

## Community Assembly Meeting Minutes

November 5, 2020 via WebEx web conference

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

### Attendance:

- **Neighborhood Councils Present:** Audubon/Downriver, Browne's Addition, Balboa/South Indian Trail, Bemiss, Chief Garry Park, Cliff/Cannon, East Central, Five Mile Prairie, Grandview/Thorpe, Hillyard, Latah/Hangman, Lincoln Heights, Manito/Cannon Hill, North Hill, North Indian Trail, Northwest, Peaceful Valley, Riverside, Rockwood, Shiloh Hills, Southgate, West Hills, West Central, and Whitman.
- **Neighborhood Councils Absent:** Comstock, Emerson/Garfield, Logan, Nevada-Heights, and Minnehaha.
- **City Staff present:** Kevin Freibott, Annie Deasy, and Carly Cortright.
- **Visitors:** Council Member Candace Mumm, Marlene Feist, 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 (18-approve, 1-deny, 0-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:** Mark Davies moved, Colleen Gardner 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the proposed agenda with change to remove Item 8, Planning Services for Melissa Wittstruck is not quite ready to present and will come back when she is. Motion passes with 18-approve, 0-deny, and 1-abstain.
3. **September Minutes:** Kathryn Alexander moved, Mark Davies 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve September minutes. Motion passes with 18-approve, 0-deny, 0-abstain.
4. **Open Forum:**
  - Tina Luerssen, Grandview-Thorpe. CA/CC meeting last week. There were 10 neighborhoods on the call. Council is rallying to maintain the full \$25,000 for the Community Engagement grant. Council Members attending NC meetings as some attend and some do not. Same thing with NROs. Reach out to them and invite them to attend. RV parking and code enforcement. Snow plan has brochures or hang tags that can't be parked there because it's snow season. Photos also help. Town Hall meetings: City Council is trying to come up with a

plan to hold meetings. Finally, City Council is trying to add the open forum back to City Council meetings. Mary Winkes added that because of the COVID restriction, if someone is living in the RV they may not be able to be moved. Council Member Mumm added that if there is drug activity or on-site sanitation please call and have them checked on because it's more of a case-by-case basis.

- Andy Hoye, Southgate. 1 1/2 % tax increase for housing. Raise sales taxes to create sort of a grant opportunity for housing. Council Member Mumm spoke to that and added that she is a little hesitant about raising taxes during a pandemic. If it did pass the earliest it would take place is April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Fran Papenleur, Audubon-Downriver. Parks Foundation committee applications during the month of November. If you're interested please send a letter of interest and they will contact you and ask you to complete an application.
- Luke Tolley, Hillyard. Police Reform Taskforce update. Thank you for appointing me as your representative and Colleen is the backup. Police Reform preliminary planning has begun on the police task force reform and they are in the process of hiring a facilitator.

#### **Legislative Agenda:**

5. **City Council Report:** Council Member Mumm. Budget: Council Member Mumm said she, Council President Beggs, and Mayor Woodard conference on this year's budget. The City's finances are in great shape and the City has more reserves than most cities do and there will be no layoffs. We are reducing staff due to attrition and moving to every other week recycling pick up recycling because we are moving to every other week recycling pick-up; we . The exact amount dedicated to Homelessness is not yet included. There are discussions with our non-profit partners and County and the Spokane Valley to figure out who is handling what. It is online for review.

Parks: AM Cannon Park has an aging play structure that needs to be torn down due to safety reasons and it's not slated for replacement until 2022. City Council and Parks are working to access funds to replace the play structure. They need about \$100k to \$330,000 to replace. She suggested having Parks come and speak on the Parks Assessment and Master Plan for neighborhoods and looking ahead at preserving land and creating space for neighborhood parks. It's a great subcommittee process. She mentioned meeting with Jeff Holy in Olympia and thought she had secured funding for Indian Trail, but then she walked out of the room, he went for something else. She said the land for the Indian Trail Park was preserved but they still are working on funding. Some neighborhoods don't want grass, they want a linear park for running and biking, skate board structures, pools.

Planning Director: She is sitting on interviews for the new Planning Director. She feels it's very important they have a planning degree. CA asked if they would be asked to be included in the selection process. Council Member Mumm did not know. Colleen said she would reach out to Administration and ask.

City water is being requested from outside areas/applicants that are outside the City of Spokane. There was a presentation made to Council. They will be asked to make a decision within a month. There are a number of City neighborhoods who will be impacted. The presentation is available online.

She wants to hear from neighborhoods on the items available online. There were questions and answers.

- 6. Open Public Meetings Act: Kevin Freibott, Planning.** Kevin gave some background on the Open Public Meetings Act and mentioned it came up at the CA/CC meeting and Council President Beggs said that he wanted it to be looked at further. Kevin showed the draft Open Public Meetings Act Ordinance, as well as, the Municipal Code and City Charter. In the past, legal determined that the CA was not subject to OPMA and that possibly recent case law raised this again. A discussion ensued that CA following Robert's Rules of Order, being trained on following Robert's Rules of Order if the OPMA Ordinance is put into place. Kevin mentioned that the CA follows most of the elements of the Robert's Rules of Order.

