

## Community Assembly Meeting Minutes

December 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, Cliff/Cannon, Comstock, Grandview/Thorpe, Hillyard, Latah/Hangman, Lincoln Heights, Manito/Cannon Hill, Nevada-Heights, North Hill, North Indian Trail, Northwest, Peaceful Valley, Riverside, Rockwood, Shiloh Hills, Southgate, West Hills, West Central, and Whitman.
- **Neighborhood Councils Absent:** East Central, Emerson/Garfield, Logan, Nevada-Heights, and Minnehaha, and Riverside.
- **City Staff present:** Kevin Freibott, Annie Deasy, and Carly Cortright.
- **Visitors:** Council President Breann Beggs, Cupid Alexander, 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:** Greg Francis moved, Mark Davies 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the proposed agenda. Motion passes with 19-approve, 0-deny, and 1-abstain.
3. **November Minutes:** Christopher Savage moved, Greg 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve November minutes with change in the Open Forum from Luke Tolley on Police Reform from first meeting held to preliminary planning has begun on the police task force reform. Motion passes with 21-approve, 0-deny, 0-abstain.
4. **Open Forum:**
  - Paul Kropp, Liaison Committee, both of the Urban Forestry Urban Advisory Committee positions will be open. There were five candidates last time there was an open position. Does the CA Liaison Committee to want to do a new recruitment process or go back to the other four applicants from 2018? Kathryn Alexander asked why it's either or and not both.

- Tina Luerssen, Building Stronger Neighborhoods (BSN) and Budget Committees. Both of those committees will not meet in December. The next meeting for both committees will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday in January.
- Kathryn Alexander, Bemiss. Kathryn is no longer the CA representative for Bemiss and she introduced the new CA rep, Maureen Mauer. Goals from committees are coming due. There have not been goals for the Districts? The general consensus was no.
- Kevin Freibott, Planning. Plan Commission is seeking comment on a Comprehensive Plan amendment in the Lincoln Heights neighborhood. This was a City Council request back to Plan Commission. Mary Winkes, Plan Commission Committee rep, asked that any comments also be sent to her.

**Legislative Agenda:**

5. **City Council Report:** Council President Beggs. Looking at 2021. **Most important item is the Budget:** every year we're a few million in the red, but this year it's more like 10-11 million because of lack of sales tax. Council Budget Committee has been Meeting with Mayor and her budget committee and they have been meeting and expects to be able to pass the budget on Dec. 14. Administration had cut CA grant in half and Council restored that to the full amount. For 2021 there will be \$50,000: \$25,000 for CA grants budget and \$25,000 for development of the leadership program (continue to work with Gonzaga, these dollars are not decided by the CA).

**Traffic Calming:** Cycles 8 and 9 projects that were on hold have been approved. Shauna Harshman is looking at the transportation benefit district, bicycle advisory, red light, and school and doing the master work to see how all of these can be more closely and integrated and work together. She also is looking at funding for things like sidewalks and alleys.

**Police Reform:** There was a bit of a setup with the Governors roll back. There are two facilitators lined up and most people set up. Meetings are expected to start g in January and meeting announced in December. Most places in the country are not meeting on police reform or as collaborative with police and the community as Spokane is.

**Water Tower:** Park board has to approve the water tower being in the Park before it comes before City Council. If you live near the park you may not want the water tower, if you don't live near the park and it costs more for water then you may want the tower in the park. The City is looking at water conservation that may make the water tower smaller.

**Sales Tax for Affordable Housing:** passed a 1% sales tax to do some innovative things with housing that funded differently and focuses on ownership of housing in smaller

group settings. The City is starting up landlord and tenant housing meetings to improve things instead of being polarized.

**Planning Commission:** Fort George Wright is being renamed; the new name was not mentioned. Rezoning on 29<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Ray St. was denied on the east side of the street for commercial, but Council President wanted to know how CA felt it about it being multi-family residential. Also there are two, 10 acre parcels by Target on Regal St. that are zoned on three sides for apartments and one side is zoned single family that they want to make multi-family. Council denied zoning to multi-family because of transportation issues. There are about 6 or 7 transportation improvements identified that would help traffic flow, this may come up in the news. City Council is interested in knowing the opinion of the CA on those issues.

There were questions and answers.

- 6. Neighborhood, Housing and Human Services: Cupid Alexander, Director.** Cupid shared his professional background and work with the City of Portland. Most recently the Director of Strategic Initiative which is large scale infrastructure projects, community engagement, constituent services, workforce development and innovation, and housing and economic development.

There were questions and answers.

- 7. Office of Neighborhood Services: Annie Deasy.** Memorandum of Understanding with the Parks Department requested by the Parks Board. This will help streamline the special event application process. Neighborhoods would complete one MOU application per year that Parks would keep the master application on file and then when a neighborhood council wants a special event in a park they would just apply for a special event permit.

There were questions and answers.

Carly Cortright: Neighborhood Community Development Program. The districts have met and collected their neighborhood votes on which programs to fund. There was \$800,000 in funds available in 2021, which was more than the total of the projects submitted. The recommendation of the districts was therefore to fund all 8 projects (list is here <https://static.spokanecity.org/documents/chhs/funding-opportunities/neighborhood/2020-ncdp/ncdp-project-menu.pdf>), and award an additional \$81,000 to Habitat for Humanity for their Rehab Housing. District 1 and 3 have submitted their documentation. Mary Winkes shared that District 2 submitted theirs to George Dahl this spring. Carly said she would follow-up with George on that. In the January packet we will include the full list of awards and voting decision by the neighborhoods for the record.

