

Community Assembly Draft Meeting Minutes

August 5, 2021 via WebEx web conference

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm by Jennifer Cumbie

Attendance:

- **Neighborhood Councils Present:** Audubon/Downriver, Bemiss, Browne's Addition, Chief Garry Park, Cliff/Cannon, East Central, Emerson/Garfield, Grandview/Thorpe, Hillyard, Latah/Hangman, Lincoln Heights, Logan, Manito/Cannon Hill, North Indian Trail, Northwest, Peaceful Valley, Rockwood, Southgate, West Hills, West Central, and Whitman.
- **Neighborhood Councils Absent:** Balboa/South Indian Trail, Comstock, Five Mile Prairie, Nevada-Heights, North Hill, Riverside, Shiloh Hills, and Minnehaha.
- **City Staff Present:** Council Member Lori Kinnear, Carly Cortright (Office of Neighborhood Services, ONS), Kevin Friebott (Planning), Shauna Harshman (City Council), Kirstin Davis (Community, Housing, and Human Services, CHHS), and Annie Deasy, (ONS).
- **Visitors:** Gretchen Chomas (Gonzaga University), Christina Kamkosi (Gonzaga University), Rachel Swather (Gonzaga University), Paul Kropp (Pedestrian, Traffic and Transportation (PeTT) and Liaison Committees), and Jennifer Cumbie (facilitator).

Administrative Agenda:

1. **Introductions:** The facilitator asked for all CA Reps to identify themselves and their NC in a poll for attendance and for permission to record the meeting for Annie Deasy (CA Admin Committee Liaison) to provide accurate minutes. This request was approved (11-approve, 5-deny, and 0-abstain).
2. **Proposed Agenda:** Daniel Zapotocky moved, Colleen Gardner seconded to approve the agenda. Motion passes with 17-approve, 0-deny, and 1-abstain.
3. **June Minutes:** Greg Francis moved, Daniel Zapotocky seconded to approve June minutes. Motion passes with 16-approve, 0-deny, and 2-abstain.
4. **Open Forum:**
 - Paul Kropp. Paul asked that CA representatives share the [Parks and Recreation survey](#) and [Spokane Regional Transportation Council survey](#) that are addendums in the packet with their neighborhood councils because the priorities are important.
 - Kathryn Alexander, Community, Housing, and Human Services (CHHS), and Housing Action Plan (HAC) CA Liaison Committee. Kathryn said that because of

lack of staffing in CHHS there is not much to report on. Also, the Affordable Action Housing Plan presentation is included but outside of the presentation there is not much more to share

- Greg Francis, Administrative Committee. The Park Board may have a new CA Liaison position or begin soliciting opinions from the CA.

Legislative Agenda:

5. **City Council Report:** Council Member Lori Kinnear, lkinnear@spokanecity.org.

Development Incentives: Council Member Kinnear, other members of City Council have been working with City staff on a suite of development incentives. The incentives, passed unanimously earlier this week, target things that would be easy to fund and implement right away. The incentives were crafted to promote housing development within half a mile, known as the 15 minute walkable city, of our existing center and corridor growth model, and fits in within the City's comprehensive plan. The City also offered a version of most of these incentives in a recent ask, for example, the transformation of the former Macy's building. The incentives are intended to be in place for 3 years and then each incentive should be reviewed to determine if the incentive should be offered for a longer term.

City Budget: The City of Spokane has about 185 vacancies, or about 10% of our City staff. The vacancies have several impacts: services to citizens; current staff who are working overtime and possibly beyond what they should be working; and also our budget. Going forward Council Member Kinnear said that her office will be focusing on the 2021 budget, last year the budget process was very collaborative between Council and Administration, and that she looks forward to building up that success this year.

There were questions and answers.

6. **Comprehensive Plan:** Kevin Friebott, Planning Services, kfriebott@spokanecity.org or 625-6184. Kevin gave a presentation on the 2020 Comprehensive Plan Amendment applications and process. The annual amendment process is about 14 months and begins with applications submittal in October; review of applications by ad hoc docketing committee, City Council resolution to set work program; 14 day agency comment period; 60 day public comment period (current stage); Plan Commission hearing; City Council hearing; and Mayor signature and amendments take effect.

In 2020, six applications have been received, five for land use and zoning and one of which was prepared with the Bicycle Advisory Board and City-departments to amend the bike facilities map. The applications include:

- Z20-194COMP 120 N. Magnolia Street, the old McKinley School Building, asking to change to centers, corridors and core from light industrial.

