

Spokane Neighborhoods Community Assembly
“Provide a vehicle to empower Neighborhood Councils’ participation in government.”



Meeting Agenda for Thursday, October 1, 2026
 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Shadle Park Library
 Proposed Agenda Subject to Change
 Please review previous month’s minutes:
 *Community Assembly Minutes: September 3, 2026



Administrative

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Permission to record meeting.	1 min (5:30)	Intro	-
2. Introductions (Facilitator)	2 min (5:31)	Intro	-
3. Proposed Agenda (Facilitator).....	2 min (5:33)	Approve	1
• Including Core Values, Purpose, Rules of Order			2
4. Approve/Amend Minutes (Facilitator).....	5 min (5:35)	Approve	5
5. Admin Committee Action Items (Luke Tolley).....	5 min (5:40)	Oral Report	

Updates/Announcements

6. Up to 3 min per sign-up	10 min (5:45)	Oral Reports	-
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Agenda Items

7. City Council Update (Betsy Wilkerson).....	10 min (5:55)	Oral Report	-
8. Planning Follow-Up (Tirrell Black).....	5 min (6:05)	Presentation	12
9. Year in Review (Heather Hamlin).....	10 min (6:10)	Presentation	-
10. Tribute to Cliff Winger (Luke Tolley).....	5 min (6:20)	Oral Report	-
11. Break.....	10 min (6:25)		
12. Traffic Calming Updates (Nicole White).....	10 min (6:35)	Presentation	-
13. Build Spokane (Tim Thompson).....	15 min (6:45)	Presentation	16
14. CHHS Updates (Arielle Anderson)	15 min (7:00)	Presentation	-
15. Committee Reports	45 min (7:15)		-
a. Admin (Luke Tolley).....	5 min	Oral Report	-
b. Budget (Laura Johnson)	5 min	Oral Report	-
c. BSN (Tina Luerssen)	5 min	Oral Report	32
d. Liaison (Paul Kropp).....	5 min	Oral Report	-
e. Land Use (Mary Winkes).....	15 min	Vote	59
f. Plan Commission Liaison (Linda Carroll)	5 min	Oral Report	-
g. Other.....	5 min	Oral Report	-
16. Actionable Items Review/Future Considerations (Luke Tolley).....	5 min (8:00)	Oral Report	-

Other Written Reports

Committee Reports, Agendas, Minutes, etc.

• Administrative Committee.....	91
• Budget Committee.....	96
• Building Stronger Neighborhoods Committee (BSN)	93
• Community Assembly/Community Development Committee (CA/CD)	did not meet/no report
• Land Use Committee.....	met/no report
• Liaison Committee.....	97
• Neighborhood Safety Committee.....	98
• Pedestrian, Traffic, and Transportation Committee (PeTT)	99

Liaisons and CA Representation on Outside Boards and Committees Reports (Liaison Committee)

• Community Housing and Human Services (CHHS) Liaison Report.....	
• Climate Resilience Sustainability Board Liaison Report.....	101
• Plan Commission Liaison Report.....	104
• Transportation Commission Liaison Report.....	
• Urban Forestry-Citizen Advisory Committee Liaison Report.....	

** IF YOU CAN’T MAKE THE MEETING, PLEASE SEND YOUR ALTERNATE! **

Community Assembly Core Values and Purpose

CORE PURPOSE:

Provide a vehicle to empower neighborhood councils' participation in government.

BHAG (Big Hairy Audacious Goal):

Become an equal partner in local government.

(This will be further expounded upon in the Vivid Description. What does this mean to you?)

CORE VALUES:

- **Common Good:** Working towards mutual solutions based on diverse and unique perspectives.
- **Alignment:** Bringing together the independent neighborhood councils to act collectively.
- **Initiative:** Being proactive in taking timely, practical action.
- **Balance of Power:** Being a transparent, representative body giving power to citizens' voices.

VIVID DESCRIPTION:

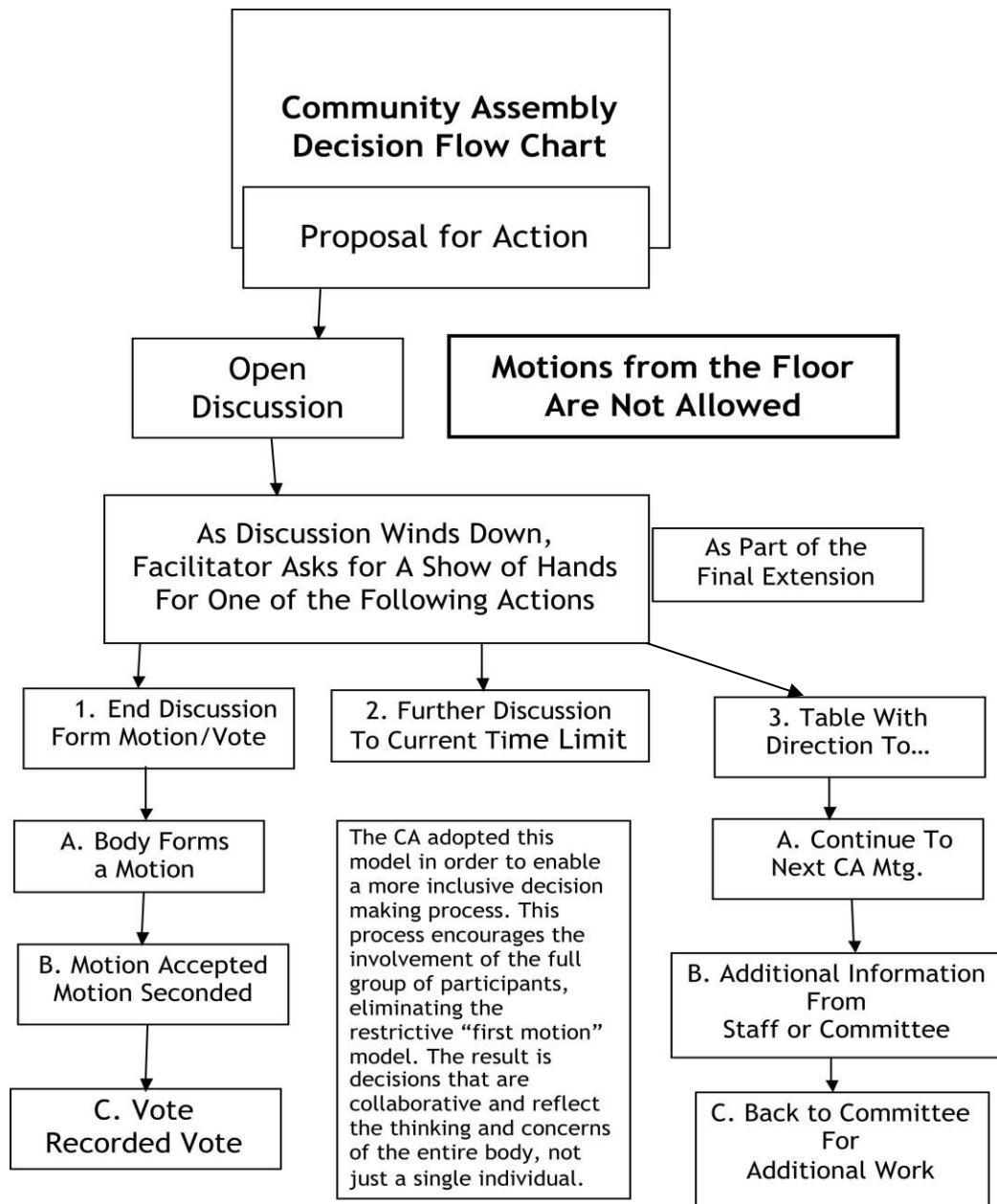
The Community Assembly fulfils its purpose, achieves its goals, and stays true to its core values by its members engaging each other and the community with honest communication and having transparent actions in all of its dealings. Community Assembly representatives are knowledgeable and committed to serving their neighborhood and their city as liaisons and leaders.

The Community Assembly initiates and is actively involved early and often in the conception, adoption and implementation of local policy changes and projects. The administration and elected officials bring ideas to the Community Assembly in the forming stages for vetting, input and participation. The Community Assembly is a valuable partner to these officials and neighborhoods in creating quality policy & legislation for the common good.

The Community Assembly stimulates participation in civic life among our residents. Citizens that run for political office will believe in the importance of partnering with the Community Assembly and neighborhood councils. Those candidates' active participation and history with neighborhoods contributes to their success, enhancing successful partnerships between the Community Assembly and local government.

Presentation and decision-making process:

1. To speak at a meeting, a person must be recognized by the facilitator. Only one person can be recognized at a time. Each speaker has two minutes. When all who wish to speak have been allowed their time, the rotation may begin again.
2. When a proposal for action is made, open discussion shall occur before a motion is formed by the group.
3. Presentation timetable protocol
 - a) When a presenter has one minute left in the time allotted, the facilitator shall raise a yellow card and give a verbal notice.
 - b) Should any representative wish to extend the time of the presentation or comment/question period, they may make a motion to extend the time by five (5) minutes.
 - c) An immediate call shall be made for a show of hands in support of the extension of time. With a simple majority (50% plus 1) concurring, the time shall be reset by the amount of time requested.
 - d) Extensions shall be limited to two (2) or until a request fails to show a simple majority approval.
 - e) When the allotted time has expired, a red card and verbal notice shall be given.
 - f) As part of a final time extension request, the facilitator shall request a show of hands by the representatives to indicate which of the following actions the group wants to take:
 - o End discussion and move into forming the motion and voting,
 - o Further discussion,
 - o Table discussion with direction,
 - o Request time to continue discussion at next CA meeting,
 - o Request additional information from staff or CA committee, or
 - o Send back to the appropriate CA committee for additional work.



Community Assembly Draft Minutes

Prepared by: Heather Hamlin, Office of Neighborhood Services

September 3, 2026, in-person at Shadle Park Library

Meeting called to order at 5:32 by Luke Tolley

ATTENDANCE:

AFFILIATION	CA REP/CA ALT REP	ADDITIONAL GUESTS
Audubon-Downriver	Fran Papenleur	
Balboa South Indian Trail	-----	
Bemiss	Luke Tolley	Jarrel Gooler
Browne's Addition	-----	
Chief Garry Park	Krista Anderson	Santiago Rodriguez-Anderson
Cliff/Cannon	Helena Taavao	
Comstock	Sandra Wicht	Elizabeth Goldsmith
East Central	Debby Ryan	
Emerson-Garfield	Linda Carroll	
Five Mile Prairie	-----	
Grandview-Thorpe	Tina Luerssen	
Hillyard	Laura Johnson	Jeff Braunschweig, Angel Troutt
Latah/Hangman	-----	
Lincoln Heights	Carol Tomsic	Shawn Terjeson
Logan	Barbara Ann Bonner	
Manito-Cannon Hill	Mary Winkes	
Minnehaha	Tyler "TK" Kern	Topher Kern
Nevada Heights	Hilary Michalowicz	
North Hill	Todd Simmons	
North Indian Trail	Dan Knechtel	Rhett Redshaw
Northwest	Gail Cropper	
Peaceful Valley	-----	
Riverside	Jennifer Stalwick	
Rockwood	Bill Doley	
Shiloh Hills	Jael Stebbins	
Southgate	Andy Hoyer	Paul Kropp
West Central	-----	
West Hills	-----	
Whitman	Charles Hansen	
City of Spokane		Heather Hamlin (ONS), Council President Wilkerson
Presenting Organizations		Nicole White (Transportation Dept), Chris Ayvert (Solid Waste Dept)

ADMINISTRATIVE:

1. **Approve Meeting Recording:** Debby moved; Dan seconded. Motion passes. 20-approve, 0-abstain, 0-deny.

2. Introductions

3. Approve Amended Agenda: Andy moved; Debby seconded. Motion passes. 21-approve, 0-abstain, 0-deny.

- Spencer with COS cannot make it tonight. Let's redistribute this time to the rest of the meeting.

4. Approve July Minutes: Andy moved; Debby seconded. Motion passes. 21-approve, 0-abstain, 0-deny.

- Correct spelling of Grandview Thorpe guest from last month. It should be David Raranan- it's an 'r' not a 'g'.

5. Admin Committee Action Items

UPDATES/ ANNOUNCEMENTS:

6. Updates/Announcements

- Paul- Community, Housing and Human Services Board (CHHS) and Urban Forestry Citizen Advisory Committee (UF-CAC) both have roles open for volunteers. CHHS is looking to fill a CA Liaison role and UF-CAC is looking to fill a CA membership role. Learn more about the roles and how to [apply here](#). The [September CA packet](#) includes minutes from the last CHHS and UF-CAC board meetings. This is a great peek into what the volunteers are a part of.
 - Andy- If you care about federal funds and how they are spent, CHHS is the board you want to be a part of.
- Santiago- The Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board received an introductory workshop on data-center growth and related municipal regulatory considerations. The presentation followed the City of Spokane's adoption of a one year data-center permitting moratorium in July 2026. As part of the moratorium, City Council assigned policy and regulatory review to both CRSB and the Planning Commission. There are additional CSB workshops (open to the public) expected during Fall 2026 with potential recommendation to City Council/Mayor in early 2027. Additional workshop topics considered: water and wastewater considerations, legal and regulatory landscape, types of data centers, impacts to rate payers, and tracking data center bills in legislature.
 - CRSB Agendas are typically released [online](#) the first week of the month. Meetings will always be on the second Thursday of the month at 2pm in the city council briefing chambers and over MS Teams (links in the agendas linked above).
 - If you have comments to submit, please reach out to CA Liaison, Santiago, at <mailto:srodriguezanderson@spokanecity.org>.
- Sean- Recent fiber utility work in the Lincoln Heights neighborhood left drills sitting in his yard leaking hydraulic fluid. If there is a concern with a group in your neighborhood and something isn't to code, contact the City Development Services Center and ask them to send a Public Inspector to the site.
- Fran- Spokane Parks Foundation [grant application](#) runs 9/15-11/20/26. The application has been simplified this cycle but all projects must now be approved by Garret Jones, Director of Parks and Rec. Maximum grant award is \$6k and funds must be used in a 12-month period. If you meet all the eligibility criteria and would like to submit a grant application, please email yvonne@spokaneparksfoundation.org to request an application.
- Tina- The next Building Stronger Neighborhoods (BSN) meeting will be at Gonzaga's Hemmingson Center on 9/19. No online option for the meeting will be available in September. Reminder that the Spokane Neighborhood Summit is scheduled for Saturday, 11/7 from 9:00am-3:30pm at Gonzaga's Hemmingson Center. The full event schedule is available [online](#). Registration for this free event opens 9/9/26 [here](#).

AGENDA ITEMS:

7. City Council Update (CP Wilkerson)

- There have been recent changes to City Council office. Giacobbe has transitioned to City Clerk. Abbey Martin has resigned, Initiative Managers Alex Gibilisco. and Nicolette Ocheltree. were laid off due to budget constraints.
 - Spokane Complex wildfire occurred one month ago. [List of resources](#) available for those affected by fires. Did you know that Spokane Public Schools are bussing affected youth to their old schools regardless of where they are living right now.
- Questions
 - Bill- With Abbey gone, who should we contact? Nicole White and Jon Snyder in the Transportation Department. (nwhite@spokanecity.org or jsnyder@spokanecity.org)
 - Dan Knechtel- There is still fire retardant on sidewalks and streets, will City take care of this?
 - Chris Averyt (Solid Waste Director)- This might require mechanical scrubbing as it can stain. Street sweepers are out and residents are encouraged to remove as well. [This website](#) shares how to clean up the fire retardant on your property.
 - Mary Winkes- are there PFAS in the fire retardant?
 - Chris Averyt (Solid Waste Director)- No, this is different than the foams in the West Plains with PFAS contamination.
 - Angel Troutt- Is there still extra garbage pickup?
 - Chris Averyt (Solid Waste Director)- No, that ended last week.
 - Fran- There have been letters to the Spokesman editor about how great the COS Water Department was during the fires. Thanks to that department!
 - Andy- The evacuations were scary, dangerous and successful. Everyone deserved kudos on that!

8. PlanSpokane 2046 (Spencer Gardner)

- Unable to attend.

9. Break- moved to later in meeting

10. Emergency Streets (Nicole White)

- What is the intent of the program?
 - Emergency Streets is a framework that treats fatal crashes as a public health emergency shifting the focus from treating vehicle crashes as unpredictable "accidents" to addressing them as predictable, preventable systemic health crises. This pilot program is set to end in June 2027.
- Why is this needed?
 - Traffic violence is one of our top priorities in Spokane. There have been more than 100 traffic fatalities since 2021. In 2025, we lost 22 members of our community. 12 were pedestrians and the rest were operating motorcycles. The trends for motor vehicle drivers show that they are safer each year due to larger vehicles, new technology, etc. The trends for pedestrians are negative.
- What can I expect to see?
 - Within 48-72 hours after a fatal crash, the City will install two-week deployments of temporary traffic-calming measures (cones, signs, paint on street) paired with community education/outreach to immediately reduce vehicle speeds in the vicinity of the crash and educate the public about the impact of the crash.
- Where did the funding come from and who can I contact with questions?

- This program is supported with funding from Spokane Regional Health District, WTSC, SJATSC and in-kind support from University of Colorado Boulder. Please reach out to Nicole White with the Transportation & Sustainability Division at nwhite@spokanecity.org.
- Questions
 - CP Wilkerson- We've seen people put bicycles where someone died. Will this still happen?
 - Nicole- We haven't had a bike fatality in the last few years so there hasn't been any new ghost bikes. The City has no plans to add any ghost bikes but if anyone else does, that is okay.
- Move to extend discussion by 5 minutes, first extension. Barbara Ann motioned; Debby seconded. Motion passes: 23- approve, 0- deny, 0- abstain.
 - Fran- Lots of accidents on North Division. It will be years before STA has their TOD. Are we just working around it?
 - Nicole- We would want proof of concept before we roll that out to a street like Division. Division is a state-owned street and some parts of Francis Ave are too.
- Move to extend discussion by 5 minutes, second extension. Barbara Ann motioned; Andy seconded. Motion passes: 23- approve, 0- deny, 0- abstain.
 - Linda- I live within a known street racing square. I understand that Division is off the table but what about Ash, Boone, or some of the other cross streets?
 - Nicole- yes, those would be candidates for Emergency Streets protocol.
 - Krista- How long does the paint on the road last?
 - Nicole White- UC Boulder class worked on the graphics and tested out paint types on roadway to see how long paints lasted. We don't want it to last too long!

BREAK (10 minutes) moved from #9 in agenda

11. Waste to Energy (Chris Averyt)

- The Climate Commitment Act was adopted in 2021. WTE plant placed into second compliance period for 2027, landfills in third compliance period. Successful legislation passed in 2026!
- The City must purchase an allowance for 2028 based on 2027 emissions. The markets are volatile and based on who's bidding. The prices are fluid. The cost to the City of Spokane will be \$6.5-\$7.1 million dollars per year.
- Legislation from HB 2416
 - Requires WTE facility to submit two plans to Ecology and Commerce by 2030: greenhouse gas emissions reduction and waste reduction and material recovery
- Provides no cost allowances for 2027-2030
 - 100% for 2027 and 2028, 93% for 2029, and 86% for 2030
- 2027 & 2028- You give up 40% of your allowances needed for compliance. Must now go into the market to purchase the same amount. 40% funded by City at the cost of \$2.5-\$2.8 million. Proceeds to fund statewide GHG emissions projects.
- 2029 & 2030- City now has to purchase 47% at an estimated cost of \$3.3-\$3.8 million dollars.
- Current rate proposal for 2027 to fund CCA Auction Allowances:
 - \$2.75/month for residential solid waste customers- pass through to state
 - \$9.00/month charge added to account
- Summary and additional info on [WTE Facility](#)
 - Legislation provides \$3.4-\$4.2million/year avoided cost for our ratepayers

- Majority of money paid into the program provides for direct investments into Waste to Energy GHG reductions rather than a statewide account.
- Work to begin on materials recovery and GHG emissions reduction plan.
- Significant challenges remain: rate impacts, capital funding sources, 2031 cliff when program ends.
- Questions
 - Andy- Don't we get money for the funds we produce?
 - Roughly \$4m/year from the sale of electricity but plant has an operating expense of \$40m/year
 - Jael- what does the proposed rate translate to for multi-family units?
 - Chris Averyt- if only one address, it would be \$9/month regardless of multiple dumpsters.
 - Stu- Can you close the WTE plant?
 - Chris Averyt- yes, that is an option if it no longer makes sense financially. We've explored the cost of building a transfer station but it would be a \$30m + investment. WTE has a local impact of \$75m/year back to the community and employs 75 people while supporting trades.
 - Krista- Can we recycle our way out of this?
 - Chris Averyt- The more you pull out of waste stream the better. But it will take more than recycling.
 - Dan- North Indian Trail landfill burned in recent wildfire, can you share more?
 - Chris Averyt- Gas capture system underground was intact. All good. It will look ugly until vegetation grows back
 - CP Wilkerson- Has anyone been to Waste Treatment plant? I went on a tour in Klickitat County and Spokane's method is the cleanest way to dispose of trash without shifting burden to another community.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS:

12.a. CA Admin (Luke Tolley)

- Admin formally apologized for staying on the Admin Zoom longer than expected which prevented CA PeTT from holding their August meeting (zoom license is shared among CA and CA committees).
- Thank you for understanding that we cancelled the CA meeting in August due to wildfires that week.
- If you want to submit anything for CA packet get it to ONS by Monday at noon during the week of CA meeting (this deadline was previously Tuesday at noon).
- CA Template is available for all. Committees are encouraged to use template to make different parts of the CA packet more easily identifiable.
- City Council has paused the Neighborhood Workgroup for the foreseeable future.
- Instead of creating a new MOU between CA and ONS we have decided to draft roles and responsibilities instead. Will bring to CA when ready for review. If you have items to add, please send those to Heather Hamlin or Luke Tolley.
- Elections for Admin will be held this Fall. We'll bring a list of eligible participants to October meeting. In November, we'll vote on the slate of officers. Nominations committee will include: Luke, Debby, Tina, Barbara Ann and Jael.
 - Tina- If you've been to at least six meetings in the past two years and are currently serving as a Rep or Alt Rep, you are eligible to be an Officer. When you get an email

from the nominations committee please reply and let them know if you are interested in running for an office or not.

