

Community Assembly Draft Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2021 via WebEx web conference

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm by Carly Cortright

Attendance:

- **Neighborhood Councils Present:** Audubon/Downriver, Balboa/South Indian Trail, Bemiss, Browne's Addition, Chief Garry Park, Cliff/Cannon Hill, East Central, Emerson/Garfield, Five Mile Prairie, Grandview/Thorpe, Hillyard, Latah/Hangman, Lincoln Heights, Logan, Manito/Cannon Hill, North Hill, North Indian Trail, Northwest, Peaceful Valley, Riverside, Rockwood, Shiloh Hills, Southgate, West Central, West Hills, and Whitman.
- **Neighborhood Councils Absent:** Comstock, Nevada-Heights, and Minnehaha.
- **City Staff Present:** Mayor Nadine Woodard, Johnnie Perkins (Mayor's Office), President Breean Beggs, Cupid Alexander (Community, Housing and Human Services, CHHS), Carly Cortright (Office of Neighborhood Services, ONS), Maren Murphy (Planning), Kevin Picanco (Integrated Capital Management), Kirstin Davis (CHHS), Annie Deasy, (ONS), and Gabby Ryan (ONS).
- **Visitors:** Paul Kropp (Pedestrian, Traffic and Transportation (PeTT) and Liaison Committees), Jennifer Cumbie, and Luc Jasmin III.

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 (16-approve, 3-deny, and 0-abstain).
2. **Proposed Agenda:** Greg Francis moved, Tina Luerssen seconded to approve the agenda with the amendment to extend Item 13 from 10 minutes to 15 minutes. Motion passes with 15-approve, 0-deny, and 2-abstain.
3. **May Minutes:** Daniel Zapotocky moved, Mark Davies seconded to approve May minutes. Motion passes with 15-approve, 0-deny, and 3-abstain. The facilitator asked for all CA Reps to identify themselves and their NC in a poll for attendance.
4. **Open Forum:**
 - Andy Hoye. Welcomed Jennifer. Thanked Mary Winkes, Daniel Zapotocky, and Carly for their help on the Memorandum of Understanding adhoc committee. Opinion and comment regarding the minutes; there was some concern that not every detail was expressed, but that is never going to happen. The minutes are excellent; taking minutes is hard, and he thanked Annie for her hard efforts.

- Kathryn Alexander. The CACD. will not be meeting until September .which will give them time to get their stuff together after the audit. The Housing Action Subcommittee met today for the first time and they are looking at who they are and where they are going forward.

Legislative Agenda:

5. **City Council Report:** Council President Breean Beggs, bbeggs@spokanecity.org.

June- housing month: The [draft action housing plan](#) which is really more of a report. The housing action plan includes lots of options. Council is discussing which options that they could put in the plan as priorities and what resources it would take to do that.

Homelessness response: The Mayor held a press conference today on homelessness, so I will defer to her on that.

Police reform: I will let Luke Tolley speak to the police reform committee work. The state legislature made over a dozen major police reform changes. The City of Spokane's work was a critical part of that work using our experience with the police reform work that we have done. In July, we will hear from the City Attorney's Office and Police Chief in regard to how will adapt. House Bill 1310 that identifies de-escalation as creating space and distance and using language to diffuse a situation before using force.

Sustainability draft plan: the plan is out for public review and comment over the next six months. The plan was an effort of about 140 people that consisted of utility companies, architects, developers, environmentalists. The purpose of the plan is to help Spokane get in compliance with state law to have a carbon neutral economy over the next 30 years. Visit the sustainability website (<https://my.spokanecity.org/bcc/committees/public-infrastructure-environment-and-sustainability/sustainability-action-subcommittee/>) to learn more about the Sustainability Action Plan, attend an upcoming workshop, and provide your feedback to help shape our City's future.

Water conservation: the Mayor and City Council are encouraging residents to water every other day between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. because Spokane now is in a draught. This will help lower your water rates and they will really be lowered if we don't have to build as many water towers, plus it helps the river flow better.

Traffic calming: internal work transitioning to the new model is going well. This fall we should be rolling out facilitators for each neighborhood so they can help identify their traffic calming priorities for the year. Integrated Capital Management will then work the consultant and review the priorities. City Council will decide how many millions of dollars worth of projects we can do using the money collected from red light and speed

radar cameras funds. City Council ultimately will be able to get more projects done by using economy of scale and grant matching.

Downtown plan: the plan is online and City Council would like your feedback because we will soon be taking a vote in early July, once they have made some final amendments to the draft.

COVID restrictions most likely will be lifted end of this month and City Council will end the state of emergency for City of Spokane.

American Recovery: Spokane has a little over \$40 million in the bank and will get \$40 million in May. City Council is looking at most effective way to spend that money. The money is for cities, counties, and school districts to make up lost revenues and make communities more resilient. City Council is analyzing what was lost and what will move us ahead. Council has invited the Mayor to participate on a scoping committee where they look at that to be included in a spreadsheet. A resolution on priorities and structure is being drafted. Email your ideas to Brian McClatchey at bmccclatchey@spokanecity.org.

There were questions and answers.