- Z20-206COMP 155 E Cleveland Avenue, asking to change from residential 4-10 units to residential 15-30. The applicant is asking to go from single family to multi family. The property is on a bluff, so homeowners in the area will not have their view obstructed if a multi-family project is built
- Z20-207COMP 1015 W Montgomery Avenue, asking to change from residential 4-10 to general commercial so that the zoning and land use for all properties in the area match and develop multi-family housing.
- Z20-208COMP 208 and 209 W. Sinto Avenue, asking to change from residential 10-20 to residential 15 plus to develop into multi-family housing, leaving the alleyway.
- Z20-209COMP 1025 W. Spofford Avenue, the community school, asking to change from residential 10-20 to cc core so that the school can be redeveloped to be more modern and efficient, but retained as a school.
- BZ21-022COMP Bike Facilities Map, to add two new bike lanes, five new neighborhood greenways; one new shared use path, and two bikes to shared use lanes.

To review the plan and provide feedback, visit: my.spokanecity.org/projects/2020-2021-proposed-comprehensive-plan-amendments/.

Motion to extend: Daniel Zapotocky motioned. Fran Papenleur seconded. Motion passes with 12-approve, 6-deny, and 0-abstain.

There were questions and answers.

7. **Citizens' Transportation Advisory Board (CTAB) and Transportation Benefit District (TBD) Update:** Shauna Harshman, City Council, sharshman@spokanecity.org or 625-6174. Shauna announced that the CTAB is expanding and will have two board members from each Council District, instead of one, and that applications will be posted to the [website](#). The TBD is a \$20 assessment that is collected on vehicle licensing/tabs which is combined with Street Department funds for residential street maintenance projects. Each year, the state requires a report out to the community of the projects that were completed the previous year. The [2020 Transportation Benefit District Annual Report](#) is smaller than previous years because there are fewer projects highlighted due to the I-976 ballot measure. TBD funds were put on hold so TBD funds were not overspent and the projects listed later in the report were funded by the Street Department. The TBD funding priorities include: reducing risk of transportation failure, improving travel time, air quality, modal connectivity, freight mobility, increase daily and peak period trip capacity, and preserving infrastructure. The TBD has collected \$26,446,986.29 to date

and has funded \$21,473,535 on grind and overlays, chip and crack sealing, and sidewalk repairs, including the following projects completed in 2020:

- Residential crack seal throughout the City of Spokane
- Queen Ave. from Standard to Magnolia streets.
- Scott and Garfield streets from 43rd to Thurston avenues.
- Longfellow Ave. from Monroe to Division streets.
- Unpaved road strip paving.
- Sidewalks on Driscoll Ave. from Wellesley to Bismark streets, 37th Ave. from Manito to Latawah streets, and the Cincinnati Greenway.

There were questions and answers.

8. Gonzaga Leadership Training: Christina Komkasi and Gretchen Chomas. Gretchen started the Gonzaga Leadership Training presentation with the current state of the things in the Neighborhoods then went into the guiding vision and the phases of the assessment. Phase one included a strength and needs assessment comprised of interviews, surveys, focus groups to understand the City's systems and research what other cities have done to support civic volunteers in leadership roles. They started the assessment in February, analyzed data (105 surveys, 29 interviews, 6 meetings, and 2 focus groups) and presented recommendations to the City in June, in August finalized the report, and now are developing and customizing a leadership program that will begin implementing recommendations late 2021. Christina shared phase two, the new guiding vision, "How might we equip neighborhoods with knowledge, skills, and resources to increase engagement and effectively address their priorities?" Then went into phase three, ideas for recommendations and next steps that include: recognize or incentivize, build partnerships with local employers, mentor and peer led initiatives, evaluate and revise Building Stronger Neighborhood resources, support community led events, provide a recommended structure, and working on projects in their neighborhoods.

There were questions and answers.

9. Police Reform Task Force Committee: Luke Tolley, luke.tolley@gmail.com. The Police Reform Committee met last Friday. The same group met with a couple of additions and the group may be expanded. The committee is continues to work on building relationships and trust, which is good, but also hard because members also are very busy high-level executives. The committee will most likely meet monthly. A concern within the group was the power differential and armed police officers so the officers agreed to be unarmed. The committee discussed the recent legislative changes on policing, including militarization, changes being added to local policing, police officers are public servants and follow rules, and reimagining policing.

