



East Sprague Parking and Business Improvement Area (PBIA)

Ratepayer Advisory Board Meeting

Date: April 15, 2026, Time: 12:00 to 1:30 PM

Ratepayer Meeting Minutes

Quorum met

Officers: Chris Venne (President), Amy Vega (Vice Chair), Dana Reinke – (Secretary), Tresa Schmautz (Treasurer), Board Members: Darryl Reber, Sam Mace, & Jim Hanley, Ratepayers; Guests: Shayla Scott, George Demakis (ESBA Treasurer), Sherri Britton (SBA), Raylene Gennett, Kristina DeWinter, Bruce Gage, LaVerne Biel – BID Executive Director, Amanda Beck – City of Spokane (Liaison) Barbara Woodbridge (ESBA President), Micah Prim (Spokane Police Department), Dan Bueller (City of Spokane Engineering) & Annie Deasy (City of Spokane Construction Relations)

- President Chris Venne opened the meeting at 12:00p

BID Expansion Overview:

BID History – Jim Hanley

- The PBIA was started (approved by City Council) in 2017 after the city funded major street improvements (sidewalks, streetscapes, infrastructure, and light poles).
- The goal was to maintain and preserve the upgraded area to avoid deterioration seen in other districts. We spend approximately \$100k a year on maintenance, sidewalk plantings, snow removal, district promotions, graffiti removal, and flag programs.
- Our district is the most recognizable and best maintained district in the City of Spokane.

Board Overview – Chris Venne

- We collect 97% of our assessments. We feel that's a sign that property owners appreciate what we're doing and feel that the investment is worthwhile.
- We meet on the third Wednesday of every month at noon.
- This year ESBA and the BID launched a new 501©3 nonprofit. This will allow donors to deduct monies donated from their taxes. The new nonprofit is called: East Spokane Business and Community Alliance (ESBCA). ESBCA has been approved by the IRS and registered with the State of Washington.

ESBA's Role – George Demakis

- ESBA sits over the BID for oversight and monitors the finances to ensure that the finances are handled properly.

Branding & Marketing – Dana Reinke

- When the BID was created, we needed an identity. The Sprague Union District and logo were decided by reaching out to the community. A logo was created and we use it for branding our district (flags, flyers, and more).

- We use our website to push out our information on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok. Spring on the Ave is this Saturday with 30 participating businesses, \$1,000 product giveaway, and lots of kid's activities.
- We recently had a business after-hours event with 43 businesses attending. We hope to have another one once the CSO tank is finished.

Safety & Security – Darryl Reber

- Current viaducts on first & Ivory and 1st Madelia have been problem areas. Darryl drives through the neighborhood daily to report issues to the City.
- It was noted that Micah Prim is very responsive and professional when dealing with the people he contacts. Use of video recording/surveillance improves safety and monitors activity. Strong emphasis on neighborhood watch efforts. Focuses on building community connections to enhance overall security. Approach combines:
 - Technology (cameras)
 - Community involvement
 - Visible, responsive security presence

Clean & Green – Dana Reinke

- The district maintains a high standard of cleanliness with weekly cleanups. Last year we removed 12 to 15 tons of trash collected. We currently have 20 garbage cans throughout the district.
- The alleyways have the most debris and waste to pick up.
- We are currently working with the City to make sure that (dumpsters) garbage cans are locked.
- B&C Maintenance provides this service along with: installing and maintaining district flags, setting out and fertilizing the hanging flower baskets, snow plowing during winter months.

Beautification – Tresa Schmutz

- Twelve trees were replaced by Urban Forestry. We installed 104 hanging baskets. Weeding is handled by Dignified Workdays.
- There are 104 landscape beds across the district. We are seeking grants to improve drip irrigation which will conserve water and provide training opportunities.
- We are also looking into self-watering planters for the district.

City's Role – Amanda Beck

- Amanda is our primary contact with the City of Spokane to ensure that tasks and projects are completed.
- She has significantly strengthened relationships with the BID and the City. She works on the annual assessment for the BID and coordinates information for expansion.
- Amanda (and Teri Stripes) were instrumental in moving the CSO Tank Park into a permanent place in the district.

BID Perspective – Shayla Scott

- She originally attended to gain understanding about the BID, including its purpose and operations. She appreciates the passion, knowledge, and organization of the team.
- She feels welcomed and included in the process and has a better sense what is happening in the district.

Business Connections – Amy Vega

- There are opportunities to connect with other businesses. The business after-hour dinner was a great example of our connectiveness.
- The group acts like a neighborhood watch where neighbors have pride in working together.

Community Perspective - Sam Mace

- The BID keeps the community perspective when making decisions.
- There is a shift to the new freeway corridor (NSC) to ensure that we focus on people, placemaking, and the environment.
- There is interest in the land bridge over the freeway that connects Liberty Park and the business district.
- There are concerns about the traffic impacts as development increases. These increases affect the neighborhood and land speculation. There needs to be a balance between commercial uses (gas stations, retail) and the community needs.
- We need more open and green areas. Support walkability.

Upcoming Changes – LaVerne Biel

- We are working on a walking tour with three Gonzaga students for their final semester project.
- The CSO Tank Park will begin work at the end of the month which will open new opportunities to the BID.
- Our BID expansion to the west is scheduled for June 2026.

BID Meeting:

- March 18, 2026, minutes (Darryl/Jim) were approved as written.
- Dan Bueller (City of Spokane Engineering) (Contact Annie for Construction signage and questions)
 - Reported County wide on road construction.
 - Crosswalk stripes (call zebra stripping) is designed to increase visibility and safety for pedestrians
 - Helps improve driver awareness and safer crossing conditions
 - Freeway Project is moving forward; water infrastructure has been relocated in coordination with DOT work.
 - Including underground stormwater systems are part of the improvements.
 - Pedestrian Improvements:
 - Enhancements planned/underway around Grand & Division
 - Focus on improving pedestrian access and safety.
- Financial Reports – Tresa Schmautz
 - Finances are on track and as expected.
 - No major issues or unexpected changes for March.
- Public Safety – Micah Prim
 - Reported that he addressed someone on 1st and Ivory. She was open to services. Briefly discussed Hi's Markets and trespassing. Suggested they post a "no trespassing sign". Illegal dumping is still an issue. Signs are effective crime

prevention through environmental design. Helps the police do their jobs and investigate crime.

- Safety and Security – Darryl Reber
 - Graffiti is an ongoing issue throughout the district. ESD101 is helping out removing graffiti.
- District Branding & Marketing – Dana Reinke
 - Spring on the Ave – anticipate a high level of activity with 30 business involved.
 - Multiple workshops
 - Community engagement
 - Supporting local businesses
 - Creating an active, vibrant district experience
- Grant Opportunity
 - Deadline: April 24
 - Focus on Women and Minority Owned Business (advertised through ESBA’s email campaign)
- Community Concern
 - Growing concern about alcohol-related issues among businesses in the area.
 - Discussion around increasing to 24-hour operations
 - Public safety impacts (with limited parking, signage, etc.)
 - Late-night activity and disturbances
 - Effects on neighborhood quality of life and increased traffic
- Other: Development & Activation Update:
 - Hoot Owl Site – planned demolition. Community members are encouraged to share input/feedback.
 - Exploring using the space as a food truck platform. Goal is to keep the area active and positively used. Reach out to Steve Schmautz with ideas or suggestions.

The meeting adjourned at 1:36p