There were questions and answers. CA feels they need a definitive answer as to whether or not the CA is subject to OPMA. Also, Greg mentioned that he was going to invite Mike to a preliminary meeting with Admin Committee. It's a big enough issue all representatives should be present so that voices can be heard and explanations weren't left open to interpretation. It was decided to make a motion to invite Mike Piccolo, City Attorney, to meet with CA, not just Admin.

A motion was made to direct Admin not to meet with Mike Piccolo, City Attorney, but attend a meeting of the entire CA instead. Motion passes with 12-approve, 6-deny, and 2-abstain.

- 7. Snow Plan Update: Marlene Feist, Public Works.** Marlene gave a Snow Plan presentation that covered the dates of the City's snow season which is November 15 to March 15. She mentioned the Snow Brochure will be included in residents Utility Bills. Grab it and place it on your fridge. The presentation addressed that the City will complete a full-City plow when snow reaches 4" on streets, what the residential routes are (the map will be active when we have a full-City plow), the trucks are using snow gates to help reduce berms, using smaller trucks in some residential areas, granular de-icer and trying what works best. Cars should park on the odd side of the street and we expect more cars to be parked on the street because of the pandemic. Downtown plowing will take place between midnight and 6 a.m. City sidewalks will be cleared

within 24 hours and residents are asked to do same. Hang tags will be printed and made available to the CA. There are video tips on the City's website. Once we have a snow event, look in the Inlander or Spokesman for a tear-out (this is good for renters). Mayor Woodard was going hold a press conference the following day. There were questions and answers.

- 8. Planning Services Update: Melissa Wittstruck. Removed from Agenda.**
- 9. Awards Committee Update: Andy Hoye, Southside.** Andy suggested tabling awards until next year when we are not in a pandemic. The CA agreed. There were no questions.
- 10. CHHS Liaison Committee Nomination:** Paul Kropp, Liaison Committee. Paul brought Kathryn Alexander's application for the CHHS Liaison Committee to the CA. Kathryn said why she was interested in serving on the committee. A discussion ensued. A motion to accept Kathryn's application to serve on the CHHS Liaison Committee was made. Motion passes with 17-approve, 1-deny, and 1-abstain.
- 11. Building Stronger Neighborhoods Update:** Kelly Lotze, BSN Chair. Kelly gave an update and showed BSN minutes about the committee purchasing 60 Strength Assessment books (2 per neighborhood), the Master book, to be used for Leadership Training since the \$4,000 was reinstated to the Community Engagement Grant budget. Tina expanded on the books and the short time to put things in place for Leadership Training for this year and BSN wanted to bring it to CA and see if the body supported buying books. Mark Davies, Budget wanted to make a motion, but since there wasn't a vote needed, it was just to support the purchase. A few other representatives said go for it. There were no questions.
- 12. Office of Neighborhood Services Update: Carly Cortright, ONS Director.** Carly announced that Cupid Alexander was been selected by the Mayor and brought forward to City Council as the new Division Director for Community Housing and Human Services. He has great energy and ideas, comes to us from Portland, Oregon, and starts on Monday, November 16. A discussion ensued; most everyone seemed very positive and had heard of him.
- 13. Facilitator: Greg Francis, Admin Committee.** After December, Kevin will not be acting as facilitator. Carly suggested that CA hire an outside facilitator or she is available to serve as the facilitator. A discussion ensued about how to pay for it, can we enter a contract or afford it, who would be best to serve in the facilitator role and who would be able to serve in that role. A motion was made to form an adhoc committee to determine a permanent solution for a facilitator and have Carly Cortright act in an interim basis. Motion passes with 18-approve, 2-deny, and 0-abstain. Volunteers to serve on the adhoc committee are Andy Hoye (chair), Daniel Zapotocky, and Mary Winkes.

**14. Admin Committee: Mark Davies.** Mark sent an email to all CA representatives to serve on the Admin Committee in 2021. Those who responded were Christopher Savage, Greg Francis, Tina Luerssen, Kelly Blyth, Kathryn Alexander, and Kelly Lotze. While the poll was being created each candidate gave a brief update on their CA experience. A poll was created to choose five candidates off the six that were received. The five that were moved forward to serve on the Admin Committee for 2021 included: Christopher, Greg, Tina, Kelly, and Kelly.

**15. Roundtable Discussion:**

Colleen had a quick heads up to notify your NROs that you are meeting virtually. She has been working out a program that includes better communication between the neighborhood councils and NROs. She mentioned she is working with the Spokane Police Department a proclamation on RV parking.

It was suggested that everyone wear an ugly Christmas sweater since we can't have a potluck.

**Meeting Adjourned.**

Next Community Assembly scheduled for **Thursday, December , 2020.**