6. **Office of the Mayor:** Mayor Nadine Woodard and Johnnie Perkins. The City's efforts on the issues of homelessness and our regional partnerships to maximize the space we have for our existing shelters and moving people out of homelessness. We had an event at the Cannon Street Shelter in Browne's Addition announcing a 90-day extension with the Guardians Foundation to operate the shelter and then pivot the use of the shelter into a year round facility. The shelter will be undergoing a \$1 million renovation using Cares Act money. The day shelter will offer showers, laundry, meals, and getting connected to services. Last year, we purchased, with Cares Act money, a shelter on Mission Avenue that is ran by the Salvation Army. That shelter will close at the end of June and will undergo a couple months of renovations and reopen in the fall as a bridge housing model program so that people can exit out of homelessness. .Finally, we received a grant from the Commerce Department to operate a young adult shelter, ran by the Volunteers of America, for youth that are 18 to 24 year olds. That shelter will be for people just on the street or exiting foster care and it's been a gap that we have not been able to fill until now. The shelter location will be on the northside near Spokane Community College, the Spokane Transit lines and new Crosswalk location.

Reopening our state and community: working to get to the 70 percent vaccination rate.

Improve the environment downtown: liter and graffiti crews will be doubled downtown to stay on top of garbage, including adding a dozen big belly garbage cans; re-opening the downtown public restrooms and soon STA; and a pilot program to activate alleyways by resurfacing them and partnering with Spokane Arts on with murals.

Johnnie Perkins, jperkins@spokanecity.org or 509.319.0645: The City had only nine staff members doing camping abatement, litter clean-up and graffiti removal for the whole city which is not enough to take care of neighborhoods. Staff will be doubled in those teams and will allow us to get to areas downtown and in neighborhoods more quickly and efficiently. He then introduced himself and shared his background; his vision of exceeding customer expectations; and having a pulse on the community.

There were questions and answers.

7. **Office of Neighborhood Services Update:** Cupid Alexander and Carly Cortright. Cupid, calexander@spokanecity.org, gave a high level update on the NCDP discussions and how to figure out how to get our shelter in place before winter, housing investments and impact reduction strategies to keep our community safe and secure community.

Carly, gave an update on the **Clean-Up program**: To date, there have been 707 virtual requests made and 16 have been redeemed; 190 paper passes are available for pickup at the C.O.P.S. locations—please call ahead; and postcards are being distributed to include all City households by July. Data is still being collected about your preferences of roll-off versus curbside collection and then work with the CA to select the neighborhoods. Thank you for your patience as we have experienced a few technical difficulties that caused a delay.

Neighborhood Council video clips: that highlight a neighborhood. We will highlight all 29 neighborhoods and produce the videos bi-weekly. Our first video focused on North Hill and the second one Hillyard. At the end of the videos we include information on neighborhood council meetings and how people can be more involved. The videos are posted on Next Door and can be shared on your Facebook and social media pages. Please let us know if you have ideas.

Pedestrian Safety & Traffic Awareness Stakeholders group: held their second meeting today which included internal stakeholders, community partners, and volunteers. We previously met with a citizen group and the feedback was very valuable. We are most likely looking at doing an education campaign and will share the work we are doing as we move forward and have a more formalized plan.

Gonzaga University School Leadership Program update: The needs assessment will be done and available by the end of this month. We still believe that we have enough time to have a training program to pilot by the end of the year.

Volunteer opportunities are posted on the City's website and would like to spread those events out to the neighborhoods. Such as opportunities for you to volunteer at or we can post your neighborhood volunteer events on our website.

There were questions and answers.

- 8. Housing Action Plan Update:** Maren Murphy, Planning. Maren showed a presentation on the [Housing Action Plan](#) which began with project start-up; moved into housing needs assessment; then onto housing policy and tool options; and finally coming up with recommended actions. Ultimately the plan will be considered by the Plan Commission and then forwarded on to City Council for consideration of adoption by resolution. They are hoping to finalize this process within the next month. She went into the different engagement and outreach efforts used, including:

- Project website;
- Stakeholder interviews;
- Multidisciplinary City team;
- Housing action plan working group;
- Stakeholder roundtables;
- Online community surveys;
- Board, commissions, council and committee presentations; and
- Blog posts, social media, and press releases.

The draft Housing Action Plan provides guidance to City staff, elected officials, and decision makers to better meet Spokane's current and future housing needs and promote housing diversity and access to opportunity. There are a number of key project components included as appendixes:

- A. Housing needs assessment,
- B. Additional data analysis,
- C. Housing policy framework,
- D. Summary of community engagement,
- E. Displacement risk analysis,
- F. Proposed monitoring program, and
- G. Glossary of terms.

The four main priorities are:

- A. Increase housing supply options and affordability;
- B. Preserve existing affordability and quality to help people thrive where they live;
- C. Enhance equitable access to housing and homeownership; and
- D. Leverage and grow partnerships to support housing initiatives across the region.

Comments on the plan can be emailed to spokanehousingplan@spokanecity.org.

There were questions and answers.