12.b. Neighborhood Safety (Elizabeth Goldsmith)

- City Council's Public Safety briefing on September 1st can be viewed [here](#):
 - Chief Hall begins at 37:30
 - Mike Forbes, Administrative Battalion Chief for SFD begins at 56:55
- SPD Chief Hall has been asked to be a speaker at the CA Meeting in November.
 - If there are topics you are interested in for the November SPD presentation email them to goldsmithteam@msn.com
- Questions
 - Carol- At the most recent D2 Town Hall, Chief Hall mentioned that we have trouble with arsonists. Can you ask him to speak about this at CA?

12.c. Liaison (Paul Kropp)

- There are [two vacancies](#) as discussed earlier. CHHS Board and second position on Urban Forestry Citizen Advisory Committee. It's the NC representation here at CA that can bring these vacancies back to your NC to help fill. They are open until filled. Please prioritize this Fall. Sara Bauer has served as the CA Liaison to the CHHS Board and recently submitted her resignation. The Liaison Committee would like to acknowledge her service.
- Motion to approve acknowledgement of Sara's volunteer service on this committee as written by Todd. Second by Andy. Motion passes: 23-approve, 0-deny, 0-abstain.
 - Let it be known in the meeting minutes that *"The Community Assembly hereby acknowledges Sara Bauer's resignation from the Community Housing and Human Services Board (CHHS) as member and Community Assembly liaison, and wishes to express gratitude and thanks for her service to the community and the neighborhoods."*
- Mary- Do the positions start in January?
 - Paul- They start when filled. Anyone can apply starting now.

12.d. Land Use (Mary Winkes)-

- A. Mary shared a letter drafted by Land Use based on feedback from a resident in East Central who (and others) who have shared their concerns about developments going up in areas without regard to neighbors. The Land Use letter was slated for the August CA meeting that was cancelled. A request was not made to include it in the Sept CA packet.
- Motion to email this letter out to all CA members by Dan and review at October CA meeting. Second by Andy. Motion passes: 22-approve, 0-deny, 0-abstain. Heather, as CA Liaison, will forward to all with CA minutes.
 - Move to extend discussion by 5 minutes, first extension. Dan motioned; Andy seconded. Motion passes: 22- approve, 0- deny, 0- abstain.
- B. Mary shared letter on general observations and concerns regarding the current draft of Chapter 3: Growth Strategy. This Land Use letter was slated for the August CA meeting that was cancelled. A request was not made to include it in the Sept CA packet.
- Tina- Is this different than the letters you asked CA to approve and forward a few months ago?
 - Mary- Yes.
 - Stu- Motioned to send letter to City.
 - Todd- This includes some of the same information as Linda's letter.
 - Stu withdrew his motion from the floor.

- Motion to email this letter out to all CA members by Stu and review at October CA meeting. Second by Bill. Motion passes: 13-approve, 5-deny, 2-abstain. Heather, as CA Liaison, will forward letter to all with CA minutes.
- C. Mary shared resolution in CA packet regarding the recent fires and the impact to the deadline and activities surrounding the Comp Plan. Request to pause deadline and reevaluate for a minimum of six months.
- Motion to forward this resolution as written to the City by Luke. Second by Bill. Motion passes: 14-approve, 4-deny, 2-abstain. Luke, as CA Admin Chair, will forward resolution to City.

12.e.Plan Commission (Linda Carroll)- Go back to your NCs and look at the Future Land Use Map (FLUM). Go to the City's [site](#) for additional information. The deadline for comments has been set for October 2nd at 5:00pm. Email comments to planspokane@spokanecity.org or drop a Plan Spokane postcard in the mail ASAP.

12.e.Other

- CA/CD (Andy Hoyer)- CDBG funding updates: Friendship Park is done, the Liberty Park roof replacement is done, Harmon Park upgrades in progress, Whittier park community outreach in progress.
- Budget (Laura Johnson)- If you use the Resource Closet, please remember to lock it. Email/text a photo of the locked until to Gabby with ONS to show that these items are getting used often. If you have photos from event where inventory closet items have been used, please email them to [Laura Johnson](#) or Heather Hamlin.

13. Actionable Items Review/ Future Considerations (Luke Tolley & Heather Hamlin)

- Luke will:
 - Forward Linda's letter on behalf of Land Use to City of Spokane (impact to the deadline and activities surrounding the Comp Plan).
- Admin will:
 - Reach out to CA members determining eligibility for CA Admin Officer elections this Fall.
- Heather will:
 - Fix nametag from TK Kerns to Tyler "TK" Kern
 - Distribute with the Sept CA minutes: Land Use letters (qty 2) and the Emergency Streets Protocol presentation.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm. Next meeting will be held Thursday, October 1.

Plan Spokane 2046

Community Assembly
October 1, 2026

PLANSPOKANE.ORG

Tirrell Black



PLAN**SPOKANE**

Resilient | Connected | Livable | 2046 146

Public Comment Period

- **August 7 through October 2, 2026, at 5 p.m.**
 - *56 days of advertised public comment*
- Comment period for draft Comprehensive Plan Chapters and Future Land Use Map
 - Comments are accepted throughout the periodic update, but comments received during this timeline will help inform the Plan Commission hearing materials

How to Submit Comments:

- Via email to PlanSpokane@spokanecity.org
- Submit comments on the Future Land Use Map on the FLUM StoryMap
- or
- Pick up pre-addressed postcards can be picked up on the 3rd Floor of City Hall



What's Next?

- **Plan Commission Public Hearing**
 - Tentatively scheduled for November 2, may continue Nov 9
- **City Council Public Hearing** –
date TBD

Public hearings will consider the draft Comprehensive Plan, including the Future Land Use Plan and other related maps and appendices, and the Final Environmental Impact Statement



City of Spokane – Stay Informed



PlanSpokane.org

EngagementHQ webpage



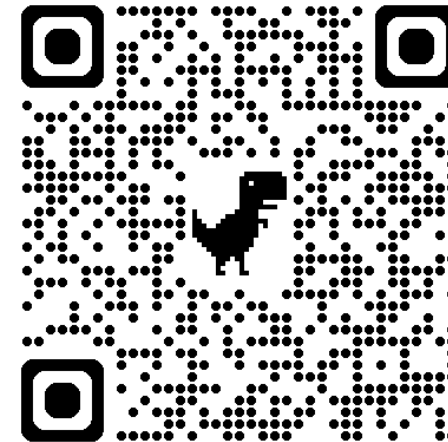
PlanSpokane monthly newsletter



PlanSpokane@spokanecity.org



Be on the look out for future ways to be engaged



PlanSpokane.org



SPOKANE DEVELOPMENT CODE (SMC TITLE 17) MODERNIZATION PROJECT

CLARION

Kimley»Horn

What is a Development Code?



A development code is a set of local regulations that govern how land is used and how development occurs, including what can be built and where, to certain design standards, and how projects are reviewed and approved. It implements the vision established in the comprehensive plan while operating within the framework of state and federal law, ensuring local regulations are consistent with required mandates and aligned with broader legal requirements.

BUILDSpokane Code Modernization



Goals of BUILDSpokane:

Modernize the City's regulatory framework

Align the development regulations with current policy objectives

Streamline and support development and redevelopment

Promote affordability, equity, and sustainability

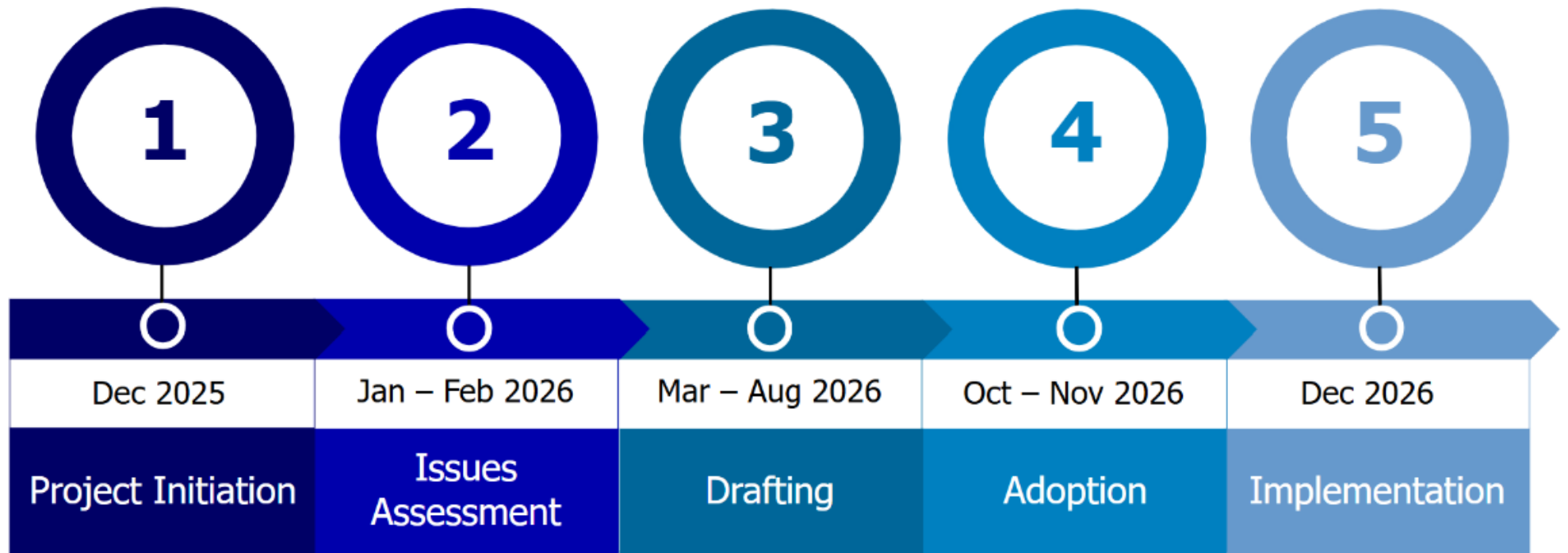
Improve transparency and efficiency in development reviews



Available Materials:

- ☒ Public Participation Plan
- ☒ Spokane Development Code Assessment

Project Calendar



Development Code Modernization: Drafting Approach & Sequence



ADMINISTRATION & PROCEDURES



Update review procedures with focus on efficiency, predictability of process

ZONING DISTRICTS & USES



Align with Plan Spokane 2046 Comprehensive Plan

DEVELOPMENT & DESIGN STANDARDS



Establish clear, practical, context-sensitive standards

PUBLIC FEEDBACK



Engage community to identify concerns and improvements



SDC Baseline Assessment Recommendations:

Create a More User-Friendly Code

- Adopt New On-Line Platform for Easier Access to the SDC
- Reorganize Land Development Regulations
- Standardize and Simplify the Numbering Hierarchy
- Ensure LDC Updates and Revisions are Drafted Using Plain Language
- Improve Graphic and Photo Illustrations



SDC Baseline Assessment Recommendations:

Refine Development Standards

- Ensure Applicable Standards Are Proportional to Complexity of Infill and Redevelopment Requests
- Add Detail to Landscaping and Expand Tree Preservation Incentives
- Carry Forward Signs Standards Subject to Minor Revision as Needed
- Draft Citywide Outdoor Lighting Standards



SDC Baseline Assessment Recommendations:

Fine-Tune the City's Zoning Districts and Allowed Uses

- Align Zoning Districts with Land Use Designations
- Create, Rename, or Delete Districts
- Adjust Centers & Corridors Concept to Enhance Implementation and Outcomes
- Create Mixed-Use districts
- Emphasize Revitalization in Downtown Districts
- Relocate and Update Existing Planned Unit Development Regulations



SDC Baseline Assessment Recommendations:

Consolidate and Adjust Land Use Allowances

- Reorganize into a Single, Central Land Use Table
- Retain Land Use Category Approach, with Refinement & Reorganization
- Define Land Uses
- Create Use Specific Standards Section; Update Existing Use Standards
- Review & Update What Uses Are Permitted and Where



SDC Baseline Assessment Recommendations:

Establish Clear and Predictable Development Review Procedures

- Establish Common Review Procedures
- Create Complete and Consistent Specific Review Procedures
- Create a New Site Development/Land Use Permit Process
- Pursue Opportunities for Streamlining Development Review
- Applicability of LDC Rules for Nonconformities
- Incorporate More Opportunities for Design Flexibility



Public Engagement Process

Public Engagement Process



- **Stakeholder Interviews:** Staff from planning and other departments, developers, designers
- **Technical Advisory Committee:** Regular code users including staff from planning and other departments
- **Steering Committee:** Trusted representatives who routinely interact with the land development code
- **Public Engagement:** Updates on project progress and targeted engagement activities to solicit feedback
- **Community Assembly:** Updates on project progress and feedback

What We've Heard So Far



- **Stakeholder Interviews:** Staff from planning and other departments, developers, designers

Predictability, Consistency, & Certainty

Right-Sized Regulation & Review

Modern, User-Friendly Regulations

Reducing Barriers to Development & Investment

Coordinated & Accountable Service Delivery

Future Public Engagement



- **Public Engagement:** Updates on project progress and targeted engagement activities to solicit feedback

Community Survey

- **Open until Sunday, Nov. 15, 2026.**
- Questions to help inform the development of Module 2 and Module 3

Public Workshop

- Tentatively scheduled for **late fall**
- Interactive stations to gather feedback on draft Modules



Next Steps



- ☐ Module 1: Administration & Procedures *ongoing*
- ☐ Module 2: Zoning Districts & Uses *Fall*
- ☐ Module 3: Development Standards *winter*

Thank you!



DevelopmentCode@spokanecity.org



Engage Spokane Webpage

<https://engage.spokane.gov/build-spokane>



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Community Assembly

Representative Handbook

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Community Assembly Handbook

Introduction

In 2015, a small group dedicated itself to actively strengthening the relationship between the Community Assembly (CA) and the Neighborhood Councils (NC). To do so, they conducted a survey and created a training from which this handbook was developed. Since then, this handbook has been periodically reviewed and updated as needed.

Nothing is static in life and Spokane neighborhoods are no exception. There are many new faces around the table, and that's exciting. It also means that there is little shared history, so a deep understanding of the richness and potential of the unique Neighborhood System that Spokane embedded into its charter may not be well understood.

This handbook is a resource for each Neighborhood Council and for each new CA Representative. We all need to work together to create a Spokane that we will be proud to hand to our children.

A Brief History of the Community Assembly and Neighborhood Councils

The Community Assembly (CA) and the Neighborhood Councils (NC) grew out of two committees that did their work in the early 1990s. In 1993, *Vision Spokane* was formed with the charge to look at Spokane and make recommendations for actions that would assist the City of Spokane moving into the 21st century. One of the proposed actions was to form a "Citizen Council" to participate in policy discussions and decisions.

In 1994, Mayor Jack Geraghty established a second citizens group which was directed to develop a system that would provide neighborhoods with an avenue to communicate with the city government and have the ability to affect city actions related to neighborhoods. This group developed the organizational structure and the initial policies for the CA and the NCs. At this time, the only recognized neighborhoods were the eight Community Development (CD) neighborhoods that were based on income criteria established by the federal government, Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). This program was administered at the neighborhood level by Neighborhood Steering Committees. These committees made recommendations to allocate funds for sidewalks, home rehabilitation, and capital projects.

The original CD neighborhoods were: East Central, West Central, Logan, Nevada/Lidgerwood (composed of current Nevada Heights and Shiloh Hills Neighborhoods), Emerson-Garfield, Hillyard (composed of the current Bemiss, Hillyard, and Whitman neighborhoods), North Hill and Cliff-Cannon.

In 1995, Mayor Geraghty established the Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS). Geraghty was strongly supported by City Councilmembers Phyllis Holmes and Beverly Numbers. Molly Myers was the first director of the new department. Rod Minarik was hired in 1996 as the Public Information Officer; he retired in 2018.

As the development of full policies and procedures for the CA was left to the members' discretion, a few neighborhood leaders and ONS staff began planning meetings. These meetings continued for several months as the Community Assembly

(CA). Over time, new neighborhoods joined the CA, and the meetings eventually moved into the ONS office at City Hall.

Over the next few years, a full Policies and Procedures document was created, and the number of official neighborhood organizations grew. All of the original Community Development neighborhoods became recognized as Neighborhood Councils and sent representatives to the CA.

In 2000, some of the CA members became concerned that the Neighborhood Council program was subject to the discretion of the mayor. This concern gave rise to an effort to establish the NC program in the City Charter. A ballot measure was drafted and placed before the City Council. The Council placed the measure on the ballot, and it passed overwhelmingly.

[Section 71](#) was placed into the Spokane City Charter and became effective in November 2000. The full language pertaining to the NCs is contained in Sections 71-76 of the Charter. This language provides for the creation, organization, establishment, duties and responsibilities and purpose of the Neighborhood Councils (NCs). A great amount of civic power and responsibility is granted to the NCs, an arrangement that became a model for many cities in the United States. Below is the text of Section 75 of the City Charter pertaining to the Community Assembly:

“Section 75. Neighborhood Councils Program – Community Assembly – Purpose

The Community Assembly is a coalition of independent neighborhood councils and serves as a forum for discussion of issues of broad interest. Each neighborhood council selects one representative and a designated alternate to serve on the Community Assembly. Representatives are expected to represent the interests of their respective neighborhood councils. The Community Assembly meets with the City Council's Neighborhood Committee and the City's Office of Neighborhood Services periodically to discuss community-wide issues. The responsibilities of the Community Assembly include to:

- A. *review and recommend an action, policy, or plan to the City Council Neighborhood Committee, the City Council, the mayor, the City, and any City agency, commission, or board on any matter affecting the City;*
- B. *support and promote citizen participation and neighborhood enhancement;*

- C. *promote and facilitate open communication between the City and neighborhood councils and provide the primary means of communication between individual neighborhood councils;*
- D. *support and assist, as requested, individual neighborhood councils in becoming recognized and in performing their functions and responsibilities; and*
- E. *serve as an information resource to neighborhood councils.*

Effective Date: November, 2000
ORD C32687 Section 5"

Starting in 2000, the CA continued to grow and went through several phases that characterize newly formed, growing organizations. There were some changes made to the original Policies and Procedures (P&P), so a committee charged with updating the P&P spent several months of regular meetings to craft a document, most of which is still in effect today.

In 2006, the CA voted to move away from the consensus based decision making model it had been founded on in favor of a majority rules decision making model.

In 2014, the CA adopted our current decision making process. *(See graphic on page 14.)* This process was created to ensure that everyone has a voice and to eliminate grandstanding and agendas that did not serve the whole city. It was one key element in erasing territorial thinking that occurred in the early years of the CA.

Over the years, the CA has been involved in many issues of importance to neighborhoods and the city as a whole. Examples of CA committee work include: neighborhood planning, traffic safety (e.g., Traffic Calming Program, red-light cameras), graffiti, outdoor storage of materials and/or vehicles on residential property, land use, changes in the allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, and many more. The CA has grown into a more mature organization, taking on important issues, informing neighborhoods, and striving to become increasingly relevant and active in creating a city that reflects the concerns of citizens and neighborhoods.

The Community Engagement (CE) Grant Program, adopted by City Council in 2016, has expanded the ability of the neighborhood councils to be more proactive in their by fostering engagement programs such as concerts, block parties, and other special events. These funds have also allowed the NCs to advertise and market through

welcome bags, banners, flags, brochures, and many other means. Through the CE Grant, the CA has established an “inventory closet” full of items that NCs can check out for free to support their events.

The CA/CC relationship was additionally strengthened through a Workgroup established by Council President Breann Beggs in 2022, and the intentional connection and increased collaboration from Council President Betsy Wilkerson since 2024.

Promotion and development of NCs has been supported by the Spokane Neighborhood Leadership Academy (SNLA) in partnership with ONS and Gonzaga University School of Leadership Studies beginning in 2022, as a program designed to equip new and emerging neighborhood council leaders with knowledge, skills, and resources to increase engagement and effectively address their priorities.

In 2023, the first annual Spokane Neighborhood Summit was held for Spokane neighbors to gather around community-identified priorities, learn together, and share best practices in their neighborhood councils. Local leaders present topics relative to the needs of Spokane neighborhoods. The Summit is a free, annual event open to any current or aspiring member of a Spokane Neighborhood Council.

The CA Building Stronger Neighborhoods (BSN) Committee holds an annual Spring Learning Series as a continuation of the SNS, providing additional free training in easy 1-hour sessions. This committee also coordinates the annual Good Neighbor Awards and Celebration, helping the CA and NCs to recognize residents who are contributing in a positive way to their neighborhood.

Community Assembly Core Values and Purpose

At the 2013 annual retreat, the CA redefined itself by clarifying our overall purpose, our **Big, Hairy, Audacious, Goal (BHAG)**, and our core values. These vital and directing words were crafted over several months and were approved by unanimous votes of the CA. This appears in every packet distributed prior to CA meetings.

CORE PURPOSE:

Provide a vehicle to empower neighborhood councils' participation in government.

BHAG:

Become an equal partner in local government.

(This will be further expounded upon in the Vivid Description below.)

CORE VALUES:

Common Good: Working towards mutual solutions based on diverse and unique perspectives.

Alignment: Bringing together the independent neighborhood councils to act collectively.

Initiative: Being proactive in taking timely, practical action.

Balance of Power: Being a transparent, representative body giving power to citizens' voices.

VIVID DESCRIPTION:

The Community Assembly fulfills its purpose, achieves its goals, and stays true to its core values by engaging each other and the community with honest communication and having transparent actions in all of its dealings. Community Assembly representatives are knowledgeable and committed to serving their neighborhood and their city as liaisons and leaders.

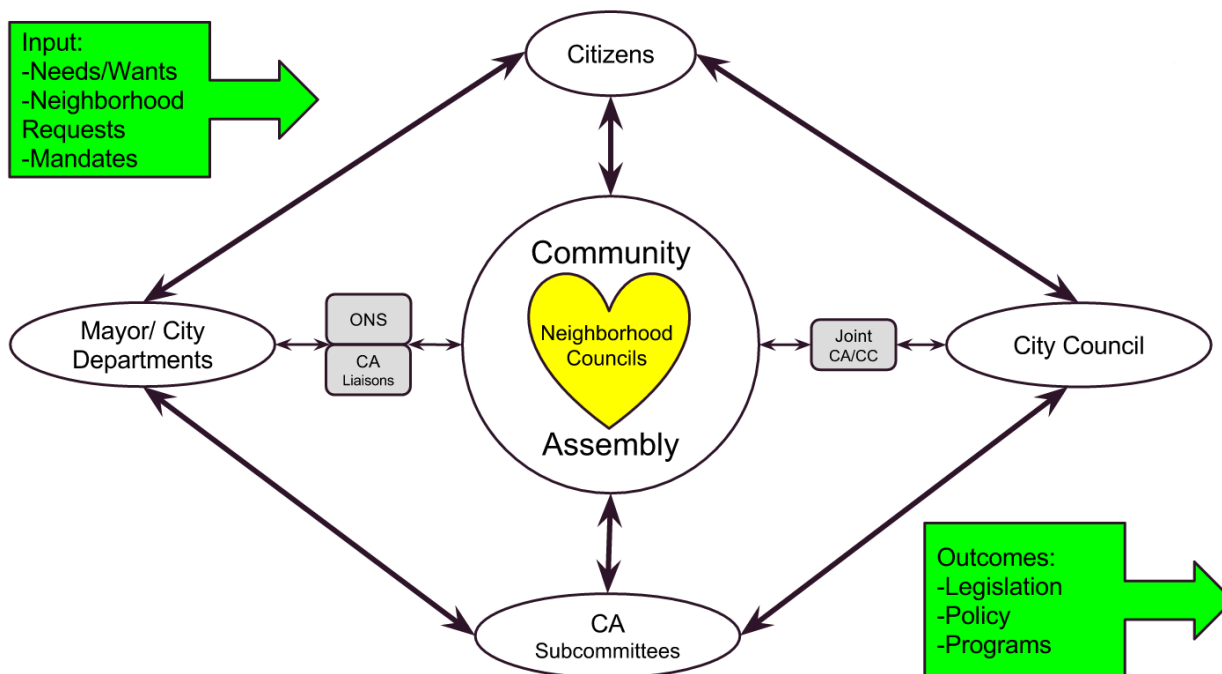
The Community Assembly initiates and is actively involved early and often in the conception, adoption and implementation of local policy changes and projects. The administration and elected officials bring ideas to the Community Assembly in the

forming stages for vetting, input and participation. The Community Assembly is a valuable partner to these officials and neighborhoods in creating quality policy and legislation for the common good.

How Do We Fit Into City Government?

Interconnected

The Community Assembly, composed of all the neighborhoods in the City of Spokane, has a dual role in city government. While the Neighborhood Councils are the heart and soul of the Community Assembly, it's important to understand the CA is its own entity. As such, the CA both gives input to the City and takes information from them and disseminates it to the neighborhoods and citizenry. The following graphic illustrates the interconnected nature of the relationship:



As you can see, the system takes input from the outer ovals and produces an outcome. The citizens of Spokane, of course, inform all the actions of the City Administration, Community Assembly and City Council. All three have information to share with or input to seek from the citizens. All areas are interconnected, with Neighborhood Councils at the heart. The Neighborhood Councils comprise the CA. The CA has committees, joint meetings with the City Council, liaisons to boards and commissions, and works with the Office of Neighborhood Services and other city departments to accomplish those outcomes.

Input and Outcomes

Inputs take many forms. The primary focus is on the wants and needs of the city, however that can take many forms and be very subjective. Any of the three entities (City Administration, Community Assembly and City Council) can take direct neighborhood requests. When those requests are directed through the CA, however, they carry more weight. Generally, if one neighborhood has an issue, other neighborhoods can relate and support the request from a single neighborhood, thus communicating to the city, with the backing of all the neighborhoods of the City of Spokane.

The system can work in reverse as well. A mandate from the City (Administration, Council, or even an outside entity such as the state or federal government) can come through the Community Assembly to the neighborhoods, to engage citizens in the process of government.

The Community Assembly is **most** effective in their role as a partner in local government when they are involved in the early stages of an idea or concept, challenge, project, plan, etc. However, the CA is not a “rubber stamp.” The system is **least** effective when an outcome is presented to the CA for rubber stamping or ratification. There are multiple stakeholders that need to be involved for that to work. The CA is proactive and solution-oriented and, as such, excels by a process of public participation, committee work, and neighborhood council involvement. These entities vet and develop ideas and projects in ways that small groups of elected officials or city administration may not have the accurate perspective to achieve.

The CA process results in recommendations on legislation, policy and/or programs to elected officials and administrators, as an advisory body. Policies and programs are very subject-specific and are worked through the CA committees before being presented as a recommendation or Resolution for the CA to adopt and then forward on to the City. The Community Assembly can also work within the City's legislative process to produce outcomes. The City Council often works with CA or a CA committee to define, refine and vet ideas and ordinances. We also work with City departments such as Streets, Planning, Engineering, etc. to accomplish ordinance and policy changes, as well as specific projects in the various neighborhoods.

There are challenges. There can be language and jargon that is difficult for neighborhood volunteers to understand. City Legal may become involved to vet the legality of any outcomes. ONS and the City Council office can be resources to help in this area. The CA may draft resolutions, memorandums of understanding (MOU), and ordinances from committees, from the floor of CA meetings, or directly from Neighborhood Councils or other community organizations, and may require a decision during a meeting. Based on individual neighborhood council by-laws, some representatives are not empowered to participate in all votes, somewhat diluting full representation.

How the Community Assembly Works

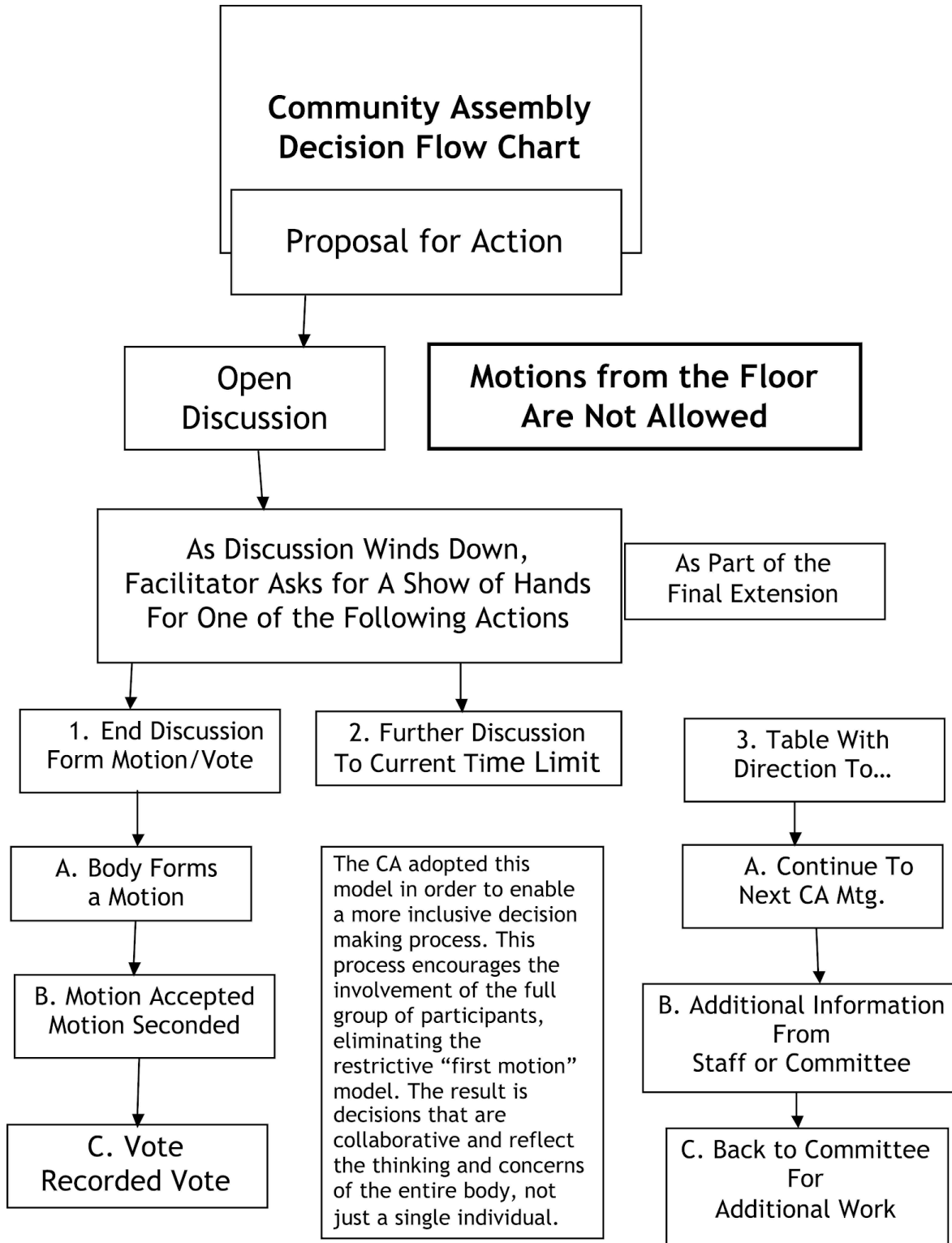
The CA is a proven model of grass-roots, participatory democracy. The representatives of CA are selected by their neighborhood councils per their own bylaws. The CA functions **collaboratively**, not through centralized authority. It does this by distributing decision-making and leadership. CA committees bring recommendations to the CA, but the CA as a body ratifies and finalizes those recommendations.

The CA Administrative (Admin) Committee sets the agenda and the Chair can officially sign for the organization, but major decisions are made by the entire CA membership in attendance at meetings. The Admin Committee is also the body to receive any concerns or grievances.

To get on the CA meeting agenda, a request to the Admin Committee needs to be submitted with the suggested amount of time needed for the topic. The Admin Committee will decide if and when it will be placed on the agenda. They may also adjust the time, depending on priorities and available agenda time.

Decision-Making

The CA strives to make every voice heard. For this reason, we do not use Robert's Rules of Order or support 'motion making' as methods of making decisions. It is our practice to encourage discussion on all sides of every issue; after discussion, we craft language to form a motion which accurately states the will of the group. The discussion comes first so that all ideas and concerns can be aired. This process often changes what needs to be voted upon, and the group has a better sense of their areas of agreement even before a vote is taken. The vote solidifies and clarifies the decision that has already been reached. If there is no apparent agreement, then the issue is sent back to committee for more research and input is requested before a vote is taken. These practices are codified in the following graphic.



The CA strives to not vote on a matter of relevance to the neighborhoods until the representatives have taken the committee recommendation back to their neighborhoods for NC input. The neighborhood vote is brought back to the CA by the neighborhood representative, and voted as part of the CA decision. This improves NC involvement, as some representatives cannot vote until they have received approval from their NC.

If a decision cannot be reached during a CA meeting, then a discussion to address the various concerns is held and a new vote taken. If the vote is time sensitive, then the representatives will vote during the meeting and are expected to report that vote back to their NC. If there is no time constraint or if the decision is so important that neighborhood participation is essential, then the representatives return to their neighborhoods to receive input on the revised proposal, and a new vote will be taken at a future CA meeting.

This process also requires that all parties (neighborhoods, standing committees, ONS, City Council) plan ahead to include this timeframe so that decisions can be made within the process. There are times when this kind of planning is not possible. That means that the representatives are most effective when empowered by their neighborhoods to act on their behalf, with the stipulation that any vote or decision made under these conditions is reported back to the neighborhood.

Neighborhood Council By-Laws and the CA Process

The neighborhood councils are encouraged to write their own bylaws and self-determine their internal structure and the relationship and responsibilities of their representative to both the CA and the Neighborhood Council. ONS maintains copies of NC bylaws as submitted.

This means that:

- Not all CA representatives are elected, some are an appointed position. Some have term limits, some do not.
- Not all issues brought forth are taken back to the NC, either by the personal choice of the representative, or because the rep's duties and responsibilities are not clearly defined by the NC.
- The CA cannot dictate to the NC when their meetings are held in relationship to

the CA meetings. In this case, the NC may not meet often enough to participate in the voting on significant issues.

- Some NC bylaws state that the CA rep cannot vote on issues that need input without the vote of the NC. This may limit the NC from voting at the CA.
- Not all NCs have a provision in their bylaws for electronic voting on issues with a short time frame. This is a strategy some NCs use to increase participation.

The CA process takes time. Planning is required by all parties (ONS, City Council, CA committees, and NCs) to ensure a strong discussion, timeframe, sufficient and respectful participation, and to minimize any frustration or anxiety.

CA Standing Committees

The Community Assembly uses committees to examine specific issues more deeply than what is possible at regular CA meetings. The committee will report to the CA with a recommendation for action. If the CA has concerns, they may make changes or recommend that the committee do additional work. The committees often work with other City Boards and Commissions by providing liaisons to represent the interests of the NCs and the Community Assembly.

Each CA committee is assigned a staff member from the Office of Neighborhood Services to support the committee's work. (Staff support information can be found on the city website.)

Following are the current standing committees of the Community Assembly:

- The **Administrative** Committee is responsible for setting the monthly CA meeting agendas, signing CA communications and notifying neighborhood council executive committees of the absences of a CA representative or assigned alternate at regular CA meetings. This is the only CA committee which requires that each member be currently serving as CA Representative or Alternate.
- The **Budget** Committee manages the Community Engagement Grant process and funds. In partnership with ONS, this committee establishes and administers a budget process and training, which assists Neighborhood Councils (NCs) financially to support and develop themselves to better serve their residents.

- The **Building Stronger Neighborhoods (BSN)** Committee's mission is to promote the growth of Neighborhood Councils through training, education, and engagement opportunities, with input from the Neighborhood Councils.
- The **Community Assembly/Community Development (CA/CD)** Committee provides a forum for educating neighborhoods regarding Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, and makes policy and other recommendations in regard to neighborhood CDBG allocations to the Community Assembly, and ultimately to the Community, Housing and Human Services (CHHS) Board. They also facilitate the allocation of these funds through neighborhood council engagement.
- The **Land Use** Committee works with the City of Spokane Planning Department and ONS to seek opportunities to interact with Neighborhood Councils, citizen groups and residents. The committee serves as a resource for land use resolutions which proposes changes to policies, regulations, actions and plans that affect the NCs.
- The **Liaison** Committee manages the application process for the appointment of NC members to positions that provide the Community Assembly representation on various City boards, committees, and commissions. They also regularly review and support liaison appointees to ensure their effectiveness.
- The **Pedestrian, Traffic and Transportation (PeTT)** Committee supports the CA and Neighborhood Councils by focusing on Spokane's transportation-related problems and opportunities to create safer, more accessible streets for all users, including pedestrians, cyclists, and public transportation passengers.
- The **Neighborhood Safety** Committee works to bring awareness and solutions regarding neighborhood safety issues. They will research issues involving public safety, and provide recommendations on these issues to the Community Assembly.
- The **Communications** Committee works to promote the NC program and tracks engagement metrics provided by NCs.

The meeting dates and times of these committees change according to their needs. The CA Agenda packet contains committee meeting minutes, and committees are provided the opportunity to speak at each CA meeting. With the exception of Admin, all committees are open to any individual who wishes to participate in the committee's scope of work, as long as they are active in their neighborhood council.

The CA also utilizes timely, temporary and action committees:

- The **Nominations** Committee contacts all eligible candidates for the Administrative Committee, and brings a ballot to the body to elect each year's new Admin Committee.
- The **Policies and Procedures** Committee reviews and advises changes to the CA P&P at regular intervals and in response to requested updates.

In many ways, the committees are the lifeblood of the Community Assembly. They are responsible for taking ideas and elevating them from the CA to the City Council and/or City administration level. They may work closely with City Council members, City department heads, and outside experts on issues of importance to all neighborhoods.

Community Assembly representatives (and their alternates) are encouraged to participate on at least one committee, and to invite interested members of their neighborhood councils to participate as well. Several neighborhoods have designated representatives to CA committees.

CA Liaisons

Since the inception of the Neighborhood Council Program, the Spokane City Council and Park Board have instituted liaison and membership positions on seven of their advisory boards and commissions, for individuals who are neighborhood council members and are nominated or selected by the Community Assembly. Here is the list of these eight positions with a citation to their authorization:

Nominated by the Community Assembly, for appointment by City Council:

- **CHHS** Community Housing and Human Services Board (SMC 04.34A.030C)
- **CRSB** Climate, Resilience & Sustainability Board (SMC 04.21.020C)
- **PC** Plan Commission (SMC 04.12.040)
- **PCDRS** Plan Commission Design Review Subcommittee (SMC 04.12.085)
- **TC** Transportation Commission (SMC 04.40.030)
- **UFCAC** Urban Forestry Citizens Advisory Committee - 2 positions (SMC 04.28.060)

Nominated by the Community Assembly, for appointment by the Park Board:

- **DVCAC** Development and Volunteer Citizens Advisory Committee (Park Board Resolution 8/12/21)

The names and contact information for these individuals can be found on [this page](#).

Being a Community Assembly Rep: Commitment and Participation

Being an effective CA Representative requires commitment and participation. Educate yourself on issues that the CA is working on so that you can effectively participate in discussions and vote. Be an active participant in CA meetings and trainings, NC meetings, and be involved with committees and/or boards. Don't be afraid to ask questions.

Your job is to represent your Neighborhood at the CA Table, and to represent the CA back to your NC and in committees. Above all, you are representing the CA and our Vision. Carefully consider issues and vote in ways that allow the CA to achieve our goals. We work for the Common Good.

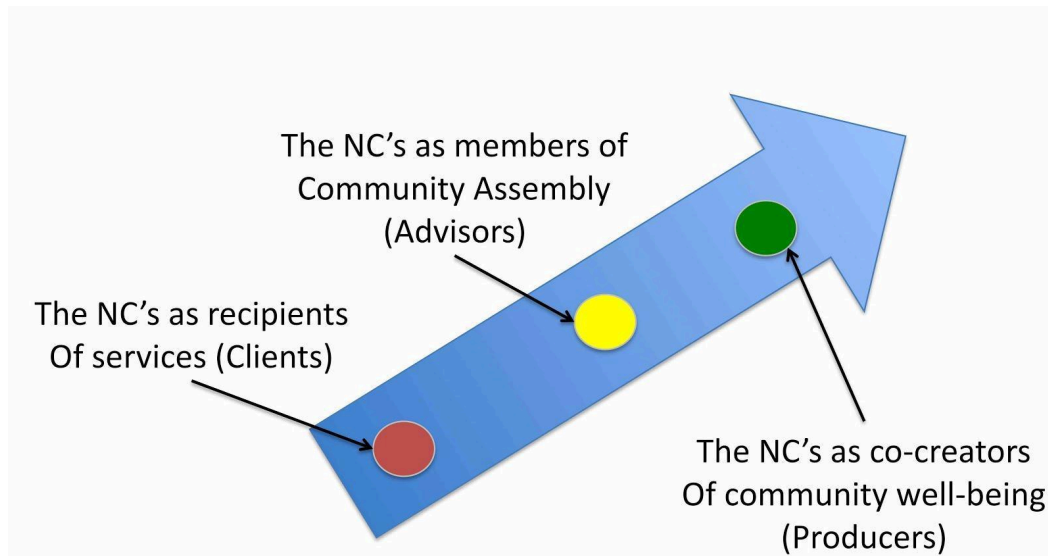
Each NC has their own bylaws. Learn what yours are, and how much autonomy you're given. If you feel restricted by your bylaws, request a review at your NC so that you can provide more effective representation.

Not all issues directly impact your NC. Be empathetic, not apathetic. Look at the big picture and work together to achieve CA goals.

Be an Ambassador in your community. Spread the word about this valuable organization, and encourage citizens to get involved in their NC and make a difference.

Work with your fellow CA reps and share successes with other NCs. Likewise, lean on your fellow reps and NCs for help when you have an issue or struggle.

Changing Role of the Neighborhood Councils



There is a renewed sense among City departments and the City Council to involve the neighborhoods more deeply in City projects and processes that affect the neighborhoods directly.

In 2015, City Council President Ben Stuckart submitted a proposed ordinance that would allow neighborhoods to have legal 'standing,' and therefore a voice in projects that impact neighborhood viability and lifestyle. This ordinance (passed in 2015) gives the neighborhoods the right to legally be involved in some of the decisions that affect their neighborhood. It also means that neighborhoods will receive the same notice of prospective actions as City departments for those projects that require notification.

When the changes are new buildings or demolitions, there are tight timelines to respond. This means that the neighborhood councils need to research and act quickly to voice their concerns in time.

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding allocation process was reconfigured after 2020, to determine how eligible neighborhoods can use their allotted funds. These neighborhood councils are charged with collaborating with local non-profits to determine potential long-term projects that would exceed one funding year. There is a strong desire on the part of the City for neighborhoods to

develop partnerships with other neighborhoods, local businesses, and community non-profit organizations to work together on such projects.

These changes require Neighborhood Councils to look at the bigger picture, including the entire community and long-term impact in order to strategically understand their best use of leverage and power. Having a neighborhood plan in place and understanding the vision of the City and other neighborhoods enables long-term thinking.

This can strengthen the role of the Community Assembly, as it provides an arena for the various Councils to come together and share needs, interests, resources, and support. Neighborhood Councils can bring areas and issues of concern to the whole Assembly and ask for guidance, support, and insight, thus strengthening capacity to act effectively.

These changes will also require that the Neighborhood Councils keep themselves informed and able to act quickly and effectively when needed. Researching the issues, knowing the ordinances and policies that impact or are affected by their concerns are first steps that enable the neighborhood to make powerful statements to the City Council.

NEW HORIZONS

In the past, the Neighborhood Councils have used ONS as a support system and depended upon them to provide information and training. The NCs are in the position of receiving services and support from ONS. This relationship is helpful as ONS provides suggestions for partnerships, connections to other City departments, and logistical support.

The City Charter sees the NCs as advisors to the City Council through the Community Assembly. The Community Assembly is working toward having a regular presence at City Council meetings as a recognized authority on neighborhood issues.

Neighborhoods should be confident about speaking at City Council meetings on issues that impact them. The goal is to be a respected resource and advisor for City Council decisions that impact neighborhoods.

Continual evolution requires that NCs strive to become co-creators with the City Council as we envision a healthy Spokane together. This is the percolating possibility that we are working to achieve. As neighborhoods become notified of potential changes earlier in the process, we have the opportunity to make significant impacts to these projects. As neighborhood planning initiatives are accomplished, they should be integrated with the City planning process and changes to the Comprehensive Plan so that desires and initiatives are strengthened and are not “surprises.”

NEW CAPABILITIES

The Community Assembly is a place of learning and development for the Neighborhood Councils. By sharing best practices, improving meetings, teaching facilitation skills, thinking strategically, and fostering collaboration, we work to build a coherent and aligned body of citizens that actively participate in the growth of the City of Spokane.

STRENGTH BUILDING STRATEGIES

In order to become strong players in Spokane City government, Neighborhood Councils need to:

- Be informed on what the City and various vendors are planning.
- Act proactively, as city departments and vendors may not communicate with neighborhoods.
- Know the history, the policies and current ordinances that impact your area of concern.
- Attend the Community Assembly to learn, share and create partnerships.
- Ensure that your representative is bringing your NC information from the CA and is bringing the CA your NC's point of view (not the individual's).
- Meet often enough so that your voice is heard on matters of requested input and in every vote.
- Be prepared to go before the City Council as necessary.
- Encourage membership on CA committees so that you have direct input into ordinance creation and other issues.

- Get to know other neighborhoods and their issues for future partnering and continuous learning.
- Seek out training and education on best practices and issues.
- Learn to think strategically about the City as a whole, being clear on how your specific neighborhood will be affected.

Acronyms

Common Acronyms used at Community Assembly

ACRONYM	MEANING	CATEGORY
Admin	CA Administrative Committee	CA Related
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act	Federal
ADU	Accessory Dwelling Unit	Planning
AHANA	Asian, Hispanic, African-American & Native American Association	Outside Agency
ARPA	American Rescue Plan Act	Federal
BAB	Bicycle Advisory Board	City Board
BID	Business Improvement District	Planning
BSN	CA Building Stronger Neighborhoods Committee	CA Related
CA	Community Assembly	CA Related
CA/CC	Community Assembly/City Council	CA Related
CA/CD	Community Assembly/Community Development Committee	CA Related
CC	City Council	City
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant	Federal
CEG	Community Engagement Grant	City
HHS	Housing and Human Services	City
CIP	Capital Improvement Program	City
CM	Council Member	City Council
CP	Council President	City Council
CoC	Continuum of Care	City
COPS	Community Oriented Policing Services	Other Neighborhood Org.
CPTED	Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design	Police
CRSB	Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board	City
CTAB	Citizen's Transportation Advisory Board	City Board
DOE	Department of Energy or Education or Ecology	Federal/State
DRB	Design Review Board	City Board
DSHS	Department of Social and Health Services	CA Related
DSC	Development Services Center	City
DSP	Downtown Spokane Partnership	Outside Agency
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement	Planning
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	Federal
ESBA	East Spokane Business Association	Other Neighborhood Org.
EWU	Eastern Washington University	Education
GHBA	Greater Hillyard Business Association	Other Neighborhood Org.
GIS	Geographic Information System	Planning
GMA	Growth Management Act	Planning
GSI	Greater Spokane Incorporated	Outside Agency
GU	Gonzaga University	Education
HUD	Housing and Urban Development	Federal
ICM	Integrated Capital Management	City
Legal	City of Spokane Legal Department	City
LUC	CA Land Use Committee	CA Related
HMIS	Homeless Management Information Systems	City
MRSC	Municipal Research & Services Center	State Agency

ACRONYM	MEANING	CATEGORY
MSFT	Mobile Speed Feedback Trailer	City
NC	Neighborhood Council	CA Related
NECC	Northeast Community Center	Outside Agency
NEPA	National Environmental Protection Agency	Federal
NEPDA	Northeast Public Development Authority	Outside Agency.
NRO	Neighborhood Resource Officer	City
NPAC	Neighborhood Project Advisory Committee	Planning
NSC	Neighborhood Safety Committee	CA Related
ONS	Office of Neighborhood Services	City
OPMA	Open Public Meetings Act	State
OPO	Office of the Police Ombudsman	City
ORD	City Council Ordinance	City Council
PC	Plan Commission	City Board
PDA	Public Development Authority	Planning
PeTT	CA Pedestrian Transportation and Traffic Committee	CA Related
PIES	Public Infrastructure, Environment & Sustainability Committee	City Council
PIT	Point in Time	
RCW	Revised Code of Washington	State
RFP	Request for Proposal	City
SBA	Small Business Administration	Outside Agency
SBO	Special Budget Ordinance	City Council
SCA	Spokane Clear Air, short for Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency	Outside Agency
SCC	Spokane Community College	Education
SEPA	State Environmental Protection Agency	State
SFCC	Spokane Falls Community College	Education
SFD	Spokane Fire Department	City
SIMBA	Spokane Independent Metro Business Association	Outside Agency
SMC	Spokane Municipal Code	City
SNAP	Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners	Outside Agency
SPD	Spokane Police Department	City
SPFD	Spokane Public Facilities District	Outside Agency
SPS	Spokane Public Schools	Education
SREC	Spokane Regional Emergency Communications	City
SRHD	Spokane Regional Health District	Outside Agency
SRTC	Spokane Regional Transportation Council	Outside Agency
STA	Spokane Transit Authority	Outside Agency
TBD	Transportation Benefit District	Planning
TIF	Tax Incremental Financing	Planning
TOD	Transit Oriented Development	Outside Agency
U-D	University District (East of Downtown)	Planning
WAC	Washington Administrative Code	State
WCCC	West Central Community Center	Other Neighborhood Org.
WSDOT	Washington State Dept. of Transportation (pronounced "wash dot")	State
WSU	Washington State University	Education
WQTIF	West Quadrant Tax Incremental Financing	Planning
WUI	Wildland Urban Interface	Planning

Addendum - Important Links

[Community Assembly Policies and Procedures \(Rev. April 2022\)](#)

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To: Mayor Brown, City Council and Plan Commission

From: Community Assembly

Date: August 6, 2026

RE: Resolution concerning Safeguarding Neighborhood Livability

Safeguarding Neighborhood Livability through sensible development protocols and ensuring Spokane Municipal Code is followed.

Whereas, Spokane neighborhoods are being negatively affected by developments moving forward without sensible protocols or adherence to Spokane Municipal Code and

Whereas, developments are substantially increasing traffic from residents, visitors, emergency vehicles, school buses, delivery services, utility providers, and construction vehicles; and

Whereas, Spokane Municipal Code Section 17H.010.040(C) exempts certain developments from road paving requirements when the property was platted prior to 2006; and

Whereas, this exemption allows a significant new residential development to proceed without requiring the corresponding roadway improvements that would normally accompany a development of this size; and

Whereas, safe and adequately maintained streets are essential public infrastructure that benefit both existing residents and future homeowners by improving safety, accessibility, emergency response, and long-term neighborhood sustainability; and

Whereas, when developers are not required to construct or improve the infrastructure necessary to support new development, the responsibility and financial burden may ultimately fall upon the City and its taxpayers; and

Whereas, residents have also experienced significant impacts from construction activities, including excavation and other heavy construction beginning as early as 6:00 am and as late as 10 pm including weekends; and

Whereas, loud construction activities and excessive noise have substantially affected the quiet enjoyment of neighboring properties and have impacted residents' ability to rest, work from home, spend time with their families, and enjoy their homes; and

Whereas, the current construction schedule allows work to occur seven days per week, resulting in little or no respite for surrounding residents; and

Whereas, Spokane has an interest in encouraging responsible development while also protecting the health, safety, and quality of life of established neighborhoods.

Whereas, meaningful protections for neighborhoods are most effective when applied not only to future developments but also, to the fullest extent permitted by law, to developments that are currently underway and have not yet received final approval or completed construction; and

Whereas, consistent enforcement of Spokane Municipal Code and applicable development regulations is essential to ensuring compliance, maintaining public confidence, and preventing unfair advantages for developers who fail to meet legal requirements; and

Whereas, residents affected by nearby development often face significant challenges navigating City processes, reporting violations, obtaining timely responses, and protecting their interests during the construction process, creating a need for independent neighborhood advocacy and assistance.

Therefore, Be It Resolved:

That the Community Assembly respectfully request that the Spokane City Council:

1. Review Spokane Municipal Code Section 17H.010.040(C) and consider amending the code so that developments adding a substantial number of new residential units be required to construct or contribute to the paving of adjacent public roads, regardless of when the property was originally platted;
2. Require developers to have current Spokane City business licenses and current contractors' licenses before initiating development;
3. Require developers to have required permits in place before logging and grading, obstructing streets, and to have other required permits before initiating development;
4. Evaluate and insure that current development regulations adequately require that infrastructure improvements be proportional to the impacts created by new residential development;
5. Review and strengthen construction noise regulations to better protect surrounding neighborhoods from excessive early morning, late evening, and weekend construction activities;
6. Establish reasonable limits on weekend construction hours and the use of amplified music at construction sites located adjacent to residential neighborhoods;
7. Ensure that future developments be balanced with appropriate infrastructure improvements and neighborhood protections so that growth occurs in a manner that will serve both new and existing residents;
8. Ensure that residents are provided consistent access to development plans, secured permits and other documents regarding developments;
9. Establish a designated City staff person and department responsible for addressing neighborhood concerns and code violations including on weekends.
10. Apply any adopted amendments, regulations, and development standards resulting from this resolution, to the fullest extent permitted by law, to all development projects that are

- currently underway and have not received final occupancy approval or completed all required public infrastructure improvements, in addition to future development projects;
11. Establish and enforce meaningful civil penalties, fines, stop-work orders, permit suspensions, or other appropriate enforcement actions against developers, contractors, or property owners who violate Spokane Municipal Code, permit conditions, approved development plans, environmental regulations, construction-hour restrictions, noise regulations, or other applicable City requirements;
 12. Require that repeated or willful violations result in escalating penalties sufficient to deter noncompliance and recover the City's costs of enforcement;
 13. Encourage residents to work through established City processes by bringing concerns to their Neighborhood Council and if appropriate to the relevant committee of the Community Assembly, appropriate City committees, or relevant City departments. These bodies can help facilitate communication between residents, developers and City staff, monitor compliance with applicable regulations, and ensure that reported code violations or neighborhood impacts are reviewed and addressed through the appropriate channels;
 14. Require regular public reporting regarding code enforcement activities, complaints received, investigations conducted, violations identified, penalties assessed, and corrective actions taken for residential development projects;
 15. Ensure that residents have accessible, timely, and transparent opportunities to report violations and receive updates regarding enforcement actions throughout the duration of development projects.

The Community Assembly respectfully requests that these matters be referred to the appropriate City departments and committees for review and that recommendations for possible code amendments be presented to the Spokane City Council.

To: Mayor Brown, the City Council and the Planning Department

From: Community Assembly

Date: August 6, 2026

Re: Draft Chapter 3

What follows are observations and concerns regarding the current draft of Chapter 3: Growth Strategy. These observations from the Land Use Committee were reviewed and approved to be sent to you for your serious consideration.

General observations

1. Chapter title: We request that the chapter's title return to its former name: Land Use. The proposed title is misguided. There are a variety of uses for the land in the city. The chapter title "Growth Strategy" gives one to believe the only use of land is to accommodate population growth. Yet the draft chapter itself spells out 9 categories of use, including open spaces. The introduction to the draft chapter identifies designations to meet growth (estimated ca. 23,000 in 20 years), while "capturing other considerations for how land is used and served within city limits." All uses should be reflected in the chapter title because all uses are essential to a livable city.
2. Demographics: This draft chapter, as well as others, does not consider the changes in the population beyond the numbers. What are the projected ages of the population in the next 20 years? What rapid technology changes will occur that will affect the population and how people live? How will these changes impact the population's recreational uses, purchasing patterns, preferred living situations, etc.?
3. Neighborhood Councils: The Neighborhood Councils are key to city planning, yet they are barely mentioned throughout the entire draft. The Councils are an explicit part of the planning process as specified by Charter and need to be mentioned in land use planning. A couple of lines in the Governance chapter is insufficient.
4. Tribes: There is almost no mention of the Tribes, yet the City is located on unceded lands of the tribes. Where are the Tribes in planning for land use?
5. Vision: The words "future vision" are used, but the document fails to specify whose vision. Again, the neighborhood councils must be integral participants in creating the vision.
6. Density: Two land uses are Residential High Density and Residential Low Density. However, when reviewing the definition of these two uses, 10-15 units per acre are

not covered by either density. The chapter needs to introduce a 10th use: Medium Density.

7. Home Ownership: This draft chapter, by allowing for higher density throughout the city, will negatively affect home ownership. Already home ownership numbers are on the decline and the average age of people purchasing homes is increasing. This chapter's plan will reduce the number of ownable dwellings and move more people to rentals, which will negatively affect equity accumulation, new family formation, generational wealth, and thus the city's and the region's economy.

Specific observations

The following comments are based on a comparison of the Land Use chapter of the 2017 Comprehensive Plan update and the May 2026 draft of the current Comprehensive Plan.

p. 2, par. 1 Sentence in 2017 about the development of neighborhood plans omitted.

p. 2, par. 1 details about earlier plans and updates omitted

p. 2, par. 2 definition of land use omitted

p. 2, par. 3 role of citizen volunteers omitted; detailed 'Values' section with emphasis on natural areas and neighborhoods omitted

p. 2 "Capacity to Accommodate Growth" This section in the 2017 Update began with "Neighborhoods"; they are omitted here and relegated to p. 24 with a reduced text. The section emphasizing the importance of downtown is moved to p. 4. The actual Land Use section starts on p. 21.

pp. 3-4 Rather than 2017's organization by type of neighborhood, this section in 2026 organizes by type of development. It is only made clear on p. 19 that all of these types of development are mixed use and that therefore mixed use will occur in all neighborhoods.

p. 7 final paragraph Given the paragraph's initial emphasis on the evolution toward transit, the reference to the current "auto-oriented" use of corridors should be completed at the end of the paragraph by reference to the future use of transit and active transportation.

Open space. Predominant Uses.

p. 9-10 Given that the "Open Spaces" designation includes sports complexes, the recommendation that "Open Space Designations should prioritize parks or outdoor recreational facilities and opportunities, especially where views and proximity to nature provide essential benefits to the community, such as the Spokane River Gorge" could be seen as encouraging the building of a stadium atop the Spokane River Gorge and other such projects, degrading the genuine "open spaces" much valued by Spokaneites.

The second paragraph describes the inclusion in this category of lands "warranting protection from encroachment" for their value in a variety of categories. How will the distinction between lands to be protected from encroachment and lands to "provide opportunities for active and passive recreation" be made? Who will make it? Why are these two very different types of land use lumped together in one category?

Residential Low

p. 11-12 **Secondary Uses** “Allowances ... neighborhood.” Who will decide when a “larger development” will provide a “benefit to the local neighborhood” and therefore be allowed in a “Residential Low” designation? A statement that the neighborhood council will have an advisory role in this decision must be added to this text.

p. 12 **Intensity** Who will decide when greater intensity is “acceptable”? A statement that the neighborhood council will have a role in this decision must be added to this text.

Residential High

p. 12 What are the dimensional criteria for “larger multi-unit developments” and “more intense middle-housing types?”

p. 13 **Location criteria** How can new Residential High areas be created without displacing current residents?

Institutional

p. 14 second sentence from top “residential density in industrial areas”--shouldn’t this be “residential density in institutional areas”?

Mixed Use

p. 15 **Secondary Uses** It is unclear how active transportation would work safely in a mixed-use zone.

p. 16 **Location Criteria** With this being the basic designation for Urban Hubs, this kind of anything-goes zone will appear all over the city.

Goals and Policies

p. 18 **Goal GS-1, Uses of Land** The corresponding Goals and Policies section of the 2017 update was located at the beginning of the document. Its first point (LU 1.1, pp. 8-9) setting forth neighborhoods as the basic feature of Land Use has been excised. LU 1.3 (p. 9) opens the ‘Discussion’ portion: “The city’s residential neighborhoods are one of its most valuable assets.” That statement and the paragraph that develops it have been excised.

p. 19 **GS-1.4, Industry & Employment** This section makes no reference to professional sectors that are important to the local economy: health care and post-secondary education.

p. 19 **GS-1.6 Urban Agriculture** 2017’s reference to determination of this land in consultation with Natural Resource Conservation Service and expectation that it remain agricultural for at least 20 years omitted.

p. 19 **GS-1.7 Parks & Open Spaces** The subsuming of the freestanding Open Spaces Policy (LU 6.2) to the Parks Policy caused the loss of: “Conservation Open Space includes areas that are publicly owned, not developed, and designated to remain in a natural state. It is intended to protect areas with high scenic value, environmentally sensitive conditions, historic or cultural values, priority animal habitats, and/or passive recreational features. It is expected that improvements in these areas would be limited to those supporting preservation or some passive recreation activities, like soft trails and wildlife viewpoints.”

p. 20 **GS-2.7 Sub-Area Planning Framework** To the existing initial phrase in bold should be added: “Undertake sub-area and neighborhood planning in collaboration with neighborhood councils, local residents and impacted community members...”

p. 21 **GS-2.11 Neighborhoods** The displacement of the consideration of neighborhoods to near the end of the document and the omission of the discussion are a real loss relative to 2017’s emphasis on Spokane as a place where people live.

p. 21 **GS-3.1 Addressing Housing Displacement** This section should add a consideration of the reduction in home ownership when homes are demolished and replaced by rental property.

p. 23 **GS-6.1 Transit Oriented Development** 2017's considerations of reducing through traffic and block length (LU 4.3, 4.5, p. 27) have been excised.

p. 26 **GS-8.4 Siting Essential Public Facilities** The omission of 2017's examples of the types of facilities involved makes this section vague.

p. 27 **GS-10.1 Annexation Boundaries** The omission of the "Discussion" section of the corresponding section of 2017 (LU 9.1, pp. 36-37) results in the loss of "preservation of natural neighborhoods and communities" as a criterion for decision-making.

p. 27 **GS-10.4, Land Use and Zoning Designations upon Annexation** The phrase in 2017's corresponding section (LU 9.6, p. 38), "Recognize the interests of the residents of the annexing area" has been excised.

p. 27 2017's **9.4 Community Impacts** (p. 37) has been excised.

pp. 28-29 Policies Removed from the Text.

The following removed policies should be reinstated in the 2026 Comprehensive Plan:

Policy: **LU-2.1, Public Realm Features** Encourage features that improve the appearance of development, paying attention to how projects function to encourage social interaction and relate to and enhance the surrounding urban and natural environment.

Policy: **LU-2.2, Performance Standards**

Employ performance and design standards with sufficient flexibility and appropriate incentives to ensure that development is compatible with surrounding land uses.

Policy: **LU-4.3, Neighborhood Through-Traffic**

Create boundaries for new neighborhoods through which principal arterials should not pass.

Policy: **LU-4.5, Block Length**

Create a network of streets that is generally laid out in a grid pattern that features more street intersections and shorter block lengths in order to increase street connectivity and access.

Goal: **LU-5, Development Character**

Promote development in a manner that is attractive, complementary, and compatible with other land uses.

Policy: **LU-5.4, Natural Features and Habitat Protection**

Ensure development is accomplished in a manner that protects significant natural features and wildlife habitat.

Comments on the August 2026 draft of the 2046 Comprehensive Plan

Executive Summary

The principal aim of the Comprehensive Plan, as stated in its introduction (p. 2), is to “[i]dentify locations where different types of growth should occur, guiding both private and public development.”

Features

- making all resources available to all residents of all income levels everywhere in the city
- inclusion of all of the city’s residents and demographic groups, beginning with a detailed land acknowledgment
- increased housing density especially near transit
- numerous new climate-related goals and policies

Partial Improvements, more needed

- housing density added but more of it should meet the greatest need, in lower income bands (see Draft Environmental Impact Statement, p. 85 Exhibit 2.2-2. Housing Target and Affordable Housing Capacity 2020-2046 that shows 4,400-unit shortage at 0-80% of Area Median Income [AMI] but 6,000-unit excess at 80-120% AMI and 9,000-unit excess at 120%+ AMI)
- the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled as a means of reducing climate hazards is now included in the Introduction (p. 7); however, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (p. 390) predicts that Alternative 2, now the Preferred Alternative, will produce no decline in use of single-occupant vehicles, no increase in the use of transit, and a bare .02% increase in active transportation
- Emergency Management section with numerous policies added to Chapter 10; need for specific funded projects (e.g. more connectivity in North Indian Trail area)
- Neighborhood Councils included in specific policies per Community Assembly recommendation. Their advisory role should be added to Chapter 3, pp. 11-12 Secondary Uses and Intensity in Residential Low areas; p. 22 GS-5.1 Designate and Plan Urban Hubs; p. 26 GS-8.4 Siting Essential Public Facilities; Chapter 12 Parks and Recreation, p. 8 restore PR-7.7 Public Participation. The role of neighborhoods should be restored to many Goals and Policies: e.g. in Chapter 11 Neighborhoods, planning that begins in the neighborhood and in Chapter 8 Urban Design and Historic Preservation, DP 5 Local Determination. Neighborhoods should be recognized as communities within the community
- some measures supportive of the arts have been added in Chapter 10; restore those, such as funding directives for developers, that have been removed
- greater attention to the natural environment; correct policies such as the subsuming of Conservation Open Space into Open Space, access to the river from commercial venues, inclusion of built recreational venues such as stadiums as

- ‘open space’ (Chapter 3 pp. 9-10), and the conversion of 2017’s ED 8 Quality of Life and the Environment to 2026’s EP-9 Tourism Promotion, which have the potential to result in damage to the environment.
- Convert the compendium of climate-related material to a chapter

Needed improvements

- restore name and orientation of “Land Use” to Chapter 3
- restore name “Implementation” to Chapter 2 (now Community Indicators) and the detailed matrices tracking City work projects
- respect the integrity of registered historic districts and restore ‘Neighborhoods’ to DP-2.16 Historic Districts (the equivalent of 2017’s DP 3.13 Historic Districts and Neighborhoods)
- recognize the importance to civic and economic life of education at all levels and of the contributions of higher education to the economy through research and teaching in areas such as health care, engineering, agriculture, and public policy and through attracting thousands of students.
- return Chapter 9 Natural Environment NE-1.5 Mining Activities and 1.8 Toxic Dumping Regulations to their earlier wording
- sidebars: finalize cross-references to relocated goals and policies and information about deleted ones
- Future Land Use Map: reduce the increased density proposed for fire-prone areas along the Spokane River gorge and evacuation routes from them to reduce exposure to future wildfires and direct more density to the underutilized lots closer to the center of the city and to transit.

Comments to Specific Chapters

The page numbers refer to the counter in the upper left corner of the pdf.

Chapter 1 Introduction

p. 1 “Each has been discussed at the Plan Commission, by various Plan Commission subcommittees, with City Council in general, and shared with the public at various points along the way.”

The role of the Planning Department has not been stated here.

p. 2 Most of the items on the bulleted list of what the Comp Plan will achieve are new and vague (e.g. “Create a collective vision for the City of Spokane’s future,” “public investment,” “future plans, programs, and initiatives”) where 2017 specified services to be provided to residents: “Transportation, public improvements, and public services that are desired” and “Actions to protect the natural environment.”

p. 2 2017’s paragraph describing the provisions in the Growth Management Act to ensure that the City follows the Comprehensive Plan has been deleted.

pp. 3-5 Welcome additions include the history of the Spokane indigenous people, of Chinese and Japanese communities, and of the Black community; and the land acknowledgment. Unwelcome, however, are the reduction of information about the aquifer and the deletion of information about Spokaneites putting parks and the preservation of nature at the center of the city’s identity. While discussion of Spokane’s air pollution problem and the significant contribution that automobiles make to it has been added on p. 7, 2017’s placement of it at the beginning acknowledged its centrality. While the addition of detail about local events enriches the account, the deletion of much of the information (2017 pp. 5-8) about population fluctuation over the years and of the region’s geology and climate impoverishes it. The declaration (p. 4) that early “unique housing choices that are still treasured to this day” conflicts with the number of them that the City is allowing to be demolished and the lack of consideration of registered historic districts in drawing up the Future Land Use Map.

pp. 5-6 The section entitled “Implementing the Community’s Vision” deals in vague terms: “After a robust visioning process, the community developed a vision statement.” By contrast, 2017 (p. 11): “the City of Spokane’s citizen participation process . . . involved all segments of the community in shaping the city’s future.” A list of ways stimulating “broad citizen involvement” would “build affective relationships among government, the community and neighborhoods, business and their constituents to empower citizens and provide a broader perspective on Spokane’s future” and allow the City “To understand the public’s expectations for growth management planning, including the content and products of the process.” The extensive list of constituted groups with which the City worked in developing the 2017 Comprehensive Plan (pp. 13-15 and Appendix I) finds no correspondence in this chapter, which terms such engagement “transactional” (p. 11).

p. 6 The May version’s “guiding principles that community members identified as important as we plan for the next 20 years” has become “guiding principles . . . that reflect community priorities.”

pp. 6-7 “Plan for Housing” is the first item on the list of “Guiding Principles,” followed by “Plan for Equity,” “Plan for Climate Resiliency,” “Plan for Community Well-Being,”

and “Plan for Economic Prosperity.”

p. 7 The addition of means for achieving community connection is welcome.

p. 7 The addition of the reduction of vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions as means of reducing climate hazards is welcome.

p. 7 The “Plan for Economic Prosperity” makes no mention of the role of higher education or the presence of local institutions of higher education in promoting and achieving prosperity and the flexibility required to sustain it in evolving conditions. On p. 5 they are depicted as merely benefiting from local industry whereas in reality higher education is an economic engine for the city that draws thousands of students and conducts teaching and research that benefit local economic sectors including health care, engineering, agriculture, and public policy.

pp. 7-8 This is a much shorter version of the account of the GMA and its relevance and of countywide planning that in 2017 occupied pp. 9-11. For example, 2017’s “Manage Shorelines Wisely” becomes “Shoreline management.” Why was ‘wisely’ excised?

p. 9 The section on the regional planning including allocation of population projection is new.

p. 9 The “Who Plans and How” section contains no reference to the Planning Department, and repeats the 2017 wording that the Comprehensive Plan is “prepared by involved citizens.” Yet while 2017’s process had systematic work with community bodies in addition to outreach sessions to the larger public, most of the outreach efforts of the Planning Department have been sporadic public input sessions that provided “touchpoints.” Summaries of the outreach sessions prepared by “Our teams” are available in Appendix 1 Public Participation and Engagement, but complete, primary-source documentation has yet to be made publicly available. Oral interactions that were not recorded or written down by the participant are not (completely) memorialized.

p. 10 May’s “citizens’ interests” has become “local interests.”

p. 10 The only reference to the Planning Department is in a statement that it evaluated language access and provided opportunities for translation and interpretation, which is outside the Planning Department’s area of professional expertise.

p. 11 The secondary-source summaries of public feedback prepared by the Planning Department are publicly available, but primary-source direct documentation is not yet available.

p. 11 While the ‘open house’ style meetings of the present process described here reached a larger number of residents, the “continuous citizen participation” required by the GMA (p. 10) was more clearly met in the creation of the 2017 Comprehensive Plan and in the current Re-Five Project, both of which also involved regular meetings with specific bodies over the course of the work. The oral reactions of members of the public attending ‘open house’ meetings were not recorded unless the individual wrote them down on a comment card.

Chapter 2 Community Indicators [formerly Implementation]

Because Community Indicators was published for the first time in May, the comparisons here are solely to the corresponding chapter of the 2017 Comprehensive Plan. 2017’s 86-page Implementation provided matrices of near- and mid-term projects and ongoing projects in an easily readable grid giving the goal, policy number, description of policy, related elements, future projects, and timeframe for completion. Complete matrices were

made available in the 101-page Appendix G Work Plan Matrices Future Matrix and Master Matrix.

2026 uses a different system. Its 10-page Community Indicators uses a narrative text that describes two kinds of monitoring, setting out the major issues to be tracked and the outcome and process indicators to be used. The first kind of monitoring is what is required for the state's mandatory 5-year check-in, which includes issues such as Housing by Income Band, Permit Processing Timelines, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, etc. The second is Continued Monitoring, which involves larger issues: Population Growth and Demographics, Land Use and Growth Strategy, Equity and Belonging, Community Resiliency, Community Well-being, Economic Prosperity, and Tribal and Urban Native Collaboration and Coordination. It concludes with a feature induced by public feedback, an Accountability Framework. However, that framework includes no timeline or form for how such actions as "Information on progress will be made accessible to the public." Some of the matrix information is placed in Appendix 2 Capital Facilities Plan, which contains some future plans but lacks a timeline grid. A side bar explains that, "Details such as the previous matrices are working documents and best left out of the Comprehensive Plan for useability and adaptability." However, as the 2017 text states, "Information and progress on Plan implementation is documented and disseminated through bi-annual reports to the community (matrix update) This chapter of the Plan should be viewed as an action plan and should be updated as progress occurs on these items." The matrices and specific terms of the Accountability Framework therefore should be restored to fulfill this chapter's title.

p. 3 The list of city-regulated matters is considerably reduced.

p. 3 A vague reference to "the community's vision" supersedes 2017's crediting of the contribution of many civic groups and institutions to "this shared responsibility for community action."

Chapter 3 Growth Strategy [formerly Land Use]

Evident in the new name, this chapter's new orientation sidelines all uses of land but growth. While the explanatory sidebar (p. 2) refers to planning under the Growth Management Act, that act had already guided the 2017 update.

p. 2, par. 1 Sentence in 2017 about the development of neighborhood plans omitted.

p. 2, par. 1 2017's details about earlier plans and updates omitted

p. 2, par. 2 2017's definition of land use omitted

p. 2, par. 3 2017's role of citizen volunteers omitted; detailed 'Values' section with emphasis on natural areas and neighborhoods omitted

p. 2 "Capacity to Accommodate Growth" The placing of this new section first, rather than 2017's "Neighborhoods" (which is relegated to p. 24 with a reduced text), risks features that make Spokane a desirable place to live. People live and form communities in neighborhoods. The section emphasizing the importance of downtown is moved to p.

4. The actual Land Use section starts on p. 21. An assessment of the "much more detailed data on capacity and growth" that a sidebar states "will be included in a technical appendix" will only be possible when that appendix has been made public.

In addition, the rationale that this section gives for the chapter's proposals:

Overall, the City has sufficient capacity to accommodate the expected population growth through 2046. The Comprehensive Plan has been crafted towards

accommodating that growth and housing affordability for all income brackets, ensuring consistency with the community's vision for the future.

suffers from two important problems:

- it does little to meet the extensive need for the most affordable housing (according to the Draft Environmental Impact Study, p. 308: 6,452 units of non- Permanent Supportive Housing for those at 0-30% of Area Median Income; 1,851 units of Permanent Supportive Housing for those at 0-30% of Area Median Income; 4,413 units of housing for those at 30-50% of Area Median Income; 2,631 units of housing for those at 50-80% of Area Median Income; total: 15,347)
- it has not been re-considered since the Spokane Complex fires destroyed significant portions of the city.

Nor does the chapter mention that while the housing need could be satisfied with a 1% increase of land for intensified housing, the plan takes 16% (City presentation, April 14, 2026, p. 48), increasing the potential for disruption to existing livable neighborhoods.

pp. 3-4 Rather than 2017's organization by type of neighborhood, this section in 2026 organizes by type of development. It is not stated until p. 19 that all development types are mixed use, which means that mixed use will occur in all neighborhoods.

p. 5 What source/s will fund the many amenities characterizing Urban Hubs?

Open space. Predominant Uses.

p. 9-10 The 2017 update LU-6.2 divided Conservation Open Space from Open Space; 2026 puts both, without distinction, into the category "Open Space," with the second paragraph noting that this category includes lands "warranting protection from encroachment." But it does not identify them and lacks measures and a process for doing so. Given that Open Space also includes sports complexes, the recommendation that "Open Space Designations should prioritize parks or outdoor recreational facilities and opportunities, especially where views and proximity to nature provide essential benefits to the community, such as the Spokane River Gorge" could be seen as encouraging the building of a stadium with parking lot atop the Spokane River Gorge and other such projects, degrading the genuine "open spaces" much valued by Spokaneites.

Residential Low

In the 2026 Spokane Development Code Assessment (p. 59), the category "Residential Low" combines 2017's "Residential Low" (R1) and "Residential Plus" (R2, which permitted slightly greater density in a transitional area to Centers and Corridors and commercial areas). 2017's "Residential Low" allowed from 4 to 10 dwelling units per acre (dua), which the August draft continues to state as the upper limit (p. 12). However, the 2026 Development Code Assessment allows up to 20, which would force neighborhood density zones to accommodate as much as five times their current density.

p. 11-12 **Secondary Uses** "Allowances for larger development . . . if they provide residential capacity or other benefit to the local neighborhood." Who will decide when a "larger development" will provide a "benefit to the local neighborhood" and therefore be allowed in a "Residential Low" designation? A statement that the neighborhood council will have an advisory role in this decision must be added to this text.

p. 12 **Intensity** "Greater intensity is more acceptable" in several situations. A statement that the neighborhood council will have an advisory role in this decision must be added to this text.

Residential High

The current draft says that this category allows between 15 and 40 duu, leaving a gap between its lower limit and the “Residential Low” upper limit of 10 duu. The 2026 Spokane Development Code Assessment allows “Residential Low” an upper limit of 20 duu and gives no limits for Residential High. The key to this mystery perhaps is found in the number of units allowed in the Mixed Use category, 10 to 45, which may also reveal how widely the Mixed Use category is intended to be used throughout the city (see also p. 22).

p. 12 What are the dimensional criteria for “larger multi-unit developments” and “more intense middle-housing types?”

p. 13 **Location criteria** How can new Residential High areas be created without displacing current residents?

Commercial

p. 14 **Predominant Uses** It is unclear how active transportation would work safely in a commercial zone.

Mixed Use

p. 15 **Secondary Uses** It is unclear how active transportation would work safely in a mixed-use zone.

p. 16 **Location Criteria** With this being the basic designation for Urban Hubs, this kind of zone will appear all over the city.

Downtown

p. 17 **Location Criteria** “Designating areas of predominantly single-unit or middle housing should include consideration for potential displacement of existing residents.” This sentence assumes that new single-unit or middle housing would be developed where multi-unit, low-cost housing currently exists. Where exactly would that be?

Goals and Policies

p. 18 **Goal GS-1, Uses of Land** The corresponding Goals and Policies section of the 2017 update was located at the beginning of the document. Its first point (LU 1.1, pp. 8-9) setting forth neighborhoods as the basic feature of Land Use has been excised. LU 1.3 (p. 9) opens the ‘Discussion’ portion: “The city’s residential neighborhoods are one of its most valuable assets.” That statement and the paragraph that develops it have been excised.

p. 19 **GS-1.4 Industry and Employment** The addition of medical and educational uses here is welcome.

p. 19 **GS-1.6 Urban Agriculture** While the addition of small-scale urban agriculture to this section is welcome, the deletion of much of 2017’s lengthy discussion is not. That discussion included the determination of long-term agricultural land in consultation with Natural Resource Conservation Service and the expectation that it remain agricultural for at least 20 years. It also specified that uses of adjacent land should be compatible by limiting density, including buffer zones, and various other specified means.

p. 19 **GS-1.7 Parks & Open Spaces** The subsuming of the freestanding Open Spaces Policy (LU 6.2) to the Parks Policy caused the loss of the following affirmation: “Conservation Open Space includes areas that are publicly owned, not developed, and designated to remain in a natural state. It is intended to protect areas with high scenic value, environmentally sensitive conditions, historic or cultural values, priority animal habitats, and/or passive recreational features. It is expected that improvements in these

areas would be limited to those supporting preservation or some passive recreation activities, like soft trails and wildlife viewpoints.”

p. 20 **GS-2.3 Displacement Risk** This is a welcome new policy.

p. 20 **GS-2.4 Non-Conforming Uses** The sidebar statement (LU 2.4 Expanded to reflect existing policies allowing for grandfathered uses.) is quite confusing. There is no LU 2.4; the similar policy in 2017 is LU 1.14 and its orientation is to limit the amount of non-conforming uses. GS-2.4, instead, is likely to increase them to avoid displacing earlier residents when new development of a different type occurs.

p. 20 **GS-2.6 Lot Sizes** The addition of home ownership and density of non-residential building is welcome.

p. 20 **GS-2.7 Sub-Area Planning Framework** The addition of ‘Neighborhood Councils’ as collaborating bodies is welcome.

p. 20 **GS-2.8 Built and Natural Environment** The addition of wildfire risk to considerations is welcome.

p. 21 **GS-2.9 Encouraging Infill Development, GS-2.10 Land Use Transitions, GS-2.12 Connection and Accessibility** These are welcome new policies.

p. 21 **GS-2.11 Neighborhoods** The displacement of the neighborhoods section to near the end of the document and the omission of the discussion are a real loss relative to 2017’s emphasis on Spokane’s neighborhoods as where people live.

p. 21 **GS-3.1 Addressing Housing Displacement** This section should add a consideration of the reduction in home ownership when homes are demolished and replaced by rental property. The DEIS (p. 285) anticipates the demolition of approximately 1,200 single-unit dwellings under the Preferred Alternative.

p. 21 **GS-3.2 Access to Transportation** The inclusion of VMT and emissions here is welcome.

pp. 21-22 **GS-3.3 Reducing Sprawl; GS-3.4 Infrastructure Investment** These are welcome new policies.

p. 22 **GS-4 Mix of Uses** This new goal and related policies will have a range of consequences, which will likely be perceived variously by Spokane communities and residents.

pp. 22-23 **GS-5.1 Urban Hubs** This new goal and related policies will have a range of consequences, which will likely be perceived variously by Spokane communities and residents.

p. 22 **GS-5.1 Designate and Plan Urban Hubs**

The list of those consulted in such designation and planning should read “in consultation with relevant City departments and operations **and Neighborhood Councils.**”

p. 23 **GS-6 Transit-Oriented Development** The new title recognizes the increased emphasis on transit already evident in 2017’s Transportation.

p. 23 **GS-6.1 Transit Oriented Development** While the emphasis on transit is welcome, the excision of 2017’s considerations of reducing through-traffic and block length (LU 4.3, 4.5, p. 27) is not.

p. 23 **GS-6.2 Vehicle Miles Traveled Reduction** The emphasis on transit is welcome.

pp. 24-25 **GS-7 Resilient Land Use** This new goal and related policies are welcome, and will be more so as specific, funded projects that implement them are undertaken. Should this section not also include one or more policies specifically about building in fire-prone

areas? Currently there are references to the Wildland Urban Interface in **GS-7.2** and **GS-7.3**.

p. 24 **GS-7.3 Wildland-Urban Interface Outreach** Should this or another policy in this section not include evacuation routes as a consideration?

p. 25 **GS-7.8 Food Access** This is a welcome new policy.

p. 25 **GS-7.9 Tree Canopy** This is a welcome new policy, especially in light of the number of trees currently being cut down to make way for dense development.

p. 25 **GS-8.2 Coordination and Partnerships with Providers** This is a welcome new policy.

p. 26 **GS-8.4 Siting Essential Public Facilities** The omission of 2017's examples of the types of facilities involved makes this section vague. The final sentence should read

"engaging directly with impacted community members **and Neighborhood Councils.**"

p. 26 **GS-8.6 Surplus City Property** The specification of "non-profit organizations for community benefit and neighborhood revitalization" is welcome.

p. 27 **GS-10.1 Annexation Boundaries** The omission of the "Discussion" of the corresponding section of 2017 (LU 9.1, pp. 36-37) results in the loss of "preservation of natural neighborhoods and communities" as a criterion for decision-making.

p. 27 **GS-10.4 Land Use and Zoning Designations upon Annexation** The excised phrase of 2017's corresponding section (LU 9.6, p. 38), "Recognize the interests of the residents of the annexing area," should be restored.

p. 28 **GS-10.7 Weighing Fiscal Impacts of Annexation** This is a welcome new policy.

pp. 28-30 Policies Removed from the Text

The sidebars indicating where policies removed from this chapter were intended to be placed in other chapters must be updated to give specific cross-references to where they actually appear or state that they have been definitively removed.

pp. 28-30 The following removed policies should be reinstated in this chapter of the 2026 Comprehensive Plan:

Policy: LU-4.3 Neighborhood Through-Traffic

Create boundaries for new neighborhoods through which principal arterials should not pass.

Policy: LU-4.5 Block Length

Create a network of streets that is generally laid out in a grid pattern that features more street intersections and shorter block lengths in order to increase street connectivity and access.

Goal: LU-5 Development Character

Promote development in a manner that is attractive, complementary, and compatible with other land uses.

Policy: LU-5.4 Natural Features and Habitat Protection

Ensure development is accomplished in a manner that protects significant natural features and wildlife habitat.

Policy: LU-7.1 Regulatory Structure

Develop a land use regulatory structure that utilizes a variety of mechanisms to promote development that provides a public benefit.

Chapter 4 Transportation

The broad and deep differences between the 88-page 2017 version and the 33-page

August 2026 version exclude a line-by-line comparison. Therefore most comments focus on the August 2026 version compared with the May 2026 version. Features of 2017's "Vision and Values" statement (p. 12) that do not appear in the present version are "Maintaining the ability to access quickly the outdoors from the city"; "Decreasing north-south congestion"; and "Developing convenient access to the downtown area, increasing parking, bus service, light rail, and satellite parking with shuttles, and improving the pedestrian environment." Goal E Respect Natural & Community Assets was removed and its content largely transferred to policies TR-2.3 Natural Environment and Cultural Heritage and TR-2.4 Natural Environment and "Achieving Context-Sensitive Design." The chapter in general shows a laudable shift to active and public transportation, emphasizing its benefits to safety and health and the reduction of climate-warming greenhouse gas emissions. It also adds considerations around the safe operation of personal motor vehicles. These two features are part of a laudable emphasis on community, both the life of the community as a central focus of transportation planning and planners' seeking the community's preferences when developing plans.