Motion to extend: Tina Leurssen motioned. Mark Davies seconded. Motion passes with 11-approve, 3-deny, and 0-abstain.

- 10. Police Advisory Committee (PAC):** Colleen Gardner, kelcag72@gmail.com. Colleen shared a presentation on the Spokane Police Department (SPD) and Police Advisory Committee. The PAC was formed in 1981 to act as an advisory board representing various community groups to the office of the Chief of Police. The PAC meets four times a year and meetings are open to the public. The next meetings will be held on September 16 at 5:30pm at West Central Community Center (WCCC); and November 18 at 5:30pm at East Central Community Center (ECCC). The presentation also highlighted various [Police Reform bills](#) (1054, 1227, 1310, 5038, 5051, 5135, and 5476 may be most impactful) passed at the state level. The bills may contain requirements that SPD has initiated in past years such as non-use of choke holds, body cameras, non-use of knock warrants, behavioral and health officer teams, and new use of force policy. Colleen also shared the crime rates and crime statistics and how many officers assigned to the north and south precincts. The presentation, with additional information, will be emailed to the CA representatives.

Motion to extend: Mark Davies motioned. Gail Cropper seconded. Motion passes with 10-approve, 0-deny, and 1-abstain.

There were questions and answers.

- 11. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Update:** Luke Tolley, MoU adhoc committee. Luke shared the MoU between ONS and CA and said that he and the adhoc committee are recommending that the CA vote to approve. No changes or comments have been since the MoU was shared at the July meeting. Tina confirmed that there were no further comments and hopes it is approved and can forwarded to City Council. Luke added that he will be happy to attend the meeting with City Council.

Vote to approve the draft Memorandum of Understanding. Andy Hoye motioned, Mark Davies seconded. Motion passes: 13- approve, 0-deny, 2-abstain.

- 12. Administrative (Admin) Update:** Greg Francis had three items: meeting in person will be reviewed on a month by month because of the changes with COVID; the WCCC meeting room is not equipped for hybrid meetings; and a quick recap of the Community Assembly and City Council joint meeting. The CA/CC recap: bulk of meeting was on Housing Action Plan which was passed last week; the traffic calming program; \$82 million in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds and encouraged everyone to complete the [survey](#) to help provide feedback on prioritizing spending; and laws changing policing. The next CA/CC meeting is September 30, at 5:30pm. Tina added that committees need to review your Policy and Procedures (P and P) now is the time to do so because updates are coming due.

There were no questions.

13. Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS): Carly Cortright. Carly said that a number of representatives have expressed an interest in street maintenance projects. The City publishes a weekly [Obstruction Notice](#) that includes road closures and street projects that are under construction inside and outside Spokane city limits (a link also is included in the Monthly Report that Neighborhood Councils receive from their staff liaison). The **Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Awareness** work trying to reduce speeding, especially in residential neighborhoods continues. The feedback from the stakeholders group was to look at using traffic calming funds to purchase yard signs (Neighbors Drive 25), public service announcements and outreach. Our sub-committees are working together to come up with ideas and what we can do. Annie is working with communications and Annica is working with data. The communications sub-committee met and is recommending a campaign focusing on child's pedestrian safety that would launch when school starts. **Clean-Up** update. Disposal Pass distribution information was shared as well as the fall events. The events will be held between September 14 to November 6 and clean-up coordinators will be notified next week. Clean-up event postcards will be mailed to residents giving them 10 days' notice of the event. The bi-weekly **News You Can Use district videos** are going well and the latest video was published today. The videos are posted on our [website](#) and can be found in the right column under Items of Interest. If you have anything that you want shared, please let us know.

There were questions and answers.

14. Round Table: Mark Davies, Budget: showed the Utility Bill insert that the Budget Committee worked on with the City graphics department. The insert will go out with the October bills and on the website for online billing customers. Extra copies of the insert will be printed so that NCs can distribute at events or include in welcome bags

Mary Winkes, CA/CC: expressed a concern about the lack of process for the amendment to the recently passed housing action plan that allows constructing four-plexes in areas made up of single family homes. Mary said she would like to draft a letter addressed to City Council requesting that the neighborhood councils be included in discussions on processes and will work with the Admin Committee to request time on the next agenda.

Colleen Gardner, PAC: questions or concerns about the PAC presentation should be emailed to: kelcag72@gmail.com.

Motion to extend: Andy Hoye motioned. