East Sprague Parking and Business Improvement Area (PBIA)
Ratepayer Advisory Board Meeting
Date: July 15, 2026, Time: 12:00 to 1:30 PM

Ratepayer Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Quorum was present

Officers: Chris Venne (President), Dana Reinke (Secretary), Tresa Schmautz (Treasurer), Board Members: Darryl Reber, Jim Hanley, Sam Mace, Ratepayers/Guests: Cyndi Lane, Fatima Albitar, Shayla Scott, Abby (friend of Shayla), Micah Prim (Spokane Police Department), Barbara Woodbridge (ESBA Ex-officio Member), LaVerne Biel – BID Executive Director

President Chris Venne opened the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

June 17, 2026 minutes (Chris/Tresa) were approved as written.

The meeting started with introductions.

- Police Report – Micah Prim
    - Micah is currently working with Spokane HOPE to resolve several issues surrounding their property.
        - Highly recommended that "No Trespassing" signs be posted.
        - File a "No Trespassing" authorization letter to the Spokane Police Department.
        - Improvements have been made.
        - Installed a video camera at the door.
        - One individual was arrested, booked into jail, and later released.
        - Report all unwanted camping, drug activity, and open fires, even if they seem minor. Continue reporting incidents to Crime Check at 509.456.2233 or call 911 in an emergency.
    - Approximately 2 ½ truckloads of garbage have been removed from the Spokane River edge.
    - Cornerstone – implemented "no trespassing or parking" signs plus cameras and have had great success.
    - Concerns were raised regarding graffiti on City-owned property.
    - Illegal dumping on private property was discussed.
        - Request police action
        - Move the dumpster behind fencing
        - Post signage & register letter with SPD (example will be emailed)

- Sprague Union Commons/ESBCA – Chris Venne
    - Grant draft is ready to submit to the Avista Foundation. The final grant application will be submitted as soon as possible.
    - Gathered signatures supporting the grant from Mayor Brown (and three staff members), Wilkerson, Dillon, and Telis.

- They are currently working on pickleball fencing.
- A few small donations have been made to ESBCA.
- The BID is planning a ribbon-cutting ceremony with City Officials, ESBA, local news outlets, and community partners.
- One outstanding question remains regarding responsibility for future electrical costs if the grant is awarded.

- Financial Reports – Tresa Schmautz
  - Finances are on track and as expected.
  - June's quarterly invoice has been paid by the City.
  - Ninety-three percent of ratepayers have paid their 2026 assessments.

- Neighborhood Beautification – Tresa Schmautz
  - A pre-emergent herbicide was applied last fall and appears to have been effective without damaging the plants.
  - The grant for Dignified Workday training will be submitted in the fall (according to Avista Foundation's grant cycle).
    - Provide job skills training.
    - Coordinate with the City for the 2027 Clean from the Core Program.
  - Concerns were expressed regarding blowing dust and the potential presence of asbestos at Tormino's properties. Several people will report it to code enforcement.

- District Branding and Marketing – Dana Reinke
  - Flags – Ripped flags need to be replaced.
    - Replacement flag poles are expected to arrive by the end of August.
  - Hanging plants – look for a different vendor for next year.
    - The plants don't seem to be as hardy.
    - Plant and flag replacement will happen at the same time using a lift donated by Pepe Machinery.

- Events – Dana Reinke
    - Summer on the Ave – August 22, 2026 – finalizing event activities, including a pirate treasure map, mermaids, a dunk tank, sidewalk sales, and roaming entertainment throughout the district.
      - Currently handing out advertising posters and cards
      - Seeking volunteers for the dunk tank – Dana will create a volunteer form.
      - The Girls Scouts have volunteered to coordinate the kids' activities.
    - The Longest Table – Dana will apply for the grant for $2,500 for 150 people for community event.
      - Set date is for September 12th or the Thursday before.
      - Table of eight will manage their own food.
- Clean & Green – Dana Reinke
  - There is nothing unusual going on currently.

- Safety and Security – Darryl Reber
  - All the viaducts have remained clear since our last meeting.

- Walking Tour – Tresa Schmautz
    - No report.

- BID Expansion – Chris Venne
    - Shayla volunteered to visit the properties owners to obtain signatures in support of the BID expansion.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.