- p. 2 sidebar refers to appendices. When will these appear?
- pp. 2-3 the phrase "With forecasted growth" has been deleted.
- p. 3 much of the short paragraph giving the reasons for the priorities has been deleted, including "the growth and development of Spokane."
- p. 3 2017's paragraph (p. 18) listing the government programs that the City will use to improve safety has been deleted. A current list should be included.
- p. 4 2017's human being (p. 15) is omitted from the definition of 'sense of place'.
- pp. 5-6 Welcome additions to the chapter's themes are "Ensuring Sustainable Funding for Operations and Maintenance," "Achieving Climate Goals," and "Enhancing Resiliency."
- pp. 6-7 **Goal TR-1 Enhance Public Safety and Health** The new prominence of this goal and the addition to it and related policies of the safe operation of vehicles and of evacuation needs are welcome developments.
- p. 8 **TR-2.2 Effective Community Engagement:** Neighborhood Councils have been added to the community partners that provide input.
- p. 9 **TR-3.2 Upgrade Network to Meet Standards, TR-3.3 Base Standards on the Intended Users, and TR-3.4 Limit Exceptions to Street Standards** are welcome new policies addressing improvements to standards.
- p. 13 **TR-8 Ensure Sustainable Funding for Operations and Maintenance** is a welcome new policy.
- p. 14 **TR-9 Achieve Climate Goals** This new goal and its policies are a welcome development. Clarification is needed to relate their "targeted reductions in Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and associated reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions" to the Draft EIS's total combined increase of only .03% in active transportation and none in public transit. Are this new goal and its policies envisioned as resulting in a greater increase?
- pp. 15-16 **TR-10 Enhancing Resiliency in the Transportation Network** This is a welcome new goal addressing climate considerations.
- p. 16 **TR-11 Achieve Context Sensitive Design** This is a welcome new goal.
- p. 16 **TR-11.3 Infrastructure Design** The following acronyms should be spelled out: MUTCD, NAACTO, AASHTO
- p. 17 (and p. 8 for TR 2.3, TR 2.4) sidebar says that former TR Goal E

Respect Natural and Community Assets

Protect natural, community, and neighborhood assets to create and connect places where people live their daily lives in a safe and healthy environment.

has been removed and concepts added to TR 2.3 and TR 2.4. While those two policies add welcome detail, TR 2.3 should have restored to it the 2017 verb “to create” and should define the “objective criteria” that will be used to “[e]valuate the impact of transportation projects on natural and community assets.”

Chapter 5 Capital Facilities

The review of this chapter requires specific expertise.

Chapter 6 Housing

Current emphasis is on expanding all types of housing everywhere. While H-4.1 makes optional 2017’s H-1.8 requirement of “a percentage of affordable housing within all new developments,” it adds incentives. While “increasing home ownership” was removed from the list of priorities, policy H-2.3 was added in response to “the community’s desire for more home ownership opportunities” and H-4.5 has added “residents” and “owner-occupied housing” to partnerships. Welcome changes include the grouping in policy H-1.5 of various and new funding mechanisms to incentivize building and home ownership; the encouraging of infill and of lower-barrier housing options in H-2; and the addition of H-6.3 on energy efficiency and H-7.3 on climate coping mechanisms.

p. 2 Housing Strategy

Will the anticipated “population growth of 23,357 between 2020 and 2046” be reviewed with experts on the effect of major disasters on cities? For example, fifteen years after Katrina, New Orleans had 100,000 fewer residents (a 20% loss).

A sentence should be added between the first and second sentences of this paragraph giving statistics about the current housing shortage.

pp. 3-4 2017’s increasing home ownership is not among the 2026 chapter’s priorities.

pp. 4-5 **H-1 Planning for Housing** The expansions of policies in this goal are generally welcome.

p. 4 **H-1.1 Accommodating Spokane’s Housing Needs** This is a welcome new policy.

p. 5 **H-1.3 Regional Fair Share Housing, H-1.7, Housing Goal Monitoring**

“Participate in a process that monitors and adjusts the distribution of lower-income housing throughout the region, promoting equitable distribution and access to housing everywhere.”

What will this process consist of?

p. 5 **H-1.4 Use of Existing Infrastructure**

Welcome encouragement of infill where infrastructure and services already exist.

p. 5 **H-1.5 Expanded Opportunity for Incentives and Funding**

The added features of this policy (“Expand opportunities for housing development and homeownership, including exploration of new funding mechanisms, property and sales tax reform, and incentives”) offer welcome new possibilities.

p. 5 **H-1.7 Housing Goal Monitoring** The expansion of this goal is welcome.

p. 6 **H-2.2 Creative Housing Options** The encouragement of a variety of lower-barrier options is welcome.

p. 6 **H-2.6 Accessory Dwelling Units** “Promote the development” of ADUs “that can be sold individually” How will the ownership of the land as well as the dwelling be handled? Will this result in situations such as in mobile home parks, where the owner of the land can charge rent from the owner of the ADU? What happens if the owner sells the land?

p. 7 **H-2.10 Cultural and Multigenerational Housing** This is a welcome new policy.

p. 7 **H-2.12, Preservation, Rehabilitation, Reuse, and Conversion**

Is connecting residents with outside governmental funding the only way to encourage preservation and rehabilitation? What about zoning and tax incentives, as the chapter recommends to encourage other forms of housing (e.g. H-1.1, H-1.4, H-1.5, H-2.6, H-3.2, H-4.1)?

p. 7 **H-3.1 Aging in Place**

How does the call for single-level housing here fit with the overall call for increased density?

pp. 8-9 **H-4 Affordable Housing** This new goal and many policy expansions are welcome.

p. 8 **H-4.5 Partnerships to Reduce Financial Barriers**

The addition of “residents” and “owner-occupied housing” is welcome.

p. 9 **H-4.6 City Owned Property**

“Partner with local housing providers, developers, and other applicable organizations and agencies to identify City owned property that may be appropriate for new development that provides housing units, and update policy and regulations to allow for the transfer or use of those properties.”

Will this policy allow publicly-owned property to be “transferred” to private, for-profit entities or individuals? **GS-8.6 Surplus City Property** specifies “non-profit organizations for community benefit and neighborhood revitalization.”

p. 9 **H-4.8 Short-Term Rentals** This policy’s subordination of short-term housing to residents’ long-term housing needs is welcome.

p. 9 **H-4.9 Consistent Supportive Housing Options** This new policy is welcome.

pp. 9-10 **H-5 Housing Equity and Opportunity**

This new goal is welcome. How will the Growth Strategy chapter's emphasis on Urban Hubs and multi-family (generally rental) housing affect the achieving of this goal?

p. 10 **H-6 Energy Efficiency Assistance** This new policy is welcome.

p. 11 **H-7 Displacement** This new goal and its policies are welcome.

Chapter 7 Economic Prosperity

The addition at various points in the chapter of the community, under-served groups, and cultural value relative to the 2017 plan is welcome. However, the general removal or downgrading of the emphasis on quality of life, the natural environment, and education is concerning.

p. 2 Is the removal from the Introduction of the roles of the downtown and of various industries in Spokane’s economic life a wise change? Similarly, is there wisdom in removing the contents of the Vision Statement

Spokane will enjoy a quality of life for everyone that includes a diversified economic base that provides a livable wage, a healthy natural environment, and an economically vibrant downtown. Spokane’s quality of life will be built on a

partnership of diverse interests, including education, business, government, and neighborhoods.

and the Values statement

Encouraging economic development that values the environment as a component of our quality of life.

p. 2 **EP-1.2 Economic Development Progress** The addition of “multi-ethnic, minority, and women-owned businesses” is welcome.

p. 3 **EP-1.3 Public-Private Partnerships** The addition of education and affordable housing is welcome.

p. 3 **EP-2 Development and Redevelopment of Land and Structures**

Ensure the supply of industrial and commercial properties is sufficient to meet the future economic needs of the City.

compared with 2017’s **ED 2.1**

Ensure opportunities for locating a variety of desirable, livable wage industries in Spokane that are environmentally compatible with adjacent land uses and support a range of employment types.

The 2026 draft eliminates the human considerations of “desirable, livable-wage industries” and “range of employment types” along with “environmenta[l] compatib[ility] with adjacent land uses.” Do these eliminations serve the “improved well-being and quality of life” of the Spokane community that the August 2026 Introduction sets as its goals?

p. 3 Policy: **EP-2.1 Land Supply and Site Selection**

Remove barriers to entry for new, expanding, and relocating industries by providing various site-by-site analytics and feasibility information, and implementing incentives.

compared with 2017’s **ED 2.1**

The City of Spokane encourages development of economic enterprises in locations suited for those uses based upon available public facilities, land capability, neighboring uses, and an orderly development pattern.

Does the 2026 draft’s elimination of “land capability, neighboring uses, and an orderly development pattern” serve the “improved well-being and quality of life” of the Spokane community that the Introduction sets as its goals?

p. 3 Does the 2026 draft’s elimination of the detailed list of specific steps for the City to take concerning land and new income-producing uses in 2017’s **ED 2.1** serve the Spokane community?

p. 3 2017’s **ED 2.3 Reusable Buildings Inventory**

Continue to maintain an inventory of historic and significant older buildings that could be redeveloped for economic activities rather than demolished.

has been eliminated. Why? Is an inventory not a helpful tool in promoting re-use? The statement on p. 9 that it is redundant with 2.2 may be questioned, as 2.2 does not recommend an inventory and refers to “sites,” not “buildings.”

p. 3 **EP-2.4 Brownfield Redevelopment** and **EP-2.5 Vacant storefronts** The addition of these sections is welcome.

p. 4 **EP-3 Resilient, Sustainable, and Diverse Economies; EP-3.1, Economic**

Development Plan The addition of ‘resilient’ and ‘those adding to the community and

cultural identity of Spokane’ and the reorientation of 3.1 to a development plan are welcome.

p. 4 **EP-3.2 Economic Diversity** The addition of ‘community investments’ is welcome.

p. 4 2017’s **ED 3.4 Value Added Business Strategy** has been eliminated. Why? The sidebar’s characterizing of this section as putting cabinet makers near lumber sales is inaccurate; it instead fosters the creation of additional jobs here by transforming raw materials into products through value-added work in Spokane rather than sending them elsewhere, e.g. making furniture out of lumber rather than shipping it out raw.

p. 4 **EP-3.5 Start-up Support** is an appropriate and welcome re-tuning of 2017’s **ED 3.3 Enterprise Opportunity**.

p. 4 **EP-3.6 Home-Based Businesses** 2017’s detailed list of potential negative impacts of home-based businesses on the surrounding community to be minimized by development regulations has been eliminated. Why?

p. 4 **EP-3.7 Technology-Based Industries** The addition of education is welcome; the deletion of quality of life is not.

p. 4 **EP-3.9 Regional Marketplace** The elimination of the world as an importer of Spokane-made goods is puzzling.

p. 5 **EP-3.11 Development Standards and Permitting Process**

The current policy focuses on the customer (builder). By contrast, the 2017 ED 3.7 and 7.6 also recognized the City’s responsibility to act on behalf of the community.

ED 7.6 Development Standards and Permitting Process

Periodically evaluate and improve the City of Spokane’s development standards and permitting process to ensure that they are equitable, cost-effective, timely, and meet community needs and goals.

p. 5 **EP-3.12 Food Access and Production; EP-3.13 Circular Economy; EP-3.14 Support Local** These are welcome new policies that address the importance of local production and of reducing waste.

p. 5 **EP-4, Living Wage Jobs and Income Disparity** While the considerable detail added relative to 2017’s account is welcome, the substitution of “workforce development” for the “education and training of workers,” which refers to individual human beings increasing their capabilities, is regrettable.

pp. 5 and 9 removal of **ED-4.2 Benchmark Indicators**

While the sidebar states that this activity is “already conducted by the City,” the policy’s removal opens the possibility that once it is no longer required by the Comprehensive Plan, the City may cease to conduct it.

p. 6 **EP-4.3 Commercial Displacement** The addition of this section is welcome.

p. 6 **Goal: EP-5 Education and Workforce Development**

Improve Spokane’s economy through a qualified, competitive, and diverse labor force

Compare with **2017:**

Improve Spokane’s economy through a well-educated citizenry and a qualified labor force that is globally competitive

The deletion of “a well-educated citizenry” as the basis of a globally-competitive labor force is perhaps the clearest example of how the 2026 draft removes education and civic participation from Spokane’s community life.

p. 6 **EP-5.1 Youth Programs** While 2026’s expansion of the types of programs is

welcome, the substitution of 2017's "young people" with "workforce" is not.

p. 6 **EP-5.3 Communication Links** The addition of the cultural feature is welcome.

p. 6 **EP-5.4 Employment Opportunities for All** The expansion of this section is welcome.

p. 6 **EP-5.5 Libraries as an Educational Resource** The downgrading of 2017's "adequate to improve the educational level" to "help" and the omission of the extensive discussion impoverish this iteration and the opportunities that it should foster. The sidebar's claim that the policy "has been updated to better match the role of libraries today and to strengthen connection to Economic Development" demonstrates a lack of familiarity with the ways in which libraries currently work and with residents' use of them in improving their employment prospects.

p. 6 **EP-5.6 Environmental Jobs Pipeline** The addition of this section is welcome.

p. 7 **EP-6 Infrastructure Development and Maintenance, EP-6.1 Investment in Public Infrastructure** 2026's elimination of 2017's "the city's quality of life" as the first goal of public infrastructure projects and the sidebar's statement that "Goal 6 and its policies have been reworked to focus on economic development, not infrastructure in general" prioritize profit over community.

p. 7 **EP-6.4 Growing Communication Infrastructure Needs** The addition of this section is welcome.

p. 7 **EP-6.6 Renewable Energy** The addition of this section is welcome.

p. 8 **EP 7.1 Revenue Sources** 2017's "do not penalize **certain** types of businesses" has become "do not penalize **desired** types of businesses."

p. 8 **EP-8 Creative Economy** (in the 2017 version more broadly titled **Quality of Life and the Environment**) The new focus on the creative economy is welcome, while the reduction of creative artists to "workforce" is not.

pp. 8-9 2017's **ED 8.1 Quality of Life Protection**

Protect the natural and built environment as a primary quality of life feature that allows existing businesses to expand and that attracts new businesses, residents, and visitors.

has become

EP-9.1 Promote Regional Natural Resources

Promote the region's outdoor amenities, recreational opportunities, and agritourism as features of both social benefit and economic growth, while protecting the natural resources for the future.

While the addition of "arts and cultural communities" is welcome, the deletion of the City's protection of residents' quality of life and the degradation of nature to a source of profit are not.

pp. 9-10 **Policies Removed from the Text** The following policies remain relevant and should be re-introduced.

p. 9 **ED-2.3 Reusable Buildings Inventory** While the sidebar cites EP-2.2 as similar, it refers to "areas" and does not recommend maintaining an inventory.

p. 10 **ED 4.2 Benchmark Indicators** The sidebar states, "As a policy it does not inform decision making directly." Why doesn't it?

p. 10 **ED-5.1 K-12 Education** While the sidebar states,

The City is unable to influence school curricula. Other policies remaining in the chapter allow for interaction with students.

the policy recommends only that the City “work cooperatively with local schools to help maintain and enhance the quality” of education and “[s]upport efforts to introduce new, high-quality programs into the curricula.” The City is able to do this by setting a tone and other indirect methods.

p. 10 **ED-5.6 Employer Training Support** While the sidebar states,

The City does not have the ability/tools necessary to directly influence how employers train their staff.

the policy does not recommend an effort to directly influence but to “encourage employers to support continuing education and training for their employees.” The sidebar statement ignores this draft’s own recommendations for training in **EP-3.5** “Promote incubator and accelerator programs that provide support such as mentorship, training and education” and **EP-3.7** “Assist the development of advanced and emerging technology-based industries by supporting education.”

p. 10 **ED 7.1 Collaborative Nurturing of the Business Climate**

Work with the business community, labor, economic development organizations and residents to maintain a good business climate.

This policy provides a useful tool.

Chapter 8 Urban Design and Historic Preservation

The chapter’s increased articulation of ‘people-oriented’ design and of the value of historic preservation and the addition of sustainability, climate, and accessibility considerations are welcome. The extensive excising of neighborhoods is not and should be reversed. Moreover, the Future Land Use Map applying the Comprehensive Plan as published in early August intrudes Residential High density into registered historic districts, working counter to DP-1.1 Landmark Structures, Buildings, and Sites. Recognize and preserve significant landmark structures, buildings, and sites.

p. 3 **DP-1.3 Significant Views and Vistas**

The policy praises the City’s recognition of significant views and vista as “providing protection from encroachment or adverse impacts” but gives no definition of “encroachment” and “adverse impacts” and no details of how this protection will be provided. It should have added to it the clear measures of the **2017 statement**:

protect them by establishing appropriate development regulations for nearby undeveloped properties

p. 3 **DP-1.6 Design Review Process** “Apply design guidelines to significant projects through a review process, such as the Design Review Board.”

How will ‘significant’ be defined? Now that the Design Review Board has been abolished, what review processes will be utilized? Who will choose or devise them?

p. 3 **DP-1.7 Balance Requirements with Need** This is a welcome new policy.

p. 3 **DP-1.9 Design Principles for Public Projects and Structures**

“Design and construct public facilities and structures using the highest design principles to maximize public benefit and encourage similar improvements to the built environment.”

Compare with 2017’s consideration of “neighborhood compatibility,” which has been deleted:

DP 2.3 Design Standards for Public Projects and Structures

Design all public projects and structures to uphold the highest design standards and

neighborhood compatibility.

Discussion: The development of public projects and structures can have an impact on surrounding areas. The perception that this has not been considered has resulted in neighborhood opposition to projects, in spite of potential benefits. In order to mitigate the perceived negative impacts on a neighborhood, the city must serve as an example by building its facilities to make a positive visual and functional contribution to the neighborhood, rather than just trying to mitigate negative impacts.

p. 4 **DP-1.11 Building and Site Design** 2026 deletes 2017's "intensity of use" as among the features to be considered to ensure that new projects are "compatible with the visual character of the surrounding environment."

p. 4 **DP-1.15 Diversity of Design in the Built Environment** This is a welcome new policy.

p. 4 **DP-1.17 Urban Trees and Landscaping in All Development** The addition of a requirement "that new development incorporate natural elements where appropriate" is welcome, though enforcement will require a definition of 'appropriate'.

p. 5 **DP-2 Historic Preservation** How will the new draft plan's emphasis on Urban Hubs be coordinated with historic preservation?

p. 5 **DP-2.3 Historic Preservation Plan** This is a welcome new policy and should include features concerning the placement of Urban Hubs respecting historic preservation.

p. 6 **DP-2.7 Equitable Communities** This is a welcome new policy.

p. 6 **DP-2.9 Preservation through Tribal Coordination** The expansion of this policy is welcome.

p. 7 **DP-2.13 Incentives toward Reuse, Renovation, and Preservation** This is a welcome new policy.

p. 7 **DP-2.15, Rehabilitation Education and Assistance** The introduction of education into rehabilitation is welcome but the excising of "provide" (DP-3.9) from incentives is not.

p. 7 **DP-2.16, Historic Districts** compare with 2017:

DP 3.13 Historic Districts and Neighborhoods

A signal instance of the excising of neighborhoods from the Comprehensive Plan. It should be reversed.

p. 7 **DP-2.17 Affordable Housing** This is a welcome new policy.

p. 8 **DP-2.18 Avoid Displacement** and **DP-2.19 Protection from Climate Hazards** are welcome new policies.

pp. 8-9 **DP-3 Sustainable Development** This new goal and its policies are welcome.

p. 9 **DP-3.10 Natural Features and Habitat Protection** is a welcome re-introduction.

pp. 9-10 **DP-4 Inclusive Design** This new goal and much of the policy language are welcome, but see comment to **DP-4.3**.

p. 10 2017's **DP 2.14 Town Squares and Plazas** has been eliminated from 2026. A sidebar states that **DP-4.3** "incorporates concepts from it." But its most important concepts of 'requirement' and 'placement around buildings' (Require redevelopment areas and new development to provide appropriately scaled open space such as town squares, plazas, or other public or private spaces that can be used as the focus of commercial and civic buildings.) are missing and should be restored.

p. 10 The following two excised goals should be re-introduced because the other sections

cited in the sidebar as addressing the issues do not address them adequately.

DP 4 Downtown Center Viability

Goal: Create a vital, livable downtown by maintaining it as the region's economic and cultural center and preserving and reinforcing its historic and distinctly urban character.

DP 5 Local Determination

Goal: Make neighborhoods attractive, safe places by encouraging residents to express their design and development values.

DP 5.1 Neighborhood Participation

Encourage resident participation in planning and development processes that will shape or re-shape the physical character of their neighborhood.

DP 5.2 Neighborhood Involvement in the City Design Review Process

Encourage neighborhoods to participate in the city's design review process.

Chapter 9 Natural Environment

The extensive additions to this chapter and articulation of various issues in a nature-centered way are welcome developments. The removal of policies recognizing the importance of the natural environment to quality of life and to public life are not. To this chapter should be added cross-references to the material on wildfires that has been added to other chapters of the Comprehensive Plan.

p. 2 **Introduction** par. 3 slightly re-written

p. 2 **NE-1.2 Stormwater Techniques and Best Practices** sidebar: "This policy was added" should read "This policy was expanded"; a similar policy existed in 2017, here expanded with "Best Practices."

p. 3 **NE-1.5 Mining Activities** 2017's "Prohibit open pit mining..." has become "Prohibit or severely limit open pit mining..."

Who will decide whether it is prohibit or severely limit? On what basis? With what public process? Why has this option been opened up? What kind of open pit mining would this change allow?

p. 3 **NE-1.8 Toxic Dumping Regulations** 2017's "Retain and enforce laws against dumping toxic fluids..." has become "Develop and enforce restrictions and fines for the dumping of toxic fluids... consistent with state and federal law." The 2017 verb 'retain' connotes a City law, because you cannot retain something over which you do not have final authority. The proposed 2026 wording cedes that authority to the state and the federal government, entities over which the City has no control. There are no guarantees that the state and the federal government will provide as much protection to residents of Spokane as the city government that they alone elect. Why can the City not simply continue to enforce those laws?

p. 3 **NE-1.9 Sewer Requirement** sidebar: "The original mention of the urban growth area was made more specific, limiting this policy to the City's service area."

What sewer requirements are there for the urban growth area outside the City's service area? If there are none, does that create a risk of contamination reaching the aquifer?

pp. 3-4 **NE-2 Water Conservation** The strengthening of this goal and its policies is a welcome and needed development.

p. 5 **NE-3.5 Aquatic and Upland Habitat** The specification of conditions for anadromous fish is a welcome addition.