There were questions and answers.

8. **Spokane Police Department:** Colleen Gardner, Chief Garry Park. Spokane Police was looking at hiring four traffic officers with one-time funds and because they did not reach an agreement prior to COVID the funds are no longer available and will not be unless they are put back in the budget. For the time being the four traffic officers is a moot point.

Police staff changes effective January 10<sup>th</sup>. Captain Traci Meidl will now be on captain of the patrol unit and Captain Brad Arleth will taking over the south precinct. No changes in place for the north precinct. No changes in place for the current neighborhood resource officers.

The Safe Place Program Initiative agreement is between business owners, Police and community to report hate crimes or domestic violence in nature. They display a decal to notify victims and complainant to provide a safe place until Police arrive. This program has started in downtown Spokane and Colleen thought it would be good bring Safe Place to neighborhood businesses and it would help with outreach to SPD and our neighbors.

There were questions and answers.

9. **Hamblin Park Water Tower:** Mary Winkes, Manito-Cannon Hill, and John Schram, Comstock. The City needs to put in infrastructure to help with water pressure on the south hill. Hamblin Park on 37<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Crestline St. was identified as a preferred location to house a million-plus gallon water tank. Comstock NC wrote a resolution in opposition of development in Hamblin Park or any city park for non-park uses without a vote of the people. Comstock is requesting that Hamblin Park remain a non-developed natural area and not have a water tower installed. Carly added that Public Works would like to give a presentation to CA regarding their proposal to install the water tower and has a less evasive and creative design. Discussion ensued. The CA agreed to write a letter of support on the resolution.

Vote 1: Would you vote to make an action (any action) tonight? Motion passes with 12-approve, 7-deny, and 4-abstain.

Vote 2: Please select your preferred method: A. Support for the content of the resolution (i.e. No tower in Hamblen), approve-6. B. Support for the Neighborhood Council Process (i.e. listen to the official process that then went through) Motion passes for B with 13-approve, 0-deny, and 1-abstain.

Vote 3: Direct Admin Committee to issue a letter to the Park Board and City Council stating the Community Assembly's commitment to and support of the Neighborhood Council system and the proper process that Comstock Neighborhood undertook to

approve their Resolution by December 11. Motion passes with 16-approve, 0-deny, and 5-abstain.

**10. Community Assembly Facilitator:** Andy Hoyer, Liaison Committee. Suggested tabling discussion until January since we have an interim facilitator and the meeting is running late. Motion to postpone Item 10 until January passes with 19-approve, 1-deny, and 1-abstain.

**11. Committee Goals:** Greg Francis, Admin. There are BSN and Land Use goals submitted in the packet. Vote to approve BSN 2021 goals: 21-approve, 0-deny, 1-abstain. Vote to approve Land Use 2021 goals: 21-approve, 0-deny, 1-abstain. For those committees who have not submitted their goals, please do so by January so CA can approve them.

There were no questions.

**12. Admin Committee Items:** Greg Francis, Admin. The new Admin committee met last week, Greg is the Chair, Kelly Lotze is the Vice-Chair, and Tina is the Secretary, other members include Christopher Savage and Kelly Blyth.

**Policies and Procedures Ad Hoc Committee:** P&P committee is looking for volunteers. Motion to approve the following for the P&P Ad Hoc Committee (Greg Francis, Christopher Savage, Mary Winkes, Kathryn Alexander, Paul Kropp: 17-approve, 1-deny, 1-abstain.

**Neighborhood Presentations to City Council:** Please refer to letter in the packet from Council President. Council President is requesting that CA work with the NCs and identify a slot for each council to present to City Council instead of doing a Town Halls in 2021. Motion to direct admin committee to work with individual neighborhood councils regarding Council President Begg's letter re: Town Halls: 18-approve, 0-deny, 1-abstain.

**Selection of CA representative for Planning Director Interviews:** The CA Liaison to the Plan Commission would be the one to represent the CA on the Planning Director interviews. Mary said she is willing to serve. No one else requested to serve. Motion to select Mary Winkes to represent the CA during the interview process for Planning Director. 19-approve, 0-deny, 1-abstain.

**Update of CHHS Liaison: CA Liaison to the CHHS Board.** Kathryn Alexander was nominated and her nomination was forwarded to the Mayor. Meet and greet between Kathryn and Executive Committee of CHHS Board to make sure there are no conflicts of interest. If Mayor approves the nomination, it will then be sent on to City Council.

**13. Round Table: Paul Kropp,** Urban Forestry Committee. Requesting input from CA if they have a preference of going back to the four applicants that applied previously for Urban Forestry or would the CA want to reopen the application process. The CA suggested both.

**Spokane Housing Action Plan:** Annie highlighted the SHAP survey for Planning. She requested this be shared the survey with the neighborhoods. It is open until Dec. 20.

**Meeting Adjourned.**

Next Community Assembly scheduled for **Thursday, January 7, 2020.**