the other three positions, there were 4 names that accepted nomination. After tally of secret ballots, the three board members for the upcoming 2 year term are Suzanne, Ellen, and Toni Sharkey.

Neighborhood Updates:

Annica Eagle, Community Programs Coordinator, reviewed upcoming events for the City:

- Information sessions on upcoming planning programs
Community Engagement Grant Feb 10 6:30 West Central Community Center
Neighborhood Cleanup Events Feb 27 6:00 City Hall
Traffic Calming January 29 6:00 City Hall
- Martin Luther King Jr March and Resource Fair Jan 20 starting at 10:00 at the Convention Center
- Tours of the Waste to Energy Facility Jan 20 at 10:00 and 2:00. Free but reservations required. Call 625-6580 or email Solidwaste@spokanecity.org.
- Point in Time Count Jan 23-30. See City website for volunteer and donation info.
- Homeless Connect Jan 30 10:00-3:00 at the Convention Center. Needed are vendors, service providers, volunteers, sponsors, and winter clothing donations.

Dana Dalrymple, Nonprofits Librarian, Spokane Public Library

- See the library website for detailed events calendar.
Some examples:
South Hill and East Side: educational series on different religions, February and March
Downtown: Grow with Google digital skills workshops, Jan 22 10:30-4:30
- The Shadle Library has begun construction so there is an alternate location at the Northtown Mall.
- The Downtown Library will begin remodeling at the end of February. The alternate location will be at the STA Plaza. The Northwest Room will probably be closed for the duration, a couple of years.
- Groundbreaking for the East Central/Liberty Park branch will be in the spring.
- The Hive, on E. Sprague at S. Haven, will also break ground in the spring.

Committee Reports

Traffic: Dave Lucas

The group working on traffic calming on 18th Ave met in December. There was also a request regarding 21st Ave concerns.

The speed table on Garfield will be the next project to be implemented, expected this year. The new speed feedback signs on lower Rockwood Blvd are solar powered because there was no straightforward way to wire power. Thus, the signs may not always operate if they have not been able to store sufficient charge.

Submissions for the next traffic calming proposal(s) are due in April. These will be approved 1 year, funded the next, and then implemented the following year.

Historic Preservation of Greenways:

The committee is working on fundraising ideas. There has been work done on the space, with irrigation improvements.

This is a link to a piece on the Triangle Parks:

<https://www.krem.com/mobile/article/entertainment/places/inland-northbest/history-of-the-olmsted-triangle-parks-on-spokanes-south-hill/293-1af3a31e-7d55-4bea-a7ca-4e22c8824218?fbclid=IwAR0N9ncmW3DZEbsRhnDgEU6UilWJ8VhM0airY8ISTqn9iiyNIJiGWJitfrU?fbclid=IwAR0N9ncmW3DZEbsRhnDgEU6UilWJ8VhM0airY8ISTqn9iiyNIJiGWJitfrU>

Announcements

None

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.

There was a question about who to call regarding broken branches hanging in trees. The consensus was that for trees along the Boulevard or greenways: the Parks Dept. For trees close to powerlines: Avista. For trees between the curb and sidewalk: the property owner. (will this change with the PLANT ordinance?)

A comment was made that the traffic cameras used around schools can also be used around parks, although the City has not done so.

One neighbor reported a traffic emphasis patrol near Ferris done by the State Patrol rather than City police.

There was a comment to expect even more traffic as apartment complexes are built to the south of town.

Concerns about traffic on East Rockwood remain, even with the bumpouts and signage. Discussion to be continued.

Meeting adjourned: 8:35 pm

Minutes submitted by Mary Terhaar

Next meeting:

Tuesday February 4, 7pm

After-meeting addition:

The neighborhood council is calling (begging) for volunteer(s) to manage its social media presence. One of the areas that needs coverage is the website. This is currently hosted on the City's template with meeting agenda, minutes and bylaws. More neighborhood history, features, and photos might be added. Facebook and Nextdoor are also occasionally used, and other platforms could be considered. Mentoring for all skills is available. After the initial setup, the tasks would probably take no more than an hour or two every month. Contact: rockwooddave7@gmail.com