- p. 7 **NE-6 Natural Landforms** to ‘including landforms of cultural significance’ should be added ‘and ecological’ (including landforms of cultural **and ecological** significance)
- p. 8 **NE-9.2 Natural Corridor Links and Connections** The restitution of the phrase “natural areas” (i.e. the removal of the adjective “undisturbed” that appeared in the May version of the chapter) is welcome.
- p. 9 **NE-9.6 Interconnected Natural Systems** This new policy is welcome.
- pp. 10-11 **NE-10 Urban Forestry** This new goal and its expanded and added goals are welcome.
- p. 10 **NE-11 Connectivity and Access to Wildlands and Open Space** This new goal and the added and expanded policies are welcome.
- p. 11 **NE-13.3 Critical Areas Education** This new policy is welcome.
- p. 12 **NE-13.6 Volunteer Opportunities** This new policy is welcome.
- p. 12 **NE-14 Tribal Collaboration** This new goal and its policies are welcome.
- p. 12 **NE-15, Data and Monitoring** This new goal and its policies are welcome.
- Policies Removed from the Text** The following removed policies are worth restoring.
- p. 13 **NE-13 Incorporating Natural Designs in Public Places** The sidebar’s statement that this goal has been transferred to Chapter 8 as policy 3.9 dismisses its location here, which recognizes the natural environment’s contribution to public life.
- p. 14 **NE-9.6 Packaging Reduction** The sidebar states that it implements other policies but does not name them.
- p. 14 **NE-9.7 Spokane’s Youth and Green Economy Careers** The removal of this policy fails to capitalize on green careers as a growing trend that will be especially important and appealing to young people.
- p. 14 **NE-16 Quality of Life** The sidebar’s statement that this goal and policies were re-located to Chapter 10 dismisses the importance of its location here, which recognizes the natural environment’s contribution to quality of life.
- p. 15 **NE-16X Energy Conservation** The sidebar states that this goal was a new one drafted for inclusion but that it was later removed because the related policies were removed or relocated. However, energy conservation is integral to the treatment of the natural environment.

Chapter 10 Community Health

The change in title from Social Health to Community Health appropriately reflects the chapter’s contents.

p. 2 CH-1 Funding Mechanisms to Support Community Health; CH-1.1 Invest in Social Health

The role of the arts and cultural programs that 2017 recognized here has been transferred to **CH-3 Public Art**.

p. 2 **CH-1.2 Commitment to Youth** The expanded reach of this policy is a welcome development.

p. 3 **CH-1.4 Community Awareness and Access** While the expanded list of means of communication is welcome, the removal of the recommendation of reduced rates and financial support for memberships represents a loss.

p. 3 **CH-1.6 Inclusive Community Involvement, CH-1.7 Equitable Investments for Community Resilience** These new policies are a welcome addition.

p. 3 2017’s **SH 1.8 Volunteerism** has been removed but not included in the list of

removed policies on p. 12. Its removal represents a loss to the community.

p. 4 **CH-2.5 Childcare and Public Facilities** This new policy of locating childcare facilities within public facilities is a welcome addition.

p. 4 **CH-3 Public Art** The division of CH-3, formerly “the arts” inclusive of a traditional notion of culture, into **CH-3 Public Art** (generally visual and sculptural) and **CH-4 Celebrating Spokane’s Many Cultures** brings a welcome development of the latter, though a narrowing of the definition of the former.

p. 4 **CH-3.1 Municipal Arts Plan** This welcome new policy calls for a plan to promote public art and local art programs to augment both economy and quality of life.

p. 4 **CH-3.2 Support for the Arts** 2017’s “Encourage public and private participation in and support of the arts and cultural events” is narrowed to “public art.” The term ‘public art’ is understood to mean works of visual art such as murals, sculptures, etc., whereas “arts and cultural events” covers the broader spectrum enumerated in 2017’s discussion: “written, visual, musical, traditional, and performing arts.”

p. 5 **CH-3.3 Neighborhood Arts Presence** The addition of Neighborhood Councils to the organizations to work with is welcome, although the deletion of 2017’s lengthy section on the importance of neighborhood art to the character, identity, and atmosphere of the neighborhood is a loss.

p. 5 **CH-3.4 Public Funding for the Arts** The broadening of sources beyond Tax Increment Financing is welcome. Although retaining 2017’s “the Arts” in the title, what seems to be meant here is better referred to with “art” in the meaning of visual or sculptural art, which also seems to be the referent of “the arts in public projects...”

p. 5 **CH-3.5 Support for Local Artists, CH-3.6 Artist and Maker Spaces** The expansion of the first of these policies and the addition of the second are welcome.

pp. 5-6 **CH-4 Celebrating Spokane’s Many Cultures** This new section with largely new material, especially **4.1 Cultural Master Plan** and **4.6 Tribal Connectedness**, brings a welcome inclusion of Spokane’s many cultures.

p. 7 **CH-5.3 Diversity Awareness and Education, CH-6.3, Supporting Unhoused and Unstably Housed Neighbors** These are welcome new policies.

p. 7 **CH-6.4 Quality of Life Indicators** The relocation of this section to Chapter 10 Community Health from Chapter 9 Natural Environment represents a gain for Chapter 10 and a loss for Chapter 9. A cross-reference should be added to Chapter 9.

p. 8 **CH-7.4 Public Safety and Human Services** This new policy is a welcome addition.

pp. 9-10 **CH-9 Food Access and Security** The numerous new policies and updates in this section (9.4-9.10) are welcome.

pp. 10-11 **CH-10 Emergency Management and related policies** The addition of this section is particularly welcome because of its vital importance to the community.

p. 12 **Policies Removed from the Text** recommended for restoration

Policy: SH-3.4, One Percent for Arts

Encourage private developers to incorporate an arts presence into buildings and other permanent structures with a value of over \$25,000 by allocating one percent of their project’s budget for this purpose.

sidebar: SH-3.4 was removed because it is more appropriately addressed as an implementation strategy, not a policy.

This policy should be retained as an indication of the City’s expectation that developers contribute to the arts locally.

Policy: SH-5.3, Space for Public Benefit Uses

Provide regulatory and tax incentives and flexibility that encourage builders, developers, and businesses to make space available in their project for public benefit uses.

sidebar: The sharing of facilities is captured in other policies.

The sharing of facilities may be captured in other policies but not the overt call to builders, developers, and businesses. This policy should be restored to indicate the expectation that they fulfill their role in developing space for public benefit uses.

Policy: SH-6.6, Neighborhood Role

Encourage neighborhood residents to apply CTPED principles in their consideration of development issues within their own particular neighborhood.

sidebar: The topic of SH-6.6 is covered in Urban Design and Historic Preservation (e.g. people-oriented design) and Neighborhoods (e.g. safe mobility).

This policy should be retained in this chapter because it specifically involves CTPED principles and it demonstrates an important way in which residents can become involved in their neighborhood and participate in addressing neighborhood issues.

Chapter 11 Neighborhoods

The four additional instances of “Neighborhood Council[s]” relative to the April draft are welcome.

- p. 2 The Introduction adds a cross-reference to the description of the role of Neighborhood Councils in the **Local Governance Through Civic Participation Chapter**.
- p. 6 “neighborhood councils” has been added to **N-6.3 Maintenance of City-Owned Open Space and Amenities**
- p. 6 “Neighborhood Councils” has been added to **N-7.2 Neighborhood Planning**
- p. 6 A cross-reference to the role of Neighborhood Councils in the **Local Governance Through Civic Participation Chapter** in the marginal notes.

p. 2 2017’s Values section provided a detailed list of the attractive features of Spokane’s varied and unique neighborhoods and how to preserve and enhance them. The current draft lacks that section.

p. 3 2017’s **N-2.1 Neighborhood Quality of Life** included “quality schools” in the list of options constituting it. The current draft omits it.

p. 3 The current draft’s additional **2.6 Housing Diversity** specifies “the development of moderate density housing options in all neighborhoods.”

p. 5 **N-4.7 Safe Mobility** This policy adds welcome new features that promote safety for users of active transportation.

p. 6 2017’s **N-6.1 Environmental Planning** included environmental planning as “a daily exercise in maintaining a clean living environment for health, safety, and aesthetic purposes” in addition to its use in new or renewed developments. The current draft does not.

p. 6 2017’s **N-8 Neighborhood Planning Process** goal includes in its description of the “neighborhood planning process” that it “empowers neighborhoods in their decision-making.” The current draft, in which the section is now 7, does not.

p. 6 2017’s **N-8.2 Neighborhood Planning Process** states that it “carries out the city’s firm commitment to neighborhood planning, involves simultaneous consideration of city and neighborhood goals and strategies, and includes representatives of both the city and

neighborhood working together.” The current draft, in which the section is now 7, does not.

pp. 6-7 References to ongoing planning by neighborhoods have been removed from 2017’s policies **8.3 City Participation in Neighborhood Planning** required that neighborhoods, when they plan, consult with the City so that their plans will not conflict with the plans of various governmental entities. Similarly, **8.4 Consistency of Plans** was concerned with “consistency between neighborhood planning documents and the comprehensive plan.” See also 2017’s Appendix H Neighborhood Planning. The current draft’s section **7.3** is now entitled **Plan Consistency and Implementation** and no longer alludes to ongoing planning by neighborhoods but instructs the City to take “adopted plans” into consideration when the City plans “including during Comprehensive Plan Amendments and updates.” **7.4** has been re-titled **Connections and Impacts Between and Among Neighborhoods** and instructs to “Consider the impacts of decisions on both the neighborhood most directly involved and how neighborhoods are interconnected and relate to each other when conducting planning or policy/code amendments.”

p. 7 2017 contained Policy **8.5 Neighborhood Planning Coordination** and **8.6 Neighborhood Planning Recommendations** detailing procedures for the plans made by neighborhoods in relation to one another and to the City. These policies do not appear in the current draft and are not listed among the Policies removed from the text on p. 7.

p. 7 **Policies Removed from the Text** recommended for re-introduction

Policy: **N-6.2, Code Enforcement** Enforce the city codes for public nuisances impacting neighborhood properties.

City enforcement of its codes is a common issue for Spokane’s residents.

Chapter 12 Parks and Recreation

The greater attention to the preservation of the natural environment in much of the chapter is a welcome development. There are some concerns, however. Policy **2.3 Connecting the River and Adjacent Uses** could easily come into conflict with the mandate to preserve the natural environment. A feature that will complicate the policies in this chapter is the definition in **Chapter 3 Growth Strategy** (pp. 9-10) that includes indoor facilities such as sports complexes in “open space.”

p. 2 First paragraph re-written to emphasize parks and open spaces.

p. 3 **PR-2 Parks and Open Space System** The effect of this goal and its “opportunities for passive and active recreation provided by a comprehensive open space network” is complicated by the new definition of Open Space in **Chapter 3 Growth Strategy** (pp. 9-10), which conflates the formerly separate “Conservation Open Space” and “Open Space” (cf. 2017 **Chapter Three Land Use**, p. 45) and includes in it “active recreation facilities (e.g. sports complexes).” Thus under the new Open Space designation, a former Conservation Space that offered important wildlife habitat could have a stadium with a parking lot built on it.

p. 3 **PR 2.3 Connecting the River and Adjacent Uses** “Study and develop ways to enhance the river by coordinating access and use of the waterways in Spokane with access to adjacent uses and opportunities, such as providing river access for both people and watercraft adjacent to shops and restaurants.”

PR 2.3 is likely to give rise to two issues. Is “access” defined as public or private (e.g. a privately-owned marina or dock)? If private, will it be allowed to interfere with public

forms of access, such as the Centennial Trail? There is likely to be conflict between **2.3** and **PR-1.2 River Corridors**, which mandates maintaining consistency with habitat preservation and protection standards. Increased access to the river from commercial venues may “enhance” it for human customers but will very likely degrade its environmental and habitat quality. Any conflict between the application of these two policies must be resolved in favor of **PR-1.2**. There is already extensive access to the river for humans who wish it.

p. 4 PR-2.4 Parks and Recreation Amenities Develop and maintain parks and recreation amenities, including but not limited to interpretive areas, sports complexes and fields, structured play areas, public gardens, and entertainment venues, that provide benefits to both residents and visitors and enhance the local economy.

Will this policy diminish the park space available to Spokane residents for their own personal and group activities?

p. 4 PR-2.7 Efficient Property Management Assess unimproved park land holdings within the city and, considering Level-of-Service (LOS) standards, develop modifications and solutions to increase LOS benefiting residents.

Will this policy reduce the open space available to Spokane residents, especially children, to use for their own free-form recreation?

p. 5 PR-3.5 Community Gardens This is a welcome new policy.

p. 5 PR-4.3 Innovative Trail Development Techniques This is a welcome new policy.

p. 6 PR-6.2 Celebrate Local Landscapes and Build Resilience and **PR-6.3 Park Equity and Investments** are welcome new policies.

p. 7 PR-7.3 Park Funding Consider all potential funding sources to maintain and enhance the adopted Level-of-Service (LOS) standards for parks, seeking funding in addition to the general fund contribution to Parks and Recreation.

Does this policy open the door to private funding of the maintenance of Spokane’s parks? If so, this is a serious change in practice that must be brought to the public for a vote.

p. 8 Policies Removed from the Text recommended for restoration

PR-3.7 Outdoor Recreational Facilities Provide facilities and programs that allow the public the opportunity to participate in a broad range of outdoor recreational activities, including expanding the hours and dates these locations are available where feasible.

sidebar: PR-3.7 (originally **PRS-5.6**) being removed as it is redundant with **PR-1.2** [N.B. **PR-1.2 River Corridors** “Recognize, enhance, and preserve access to the Spokane River and various waterways for the recreational enjoyment and use of the public, recognizing the health, social, and cultural benefits access to the waters of Spokane provides, while maintaining consistency with habitat preservation and protection standards.”]

PR-1.2 deals specifically with waterways and therefore there does not appear to be redundant with **PR-3.7**.

PR-7.7 Public Participation Ensure that decisions regarding the city’s park and open space system encourage the full participation of Spokane’s citizenry [residents].

This policy should be restored, as in every chapter, to allow the Charter-mandated role of residents and Neighborhood Councils in the range of City decisions.

Chapter 13 Governance

The enhancement of pre-existing goals and the addition of new ones in **LG-1**, the emphasis on broad community participation, the addition of details to the section on Neighborhood Councils, and the addition of Goals **LG-7 Community Participation** and **LG-8 Tribal and Urban Native Collaboration** and policies are welcome developments.

p. 2 **Introduction** 2017's statement of the "tremendous impacts" made by community members' participation in local government has been excised.

p. 3 **LG-1.6 Equity as Core Principle** and **LG-1.7 Incorporating Data Analysis** are welcome new policies.

p. 3 2017's **LGC 2 Citizen-Directed Decisions** has been renamed **Community Involvement**, reflecting a weaker role for residents in decision-making as seen in **LG 2.2**.

p. 3 2017's **LGC 2.2 Civics Education Throughout Life** opened the Discussion portion with the affirmation, "Individual citizens participating in community planning activities bear a substantial responsibility for the success of these activities. It requires their exercise of initiative, discipline, thought, and communication." The current draft's **LG 2.2 Civics Education** refers to "responsive civic participation" and "engaged community."

p. 4 The "Visions and Values" section of the 2017 update opened with the statement that "Spokane volunteers involved in the planning process identified important themes in relation to Spokane's current and future growth." The current draft eliminates that section and contains no similar statement.

p. 4 **LG-3.4 Community Representation** This new policy encouraging participation of a broad range of community members in Neighborhood Councils is welcome.

p. 5 2017's **LGC 6.1 Enforcement of Land Use and Development Codes** contains a Discussion section affirming that, "One of the fundamental principles of effective governance is to ensure responsiveness to the needs of citizens. Through the planning process, citizens express their desired quality of life and the features of the physical, social, and economic environments that characterize that quality of life. Land use and development codes are governmental tools to achieve those features."

The current draft's **LG-6.1** omits the Discussion section and refers to "compliance with land use and development codes that support quality of life, increase responsiveness, and provide equitable enforcement."

p. 6 **LG-7 Community Participation** with its policies **LG-7.1 Awareness of Opportunities**, **LG-7.2 Partner with Organizations**, and **LG-7.3 Environmental Awareness** are welcome additions.

pp. 6-7 **LG-8 Tribal and Urban Native Collaboration** with its policies **LG-8.1 Intergovernmental Relations**, **LG-8.2 Tribal Consultation**, **LG-8.3 Tribal Liaisons**, and **LG-8.4 Urban Native Collaboration** are welcome additions.

Appendix 1 Public Participation and Engagement Appendix

The appendix contains copies of the materials related to the broad public outreach through workshops and other gatherings prepared by the Planning Department, which does not identify work with advisory and focus groups (see instead 2017's Appendix I Public Outreach, Participation and Coordination).

Appendix 2 Climate Element Matrix Appendix

This appendix gathers together and identifies elements in all the chapters relating to climate issues with icons identifying particular topics.

Appendix 3 Transportation

not yet complete

Appendix 4 Capital Facilities Plan

This lengthy appendix provides technical information.

Appendix 5 Housing

This appendix contains reports and documents concerning various issues around housing (with the exception of the Emergency Housing and Permanent Affordable Housing Supplement, which will be completed and entered prior to the Plan Commission hearing).

Volume 3 Shoreline Chapter Tech Data

contains documents and reports from the 2006-2007 Shoreline Master Program Update



Administrative Committee Meeting Agenda/Notes

Tuesday 22 September, 2026, 4:00 - 5:30 pm

Zoom

Committee members Laura Johnson, Krista Anderson, Lorna Walsh, Luke Tolley

ONS Staff: Gabrielle Ryan

Other attendees: Elizabeth Goldsmith, Fran Papenleur, Paul Kropp

NOTES:

1. Welcome and Introductions:
2. Approve previous month's minutes: unopposed
3. City Updates:
 - a. None
4. October Agenda
 - a. Action Items from Sept Meeting Follow Up
 - i. Vote on 2 LUC letters from October
 - ii. Send Sept letter as written
 - iii. Other:
 1. Last Night with Planning
 - a. Possible Comp Plan Update committee for CA & engagement with 5-year update cycle
 - b. Potential overlap/shared purpose with Land Use/Traffic Calming
 2. Cliff Winger's passing
 - a. Sympathy Card
 - b. Open Forum/Announcements
 - c. Moment of silence - Jael make a statement?
 - b. Items for CA Agenda
 - i. Cliff Winger (5 mins)
 - ii. Planning - Tirrell Black (5 mins)
 - iii. Traffic Calming Program Update - Nichole White/John Snyder (15 mins)
 - iv. Tim Thompson, Build Spokane (Development Regulations) (15min)
 - v. *Code Enforcement, Luis Garcia (15 mins) - Nov?*
 - vi. Arielle Anderson - CHHS update on the scattered site model, inclement weather and the RFP (? mins)
 - vii. Heather - ONS one year recap (10 mins)
 - c. Committee & Liaison Reports
 - i. Admin:
 1. P&P Review Cycle
 - ii. Elections - Announce Nominations
 - iii. Budget - Reallocation
 - iv. BSN -
 1. Handbook
 2. SNS
 3. Good Neighbor Awards
 - v. Land Use -
 1. 2 from last month - Vote to approve

- vi. Liaison -
 - 1. TC**
 - 2. CHHS
 - 3. Urban Forestry
- vii. Plan Commission Liaison -
- d. New Items for CA Agenda

5. Admin Committee Business

- a. Old Business
 - i. Safety Committee P&P - Rolled into standard annual P&P update cycle
 - ii. Road map for Roles and Responsibilities
- b. New Business

6. Future CA Agenda Items

- a. November
 - i. DSP - Emilie Cameron (15 mins)
 - ii. NSC Speaker - SPD - Traffic Calming/Unit
 - iii. Elections
 - iv. Vote on Budget Re-allocation
 - v. Code Enforcement, Luis Garcia (15 mins)
 - vi. Steve Williams with SUN or Heather Sweet with 311 RE: SUN 911 and the transition from Crime Check to 311 within City limits (10 mins)
- b. December
 - i. Potluck?

7. Draft Agenda: Approved unopposed as drafted



COMMITTEE REPORT

BUILDING STRONGER NEIGHBORHOODS COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: 9/19/2026, 9am, Gonzaga University Hemmingson Center

Meeting called to order by: Tina Luerssen

IN ATTENDANCE:

Tina Luerssen (Grandview-Thorpe), Fran Papenleur (Audubon-Downriver), Sandy Wicht (Comstock), Dan Brown (North Hill), Laura Johnson (Hillyard), Jeff Braunschweig (Hillyard), Elizabeth Goldsmith (Comstock/Neighborhood Safety Committee), Brian Muegge (West Hills), Angel Troutt (Hillyard). ONS Staff: Amber Groe

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES VOTE:

Motion to approve meeting minutes, made by Dan, seconded by Sandy. Motion carries, 7 - Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstain

MINUTES:

1. Welcome/Introductions and Committee Business:
 - a. Approve August Minutes - Approved
 - b. 2027 BSN Meeting Schedule and locations
 - i. Tina presented a list of the 3rd Saturdays and 2nd Saturdays in 2027. If we continue on 3rd Saturday, we will need to adjust in January and June for holidays. If we move to 2nd Saturday, we will need to adjust in February. Laura moved, Jeff seconded, all approved to move our regular BSN meetings to the 2nd Saturday in 2027; February will shift to 2/20 (3rd Sat) to avoid President's Day weekend. Amber will look into reserving The Hive for 2027.
2. Spokane Neighborhood Summit
 - a. Amber presented the Summit Workshops and registration, which went out to the CA/NC email list this week. 19 people are already registered. Amber asked for volunteers to fill needed spaces; many were filled and Tina will bring the request to CA for additional people.
 - b. The spaces will be very similar to last year's event at Hemmingson. We will have all 3 sections of the ballroom, so the Resource Fair will be in the same room as tables and programs. Amber will bring the resource fair list next month. The lunch at this year's SNLA graduation was so well received, that Amber has ordered a similar spread for SNS.
 - c. Pre-Workshop opportunity to tour the downtown Combined Sewage Overflow Tank - everyone is excited for this!
 - d. Brian is on the advisory board for Gonzaga's College of Arts & Sciences, and asked about opportunities to connect students to the Summit.
 - e. Highest-rated non-scheduled workshops for possible Spring Learning Series:
 - i. Tips and Tools for Public Presentations (Kirstin Davis)
 - ii. The Importance of Block Watch and Knowing Your Neighbors (Victor Frazier)

- iii. Showcasing Youth-Led Priorities (Angel Troutt)
 - iv. A Playbook for Building a Strong Community Through Events (Alex John)
- f. Lower-rated possibilities include "Corner Store Highs: Examining Kratom and 7-OH Retail in Spokane," "Building Courageous Citizenship - Becoming a Braver Angel in Your Own World," "All About CA Standing Committees," "Building Bridges: A World Cafe on Reciprocal Community Relationships."
- 3. 2026 Good Neighbor Awards Celebration - Saturday 12/12/26 at Fire Training Center, 9-10:30am
 - a. Laura offered to submit the CE Grant application, for up to \$400 food & drink and up to \$600 for paper goods, kids activities, and awards. This is significantly less than last year's total application for \$1500, but we still have cups and certificates leftover from last year. Sandy moved, Laura seconded, unanimous approval for this CE Grant application.
 - b. Sandy will provide coffee and cups. Amber noted that we have plenty of certificate paper, but should order more certificate holders and figure around 25 cents/page for printing costs.
 - c. Tina shared the sad news that Cliff Winger passed away unexpectedly this week. He was the Chair of Shiloh Hills NC, currently serving on the CA Admin Committee and as CA Transportation Commission Liaison, among other things. The committee agreed that we should acknowledge Cliff's contributions somehow at the Good Neighbor Awards, whether that is with a posthumous Lifetime Achievement or other award.
 - d. Awards last year were restricted to maximum 3 per category from each NC, and anything over that was sent back to the NC for final decision. Committee agreed that this should continue.

