



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

Date: May 21, 2025, 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), Broad Members: Darryl Reber, Ratepayers; Shayla Scott, Barbara Woodbridge (ESBA President, ex officio Member), LaVerne Biel – Executive Director

- President Chris Venne opened the meeting at 12:00p
- April 16, 2025, minutes (Darryl/Amy) were approved as written.
- Financial Reports – LaVerne Biel
 - 2025 – Normal financial position for April
 - 87% of Ratepayer invoices were paid in April.
 - Money has been received and paid out for the Garbage cans. Proof of payment was submitted to the City of Spokane. See * notation.
- Administrative – LaVerne Biel
 - Working with Amanda and Chris on contract verbiage
 - Bid expansion for the South UDistrict might be our best alternative. Amanda will be gathering information on what that will entail.
 - Working with Tom and Carl on flower watering issues.
- City of Spokane – Amanda Beck (per phone conference)
 - Reviewing Contract
 - Improving assessment invoicing
 - CSO Tank Park
 - Working with Parks and WSDOT on CSO tank behind Zips
 - Comments about the concept park underneath the freeway or a postage stamp park.
 - Pickleball courts that could be repurposed for other uses.
 - Concrete pads for containers and porta potty
 - Urban Forestry recommendations for trees
 - Lockable electrical outlets
 - Pads for portable bathrooms
- **BID Programs:**
- **Clean and Green – Tresa Schmautz**
Landscaping & Maintenance:
 - Garbage cans were installed by Tom and Kent.
 - The “garbage only label” was removed
 - Possibly work with the Art Commission to wrap the old cans – have a contest?

- The old garbage cans need to be repainted.
- *17 current cans – 3 replaced – 5 new locations = 22 cans with 1 in reserve.*

- **Beautification – LaVerne Biel**

Tree Replacement & Urban Forestry Initiative

- 9 new trees have been installed. 3 trees are back ordered.

Hanging Flowers Baskets

- The lift made it much easier to install the flowers and hang the flags at the same time. (Thank you, Bruce and Pape Machinery!)
- Tom has developed a solution for water to go directly into the flower pots.

Safety and Security – Darryl Reber

- Erie Viaduct is the worst & Helena is gaining
- Abandon RV was discussed behind the Flame Restaurant
 - Contact Nelson Towing or Rob's Demolition

- **District Branding & Marketing – Dana Reinke**

Spring on the Ave April 26th Report

- A feedback survey was sent out (7 Responses)
- Increased foot traffic (+50 to 200 people depending on the business)
- Everyone loved the “happenings on the street”
- Positive feedback with the shop hop event discovering new businesses
- Three new businesses celebrated their Grand Opening on the SOA date
- Increased business and foot traffic on the edges of the district
- Summer events were discussed – waiting for a volunteer to take it on
 - They need someone to step up for event entertainment, sponsorships, business connections. Dana will still maintain the marketing piece.

Website –

- A form will be mailed out or delivered with a QR Code to update the business map, making it more interactive.

The meeting adjourned at 1:25p