- 9. Six Year Comprehensive Streets Program Annual Update:** Kevin Picanco, Integrated Capital Management, began his presentation focusing on two areas which is why we have a six year street program and how we go about building and creating that and then I will mention some of the new projects of our program. We have a 20-year goal for an improved arterial system for all with two main focuses :

- Maintenance to keep the good streets good and manage the poor streets like grind and overlays. ,

- Integrated comprehensive streets that not only does a full rebuild but also upgrading and replacing utilities, and bike and pedestrian improvements placement.

They try to stretch dollars in street investments for instance we can chipseal 36 blocks for the cost of rebuilding one downtown capital block. He went over the progression of project like land-use standards, concepts, funding, design, and construction.

New projects added to the program include:

- 44th Ave. from Crestline to Altamont streets, paving an unpaved street including sidewalk on one side of street and bike lanes.
- Strong Rd. from Five Mile to Austin roads, reconstruction including pedestrian and bike improvements.
- Boone Ave. from Howard to Ruby streets, protected bike lanes.
- Riverside Ave. from Grant to Sherman streets, street construction.
- Division St. at Longfellow, Everett, and Weile avenues, pedestrian hybrid beacons or hawk signals, ada ramps, and striping.
- Honorable mention project on Driscoll Blvd. from Alberta to Cochrane streets to install infill sidewalks.

He highlighted the project schedule and next steps that will be approving the program.

There were questions and answers.

10. Police Reform Update: Luke Tolley shared a link to a survey that he would like the CA (and neighborhoods) to take on the state of policing and where it could go. It can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/SPDreform>. They met on May 18 and covered a lot of introductory work with a lot of background work that had been done. He will report in more detail the task force work in the future.

There were no questions.

11. Building Stronger Neighborhoods Training: Tina Luerssen and Gabby Ryan. The next training will be StrengthsFinder is being on Tuesday, June 29, from 6:00 to 7:30pm on Zoom. Each neighborhood can select two attendees (open to anyone in the neighborhood) that will need the StrengthsFinder book. Book pickup will be:

- Tuesday, June 8, South Hill Library from 4-6pm;
- Thursday, June 10, Shadle C.O.P.S. from 4-6pm;
- Tuesday, June 15, Hillyard Library from 4-6pm; and
- Thursday, June 24, City Hall from 3-5pm.

StrengthsFinder is asset based training that focuses on what someone does have and then shows how to work as a leader with other leadership styles. It will help to strengthen your own assets but learning how to look for different assets in the community to help build leaders. Before the training attendees will need to complete the assessment and 1 of 2 reflection sheets, which will take about an hour and half to

complete. More information can be found at: www.gallon.com

There were questions and answers.

12. Budget Committee Update: Mark Davies and Tina Luerssen. Mark thanked Council President and City Council for the Community Engagement Grant funds. He also thanked Annie for her hard work. The budget committee has had a successful year with 25 out of 29 neighborhood councils apply and we have reached out to the four that did not and offer them a Zoom account. This is our best year so far. With the remaining funds, the Budget Committee is looking at doing an October utility bill insert that would invite residents to attend neighborhood council meetings that would cost about \$4,250. Tina added that the Budget Committee felt it was an economical way to reach everyone in the City. Residents that do not receive a paper bill would see the information online. A motion to spend up to \$4,500 in 2021 on utility bill inserts to promote Neighborhood Councils system was moved by Tina and seconded by Kathryn. Motion passed with 20-approve, 0-deny, and 9-abstain.

13. Resuming In-Person Meetings: Greg Francis and Tina Luerssen. Browne's Addition had a change in their CA representative which means that Kelly Lotze is no longer able to serve on the Admin Committee and there is a vacancy. Tina said that the Policies and Procedures state that when there is an Admin vacancy that CA would hold a vote at the next meeting. She contacted all eligible CA representatives to see if they would be willing to serve on the Admin Committee. A vote was taken for one of the following four candidates to serve: Mark Davies, Colleen Gardner, Daniel Zapotocky, and Cliff Winger. Daniel had the most votes and will serve for Kelly Lotze's remaining term.

Greg started a discussion about when to hold in-person meetings with the online option with varying voting options; mixed mode; or in-person only. What month did CA want to begin meeting in-person again in August or September? Carly added that West Central had two meeting rooms available; but they do not have the technology to hold virtual meetings. A couple of other options may be Northeast Community Center or City Hall. While she likes the hybrid meeting option it does create a challenge for the facilitator and requested that also be considered.

Greg asked the CA representatives to email the Admin Committee ([Greg Francis](#), [Tina Luerssen](#), [Kelly Blyth](#), [Christopher Savage](#) or [Daniel Zapotocky](#)) with their thoughts and the topic would be revisited next month.

14. Round Table: Mark Howard, Riverside. The Riverside neighborhood is holding tours and promoting their council through the announcements. The announcements have a QR code that includes a link to their neighborhood council. They plan on holding a few tours, the first was a tour of the new Spokane Police Department precinct with a social

gathering after and the next will be a tour of Hope House. This may be something that other neighborhoods would be like to do in their neighborhood as well.

Meeting Adjourned.

Next Community Assembly scheduled for **Thursday, July 1, 2021.**