

Community Assembly Meeting Minutes

September 3, 2020 via WebEx web conference

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm by Kevin Freibott

Attendance:

- **Neighborhood Councils Present:** Audubon/Downriver, Balboa/South Indian Trail, Bemiss, Browne's Addition, Chief Garry Park, East Central, Five Mile Prairie, Grandview/Thorpe, Hillyard, Latah/Hangman, Lincoln Heights, Manito/Cannon Hill, North Hill, North Indian Trail, Riverside, Rockwood, Shiloh Hills, Southgate, West Central, West Hills, and Whitman.
- **Neighborhood Councils Absent:** Cliff/Cannon, Comstock, Emerson/Garfield, Logan, Minnehaha, Nevada-Heights, Northwest, and Peaceful Valley.
- **City Staff present:** Louis Meuler, Kevin Freibott, Annie Deasy, Carly Cortright, Maren Murphy, and Shauna Harshman.
- **Visitors:** Council Member Kate Burke, Terri Fortner (Spokane Parks Foundation), and Paul Kropp (PeTT and Liaison Committee).

Administrative Agenda:

1. Introductions

- The facilitator asked for permission to record the meeting for Annie Deasy (CA Admin Committee Liaison) to provide accurate minutes. This request was approved (17-approve, 2-deny, 1-abstain) and the recording was begun. The Facilitator asked for all CA Reps to identify themselves and their NC in a poll for attendance.

2. **Proposed Agenda:** Tina Luerssen moved, Greg Francis 2nd to approve the proposed agenda. Motion passes with 20-approve.

3. **July Minutes:** Cliff Winger moved, Tina Luerssen and Kathryn Alexander 2nd to approve August minutes. Motion passes with 17-approve, 1-abstain.

4. **Open Forum:**

- Mary Winkes, Manito/Cannon Hill. Submitted the Plan Commission Liaison report verbally as the written report did not make the agenda packet deadline and it was not emailed separately. She mentioned that Cliff Winger now is on Plan Commission and also the upcoming Comprehensive Plan Amendment hearing.

- Colleen Gardner, Chief Garry Park. Asked if policy had changed or could be to accommodate late submissions. Kevin said we would bring that up with CA Admin.
- Andy Hoye, Southgate. City residents using the transfer stations for dump passes. Suggested we work with the County on an interlocal agreement. Discussion postponed to round table for consideration.
- Randy McGill, East Central. Equity and representation in committees, specifically infrastructure, and the imbalance of representation. It seems there is a lot of representation from the bicycle and pedestrian access, but at a cost to vehicular traffic. He asked how to make these meetings more accessible. Would like CA to discuss and see how we can provide direction and representation.
- Kathryn Alexander, Bemiss. Update on ONS Director and wants. District 1 sent a letter to the Mayor and she replied that if District 1 had someone in mind the candidate should apply, preferably an existing City staff member.

Legislative Agenda:

5. **City Council Report:** Council Member Burke, announced that Council had filled three new positions, Neighborhood Connectivity staffer, Equity and Inclusion Manager, and a Communications Director. Otherwise, City Council isn't able to do in person meetings, but citizens can call in and Council Member Burke is trying to allow call in for public testimony and hopes that will be in place in September. There are discussions about adding fluoride to the water, Council is supposed to vote on Sept. 14 unless there is a delay. CARES funding, all projects that were selected were funded, and another \$3.2 million was approved by the State, the RFP will go out soon. The new homeless shelter on Mission and Division is up and running and Salvation Army said it's going really well. Construction on the Cannon Street homeless shelter began. Administration sent out an RFP for a youth homeless shelter. There were questions and answers that followed.
6. **Office of Neighborhood Services Budget Update:** Louis Meuler, Director of Planning. Community Engagement Grant budget initial \$700 allocations (x29 neighborhoods) will be honored, but because of the budget cutback for 2020 no additional funds will be available. The Administration is asking for a 12% budget cutback and the funds from the Community Engagement Grant is being put up as part of that cutback. We will soon be bringing forward next year's Community Engagement Grant budget to the Budget Committee.
7. **Spokane Parks Foundation,** Terri Fortner, Director of Foundation. Parks Foundation raises funds and advocates for 89 public spaces within the City of Spokane, and 115 County wide. COVID hit them hard regarding funds coming in the door and several thousand dollars were released to community programs so they could continue their

work throughout the community. Regarding the Riverfront Spokane project to bring the former Expo '74 site back to its glory, the Foundation has raised 2.6 million of their 3 million goal, including a grant from Providence Healthcare to build an inclusive playground. This playground will be good for people with all levels of physical and cognitizant abilities. She mentioned the community grants program that launches the letter of inquiry phase at the end of October. The NCs may want to look at public spaces to partner with Parks Foundation for additional amenities or programs that could be worked on together with or the Foundation could be an advocate for. The Parks Foundation is regional, not City only, but has a lot of programs that benefit the City residents. A brochure and a letter was shared. There were questions and answers.

8. Housing Action Plan: Maren Murphy, Planning.

Maren gave a presentation on the Housing Action Plan. The goal of the Housing Action Plan is to encourage construction of affordable market rate housing for all income levels. Two definitions: income restricted where 30% percent of your income goes to housing HUD standard, and general definition a healthy housing market has housing for people of all income levels. Spokane has seen an imbalance, specifically over the last 5 years with housing affordability and options. Spokane is focused on affordability. The housing conversation builds on previous conversations. There were questions and answers. Following discussion, CA formed a motion to request that Mary Winkes be added to the HAP working group as the Community Assembly representative, motion passed (16-approve, 1-deny, 0-abstain).

9. Dump Pass Update, Annie Deasy, Neighborhood Services

Annie gave a presentation on Dump Pass distribution, how many have been requested, how many have been redeemed, and many tons have been disposed of. A correction needs to made to the PowerPoint, in August there were 162 dump passes redeemed, not 27, and 30.4 tons of waste disposed of. There were questions and answers. Andy expanded on his suggested request to coordinate an interlocal agreement to allow Dump Passes to be used at the County's transfer station. Most everyone agreed. Andy will pursue, but may need a formal letter of support from CA Admin Committee. There were questions and answers.

10. Roundtable Discussion:

Paul Kropp, PetT. September 22 meeting will cover traffic calming projects will be Council President Beggs will present his vision for arterial projects, and the transportation Council staffer.

Tina had \$700 per 29 neighborhoods and not all neighborhoods applied for the Community Engagement Grant. Are we looking at 29 x \$700 or \$700 x #of applications.

Louis said it was 29 x \$700 was budgeted; we may be able to look at using the difference from the money spent vs. allocated toward something.

Mary wanted to know if they could have their CE Grant pay for a Zoom account since they aren't able to use the funds for a block party as planned. She will send a request to Mark, chair of budget.

Annie asked Accounting for an updated CE Grant budget spreadsheet no later than September 28.

Colleen wants personal information removed from the Liaison Committee report. She asserted it is insulting and disrespectful, disparaging public volunteers is unacceptable. Admin Committee agreed that the pages with personal information were to be removed from this month's liaison committee report that were included in the agenda packet. (12- approved, 1-denied, 1-abstained.)

Meeting Adjourned.

Next Community Assembly scheduled for **Thursday, October 1, 2020.**