Categories:

 - i. Lifetime Achievement
 - ii. Jeanette Harras Award
 - iii. Spirit of the CA Award
 - iv. Good Neighbor Awards - individual and organization.
 - 1. Laura suggested a future award for Non-profit of the year, restricted to smaller, regional organization. For this year, we will break out GNA into two separate categories: Individual and Organization. This will hopefully encourage more submittals to recognize great organizations.
 - 2. Fran suggested mentioning the Spokane Fires and remembering to acknowledge individuals/organizations that stepped up during this disaster.
 - e. Elizabeth has implemented a standing agenda item at her NC for neighbor recognition. This is a great way to solicit/collect names for annual Good Neighbor recognition.
- 4. CA Handbook Review
 - a. Tina incorporated all of the edits and comments and shared the updated Handbook. Hard copies were passed around, with a request to send any edits to Tina by 9/25 before she presents it to the CA on 10/1.
 - b. Future Projects: Tina will ask the CA if they would like BSN to work on updating the CA P&P in 2027. We also need to work on the Toolkit update.
- 5. Neighborhood Updates:

- a. Grandview-Thorpe: Tina shared her NC's new logo, designed by a resident and voted on at their Block Party. They had ~75 attendees at the Block Party, even though the weather was in the 50s and rainy.
 - b. North Hill: Garland Pride was a success, due in part to the Business Association being more engaged and collaborative with the NC. 10/24 is a Halloween event, and 12/12 will be a Holiday event. They are also having signal lights installed at Rowan and Maple/Ash.
 - c. Hillyard: So much! Hillyard Fest and parade; Art Chalk Walk; Hillyard Bash; Hillyard Pride; 1st anniversary of the 3rd Thursday Creative District; upcoming Flea Market. Two HAWK lights are about to be installed - finally!
 - d. Audubon - Downriver: They had a successful concert series, and raised \$1500 in donations and sponsorship. Second annual Fall Fest is coming up 10/3.
 - e. West Hills: Porch Fest was awesome, today is a Block Party.
 - f. Comstock: Cancelled NNO due to the fires, the church might host a Fall Fest. Over \$700 raised at the Symphony concert in the park. Encouraged NCs if you want Senator Ricelli to come to a meeting, this is the best time to ask before the session starts.
 - g. Angel updated on a Rogers HS grad, running the youth program at NEYC, doing walk audits, repping Hillyard!
 - h. Elizabeth updated on the Neighborhood Safety Committee - next meeting will be 10/22 at The Hive. They are focused on fire safety, specifically in Parks. She referenced SMC 12.02.1006; they are now able to cite and manage illegal fires in parks. She has asked for signs, training, and for Parks to form a safety committee.
6. Next Regular BSN meeting 10/17/26 at The Hive/Zoom
- i. Final SNS preparation
 - ii. Handbook - Feedback from CA
 - iii. Good Neighbor Awards preparation
7. Adjourn

2026 BSN Committee Officers:

Committee Chair: Tina Luerssen, Grandview-Thorpe. MacLuerssen@gmail.com

Committee Support: Amber Groe, AGroe@spokanecity.org (509) 625-6156

Committee Vice-Chair: Dan Brown, North Hill

Committee Secretary: Luke Tolley, Bemiss

BSN Committee Mission Statement:

"Build stronger neighborhoods by promoting the growth of Neighborhood Councils through training, education, and engagement opportunities, with input from the Neighborhood Councils."

From: [Ryan, Gabrielle](#)
Subject: Upcoming Budget Committee Mtg: Wednesday, 9/30/26
Date: Monday, September 28, 2026 12:51:52 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

To Neighborhood Council officers, Community Assembly Reps & Alt Reps,

Budget Committee will be meeting in-person only this Wednesday, September 30th at the CA inventory closet to assess inventory closet needs and organization of the closet. The following day, at Community Assembly, the report of unspent CE Grant funds will be shared and CA reps will be asked to take this info back to their NCs to gather feedback on ideas for spending down the remaining funds. The focus on spending down remaining funds, is to spend it on things that benefit all 29 neighborhoods.

Update on CE Grant Reimbursements: 75% of NCs submitted their receipts/requests last week. As you can imagine, it's taking some time for me to review them and get the reimbursement packages finalized for payment. If you haven't heard from me yet, it's because I'm still working through the submissions. If anything is missing, I'll reach out to your NC directly.

Thank you,



Gabby Ryan | *they/she*

Community Programs Coordinator, Office of Neighborhood Services

Desk: 509.625.6858 | Cell: 509.703.8734 | gryan@spokanecity.org | spokanecity.org





LIAISON COMMITTEE

Draft Meeting Notes

September 8, 2026

Liaison Committee Draft Notes – September 8, 2026 – S Hill Library and Zoom

Present: Paul Kropp, Southgate, Chair; Andy Hoyer, Southgate, Transcriptionist; Bonnie McInnis, West Central; Heather Hamlin, ONS; excused absence – Lorna Walsh, Riverside

Meeting convened at 2:15PM .

We noted a quorum present, approved the chair's proposed agenda and approved the distributed June 9 meeting notes as the committee's minutes of record for that date.

We reviewed the attendance grid, noting good attendance overall. We will use the abbreviated "CA logo header form" for posting Packet reports.

Lorna not being present, we did not review the tracking of Packet Reports. Angel not being present, we did not review the final form of the promotional brochure.

Noting two liaison vacancies (CHHS Board and Urban Forestry Citizen Advisory Committee), ONS will distribute information for recruitment materials to the Councils.

We agreed to move our Liaison Committee meetings to the second Mondays, on a temporary basis until year-end and thereafter, pending approval by the Community Assembly for a permanent change during the year end P&P review process, and to notify the CA of this temporary change at its meeting on October 1.

We discussed the different roles held by the LC and ONS regarding the steps of formal nomination/appointment of liaisons to, through and by the CA, City Council and Mayor, and agreed that they should be made clear and be documented.

The Spokane Municipal Code has perhaps mistaken wording for the term of the CA liaison to the Transportation Commission – Paul and Heather may work on the matter eventually.

There was a discussion of Paul's request to speak directly with city and city council staff on certain matters pertaining to CA liaison positions, rather than ONS serving as a go-between.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM

Notes provided by Andy Hoyer

Edited by Paul Kropp



COMMITTEE REPORT

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY COMMITTEE

October, 2026

Chair's Report – Elizabeth Goldsmith

Happy Fall, one and all!

During the Admin Committee call on September 22, I asked the Admin Committee for a review and/or update on the Neighborhood Safety Committee's (NSC) P&P draft so I could share it with the NSC at the next meeting. It was agreed that the NSC's P&P review will follow the standard annual CA process, which begins in October/November, 2026 and will conclude with a vote during the February, 2027 CA meeting.

The August Public Safety and Community Health Committee meeting was cancelled. The September meeting took place on September 1st. The video link and time stamps are below (previously provided in the September CA minutes):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9apXgpiENTA>

Chief Hall begins at 37:30

Mike Forbes, Administrative Battalion Chief for SFD begins at 56:55

In November, 2026, the Spokane Police Department will be presenting to the CA. Please email me at goldsmithteam@msn.com with topics of interest by October 16 if possible.

The next NSC meeting will be Thursday, October 22 at 6pm at the HIVE.

Please contact me if the committee can support you in any way. Thanks, everyone.

Elizabeth

Pedestrian, Traffic and Transportation (PeTT) CA Meeting 9/22/26 at 6:00pm on Zoom

Attendance: Carol Tomsic-Chair-Lincoln Heights, Mary Winkes-Manito/Cannon Hill and Land Use Committee, Jeff Mergler- Comstock, Paul Kropp-Southgate, David Eagle-Chief Garry Park and Land Use Committee, Charles Hansen-Whitman, Elizabeth Goldsmith – Comstock, Debra Greel-West Hills, Carlie Hoffman-?, Ryan Jerman-Browne's Addition, Chuck Carter-Manito/Cannon Hill, Mike Tresidder-Senior Transit Planner-STA, Erik Lowe-Spokane Reimagined

Carol Tomsic called the meeting to order

Attendees introduced themselves and their neighborhood affiliations.

Mike Tresidder, Spokane Transit Authority. Wellesley Corridor Development Plan update.

Mikes presentation of HP 1.0 Corridor Development Plan is identified in the Connect 2035 of corridor development policy under current STA route 33 to be identified as a High-Performance Transit (HPT) candidate and rebranded as STA route 3. It connects two community colleges, two high schools, many activity centers and transfer opportunities to frequent routes. A major east west corridor with 600,000 riders per year in 2025 and ranks 5th systemwide by ridership. This new corridor plan will have 8 full HPT stations, 18 enhanced stops with shelters, and consolidation of 12 stops to improve speed and stability. The short-term standard stops will remain at 31 locations. Mike discussed key infrastructure and passenger amenity gaps along the route. He will continue stakeholder meetings with neighborhood groups, students and city staff and post maps and draft materials online for review along with STA site assessments to their website by September 30th to be discussed before the STA Board and public hearing October 15th. They will make recommendations in early November to the STA Planning and Development Committee for recommendation and adoption. Mary endorsed the idea and asked about the estimated travel time between the two community colleges as many staff and students attend both campuses.

<https://www.spokanetransit.com/projects/wellesley-corridor-development-plan/>

Agency Updates. Mike Tresidder presented STA updates announcing September service adjustments were minor and implemented to route 36 extending to North Freya and some additional weeknight and Saturday service added on other lines. STA Link On-Demand pilot program launched. The STA double-decker safety review regarding the viaduct accident was completed. It identified gaps in issue tracking and dispatch notification configuration and developed a corrective action plan.

Erik Lowe - Spokane Reimagined Updated us on local events for **Week without Driving (10/1-9)**. Events such as Trivia Night, bike corral, history walk, bike infrastructure and other outreach events intended to promote walking, biking and transit use. Working with STA staff and partners to support messaging and outreach. Suggested PeTT's encourage CA members to attend upcoming Community Assembly meeting walking, biking or other transit use.

Erik said they will not get the micro grant this year that allowed them to install 29 transit benches. Elizabeth asked if neighborhood councils can fund their own benches and Erik said he could help any neighborhood council interested with plans and blueprint efficiency.

<https://weekwithoutdriving.org>

Meeting Roundtable

Debra Greel-West Hills. Seeking support for a neighborhood drafted funding request for restoration of the Sunset/Latah Bridge. West Hills Neighborhood Council with support of Kate Telis-City Council to request federal funding for restoration of the Sunset/Latah Bridge. Concern for the bridge condition with visible deterioration with current repair estimates from \$60 to \$80 million. Paul Kropp suggested she coordinate with Jon Snyder and other City of Spokane staff. He suggested she also include past bridge supporting studies, photos, and feasibility studies along with endorsing neighborhood councils in the funding request as suggested by Ryan. Charles said the bridge will be discussed at an upcoming SRTC meeting. Paul can show Debra how to find the supporting documents. Erik also said he could help coordinate a discussion.

Debra was invited to come back to a future meeting to discuss this again.

CRSB Community Assembly Liaison Report — September 10, 2026

Spokane Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board | Hybrid Meeting | 2:00–5:00 PM

Santiago Rodriguez-Anderson
CRSB Community Assembly Liaison
srodriguezanderson@spokanecity.org

Workshop Items

1. Regional Stormwater Education Grant Update

Presenter: Kirstin Davis

The Board received an update on the Spokane Regional Stormwater Stewardship Campaign, a joint City of Spokane, Spokane County, and City of Spokane Valley effort to develop an education and outreach toolkit for Eastern Washington communities subject to Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit requirements.

The campaign is intended to build public understanding of stormwater fundamentals, best-management practices, and private-property and business-owner maintenance responsibilities. Outreach will use community events, surveys, interactive media, and coordinated messaging. The Department of Ecology is funding the project at 100 percent, with no local match requirement; grant funds must be spent by June 20, 2027.

CRSB will serve as an advisory body, with opportunities to review the campaign during development and again in spring 2027 as implementation begins.

Reference: City of Spokane CRSB Agenda Packet — Regional Stormwater Education Grant Update.

2. Data Centers — Water and Wastewater Considerations

Presenters: Logan Callen, Public Works Integrated Capital Management; Kyle Arrington, Riverside Park Water Reclamation Facility

The Board continued its data-center workshop series with a focus on water demand, cooling systems, wastewater, and related community impacts. Staff explained that water use depends heavily on workload, facility scale, cooling technology, and heat-rejection design. Evaporative cooling can create high water consumption, while air or dry cooling can reduce water use but increase electricity demand.

Annual Water Usage Effectiveness (WUE) figures presented in the workshop were approximately 0.32 liters per kilowatt-hour for hyperscale facilities and 0.61 L/kWh for AI-specialized facilities. Staff emphasized that annual averages can conceal substantially higher water demand during summer, when cooling needs are greatest.

Water considerations extend beyond direct consumption. Staff identified wastewater blowdown, contaminants associated with cooling systems, stormwater from large impervious areas, indirect water use associated with power generation, and the potential for large testing, commissioning, or expansion-related discharge spikes. The City's Industrial Pretreatment Program can regulate industrial wastewater flow rates and pollutant concentrations through discharge permits, including for dischargers outside City limits.

Reference: City of Spokane CRSB Agenda Packet — Data Centers: Water and Wastewater Considerations; presentation by Logan Callen and Kyle Arrington.

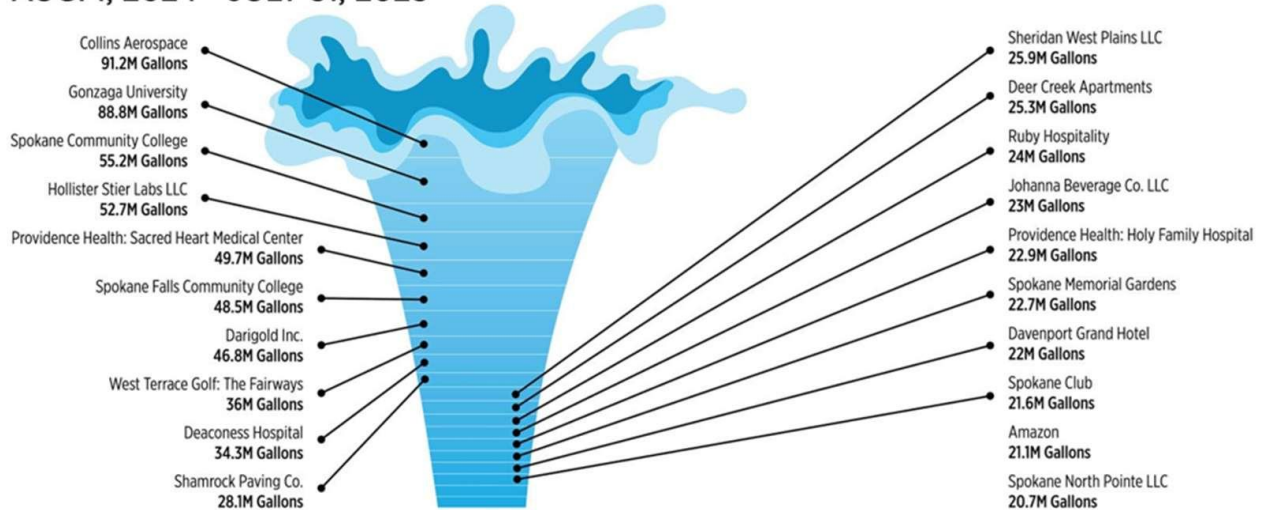
Data-Center Water Use: Key Takeaway

Workshop presentation, slide 20

The scale of the estimated range makes water supply, seasonal peak demand, ratepayer impacts, and wastewater capacity central policy questions in the City's review of data-center development. The range reflects substantial uncertainty associated with the technology and operational choices made by a prospective operator; it should not be treated as a single expected-use value.

Key Takeaway — Slide 20: Staff estimated that recently proposed data centers could consume approximately 50 million to 1.1 billion gallons of water annually, depending on facility use and cooling technology. The presentation cautioned that a single data center could rank among Spokane's ten largest water users—or exceed the combined water use of all other top 20 commercial users.

TOP COMMERCIAL WATER USERS IN SPOKANE AUG. 1, 2024 - JULY 31, 2025



Slide 20 graphic: annual water-consumption range for recently proposed data centers, relative to Spokane's major commercial water users.

Reference: *Data Centers — Water and Wastewater Considerations*, slide 20.

3. Water Conservation Plan Update

Presenter: Marlene Feist

Staff presented the current status of the City's Water Conservation Plan update. As a large water purveyor, Spokane must update its water-use-efficiency planning every six years. The existing Water Conservation Plan was adopted in July 2020; the update is intended to incorporate lessons from implementation, current industry practices, and a stronger demand-side water-efficiency focus.

The updated plan will support the Sustainability Action Plan, Water System Plan, Facilities Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan, and new climate-planning work in PlanSpokane 2046. Staff will continue providing updates and opportunities for CRSB, City Council, the Mayor, and administration officials to review and discuss the plan.

Reference: *City of Spokane CRSB Agenda Packet — Water Conservation Plan Update*.

4. Water Conservation Ordinance

Presenters: Council Member Sarah Dixit; Council Member Kate Telis

The Board reviewed a proposed ordinance that would establish uniform seasonal water-conservation requirements from June 1 through October 1. The proposal would prohibit watering outdoor vegetation or washing hardscape between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; limit landscape irrigation to three designated days per week; and limit daily irrigation duration to two hours for standard spray or high-flow systems, or four hours for low-flow systems or hand watering.

The proposal includes defined exemptions for activities such as vegetable gardens, trees, newly established landscaping, wildfire-risk mitigation, and certain Parks operations. It would require Public Works to submit recommended enforcement mechanisms and penalties within 180 days. Commercial enforcement would begin June 1, 2027, with residential enforcement beginning no later than June 1, 2028. The anticipated next step was CRSB feedback and support by October 8, followed by consideration through the City Council process.

Reference: *City of Spokane CRSB Agenda Packet — Water Conservation Ordinance*.

Adjournment and Next Topic

Next regularly scheduled CRSB meeting: Thursday, October 8, 2026.

Next Data-Center Workshop: Legal and regulatory landscape: what local governments in Washington can and cannot do, including discussion of “duty to serve.” The workshop is expected to examine available local-government authorities and constraints, including the question of how the City can ensure meaningful local input if Spokane County considers a data-center project outside City limits.

The July 2026 data-center permitting moratorium and the ongoing CRSB workshop series are intended to inform potential recommendations to City Council and the Mayor in early 2027.

Report to Community Assembly meeting, October 1, 2026

Since the September Community Assembly meeting, neighborhood councils have been reviewing the August draft of the Comprehensive Plan and the Future Land Use Map (FLUM). The Planning Department held an open informational meeting for neighborhood councils at the Northeast Community Center on September 21 attended by approximately 45 people. At its September 9 and 23 meetings, the Plan Commission considered requests to modify particular features of the FLUM, including Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood Council's request that the Division Residential High zone be redrawn to respect the boundaries of the Corbin Park Historic District.

The public comment period for the Comprehensive Plan closes the day after this Community Assembly meeting, on **Friday, October 2 at 5:00 p.m.** Comments may be made by placing a pin on the interactive map at <<http://planspokane.org>>, by sending an email to planspokane@spokanecity.org (you will receive an automated receipt response), or by hand-delivering a comment card to City Hall. These comments must be completed by the October 2 5:00 p.m. deadline to be included in the material provided to the Plan Commission and City Council for their consideration prior to the public hearing(s).

A Plan Commission public hearing on the Plan is scheduled for November 2. The Plan Commission may hold a second hearing on November 9. The City Council will consider the plan early in 2027 at a date yet to be determined.

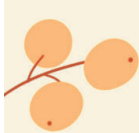
Respectfully submitted,
Linda Carroll
Liaison to the Plan Commission



**AUDUBON-DOWNRIVER
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**
PRESENTS

FALL FESTIVAL

THIS SATURDAY, 3 OCT
2-6pm - Audubon Park



2-4PM

JORDAN THE MAGIC MAN

4-6PM

**LIVE MUSIC BY
SCOTT RYAN INGERSOLL**

**FREE PUMPKIN
PAINTING**
(WHILE SUPPLIES
LAST)

**GAMES, CRAFTS,
KETTLE CORN**



Platinum

BLACK CANNON
EVENTS



UPRISE
BREWING CO



Gold



TIRE RAMA
EST. 1977
More Than Just a Tire Store

Silver

Bronze



If you can add to the end? Thanks!!
Fran

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)