



East Sprague Parking and Business Improvement Area (PBIA)

Ratepayer Advisory Board Meeting

Date: May 17, 2023 Time: 12:00 to 1:30 PM

Meeting Minutes

Quorum met

Officers: Chris Venne - President (Chair), Tresa Schmautz – Treasurer, Dana Reinke – Secretary, Board Member Sam Mace, City of Spokane Representative – Amanda Beck, Ratepayers: Jim Hanley, Darryl Reber, Melody Methe, ESBA/BID Executive Director – LaVerne Biel

- President Chris Venne opened the meeting at 12:01p.
- Administration – Chris Venne & LaVerne Biel
 - Met with City Staff – Needs vs the City to Help, Marlene Fife, Steve McDonald Teri Stripe
 - Discussed launching new projects City wide and the lack of money to maintain those projects.
 - How New BIDs will operate under one management umbrella.
 - When talking with Council we need to stress the use of “ Traffic Calming” monies as a funding source.
 - We agreed to document the address of street trees and replacement garbage cans.
 - The Council has Covid monies (1.2 Million) to use for neighborhoods.
 - Traffic Calming make it easier and safer to park along Sprague
 - Traffic seems slower and changes the outlook (to view the neighborhood and store fronts)
 - Bump outs help with pedestrian safety.
 - Marlene oversees City Staff and holds them accountable.
 - Speak to City Council about budgeting money for ongoing BID maintenance.
 - It was a good meeting.
 - It was noted that the swells along Riverside Avenue are not being maintained. Other examples are stormwater collecting systems throughout Spokane.
- 4.19.23 Minutes (Jim/Darryl) approved as written.
- Financial Reports – Tresa Schmautz
 - Financial income and expenses are operating as expected.
 - 85% of the invoice money has been collected for 2023.
 - A new Category for Special Events was added to the dashboard report.
- City Staff - Amanda Beck –
 - She emphasized how important it was when talking with Council about budgets to use the term “traffic calming” to boost our maintenance budget.

- We need more conversation within the district and make certain that we vet through the neighborhood council.
- It was suggested that we track down the person who is responsible at WSDOT for the People's Park replacement. This could add additional funding for the CSO Tank enhancements.
- Call in complaints to Code Enforcement
- It was mentioned that we need more lighting under the railroad underpasses to discourage illegal camping. There was talk about fencing the passages under the bridges which would force people to go elsewhere. Currently camping is spilling over on to the street not allowing pedestrians or vehicles to pass.
- Mending Fences Church would like to paint the areas under the bridges to lighten up the space. We would encourage Burlington Northern to provide the paint for a positive press opportunity for our neighborhood.
- We mentioned coordinating "clean from the core" with the City.
- District Branding and Marketing – Dana Reinke
 - Summer on the Ave replaced Vintage on the Ave. The date will be – August 26th. The group felt that this is more inclusive for all businesses.
 - There was not enough time for the group to put together a vintage car show this year. They are looking to establish this in 2024.
 - They are looking at street closures looking at the 30 day advance notice for the permitting process. (Napa and Pittsburg will be the side streets for the application). The initial cost is around \$2,500 to close the streets (for the permit, signage, etc.) They are looking at a different payment structure to participate in and publicity. An annual payment.
 - The Autumn on the Ave will have a carnival theme. They are looking at various dates. December 1st will be a tree lighting ceremony. Dana wanted to know what that would look like.
- Neighborhood Beautification – LaVerne Biel -
 - Flags will be hung on May 26th and stay up until after the 4th of July.
- Clean and Green – Jim Hanley
 - It was recommended that we run the street sweeper at half speed. This will throw less dust into the air and on the operator.
- Safety & Security – Darryl Reber
 - Illegal camping continues to plague our train underpasses.

- We are looking into a Wifi camera program for the district. Avista was contacted.
We need to investigate other solutions.
- Art – Sam Mace
 - The fence mural is almost completed. It is gaining a lot of interest. Is there a way to approach other businesses to add murals? Sam indicated that there are some Covid Art funds available. We could send out flyers to all the businesses.

Meeting adjourned at 1:34p

DRAFT