



**East Sprague Parking and Business Improvement Area (PBIA)
Ratepayer Advisory Board Meeting**

Date: December 18, 2024, Time: 12:00 to 1:30 PM

Ratepayer Annual Meeting Minutes

Quorum met

Officers: Chris Venne - President (Chair), Amy Vega – (Vice Chair), Dana Reinke – (Secretary), Tresa Schmautz – (Treasurer), Broad Member: Sam Mace, Ratepayers: Darryl Reber, Jim Hanley, Bruce Gage; Shayla Scott, John Tombari, Sherri Britton, Executive Director - LaVerne Biel, Amanda Beck – City of Spokane Liaison

- President Chris Venne opened the meeting at 12:05p
- November 20, 2024, minutes (Sam/Dana) were approved as written.
- Financial Reports – Tresa Schmautz
 - Financial income and expenses are operating as expected.
 - John noted that in 2025 the Ventrac depreciation will be completed.
 - An invoice for \$20,658.27 was sent to the City of Spokane. This is usually paid within 15 days.
- Reviewed 2025 Management Plan (provided by Shayla) – Approved through City Council on December 2, 2024.
 - Ratepayer participation – 95%
 - Reviewed 2024 budget vs actual spending
 - Expanded flag program throughout the district
 - Benefits of the BID:
 - Community investment
 - Small and manageable
 - Encourages property owners to stay engaged
 - Adjustments were made to the 2025 budget to reflect spending history closely
 - 2025 Budget based on 95% participation
 - 20% ratepayer increase for 2025
 - Look at grants to enhance lighting throughout the district and alleyways (Avista Foundation – Ann Mathews)
 - Discussed BID expansion – east Sprague
 - Discussed UDistrict BID possibilities – to benefit businesses
- PBIA Board Nominations
 - Sam Mace and Tresa Schmautz positions are not up for renewal until next year.
 - Chris Venne, Amy Vega, and Dana Reinke, were all willing to serve two additional years.
 - Jim Hanley, and Darryl Reber agreed to serve on the Board for two years.
 - This will fill all seven Board positions.
 - A motion was made to approve the nomination (John/Sam). Motion approved.
- Officer Nominations
 - Chis Venne – President

- Amy Vega – Vice President
- Dana Reinke – Secretary
- A motion was made to accept the abovementioned officers (Jim/Darryl). Motion approved.
- BID Programs:
 - Clean and Green –
 - Chris has contacted Correctional Industries to purchase the garbage cans.
 - The goal is that the \$14,000 will include new garbage cans plus parts to refurbish the old ones.
 - Problem area in the Post Office alleyway
 - Graffiti is the owners' responsibility according to City Code
 - Beautification –
 - Tresa Overview on Dignified Workday
 - It started with asking one homeless person to help at St Anne's Church.
 - Soon 60 people showed up
 - Currently they have 45 people on the payroll
 - W-2s
 - Low-income housing is available if you have income
 - Transportation is the largest barrier to employment
 - Low barrier – must be sober to work
 - 45 people have acquired housing through the program
 - Tree Program – Bruce Gage
 - Bruce is working with Katie and East Sprague is considered a “special project” for Tree Replacement and Maintenance.
 - Administration –
 - Website will be updated in 2025
 - District Branding & Marketing
 - Holiday on the Ave (HoA)
 - It turned out well even though the weather didn't cooperate
 - The event had fewer people in the Shop Hop, but more items were purchased.
 - 18 businesses with 4 new participated
 - Educate businesses on how to engage customers
 - Light the Night – will be on the same day as HoA next year
 - This will encourage more businesses and opportunities.
 - Tom made a key lock system for the kids to find where the Grinch hid the key to turn the lights on. The Grinch Theme was a big success.
 - Amanda suggested working with Mark Pond for Data gathering (and using Ai) Biz Lab for a demo.

The meeting adjourned at 1:43p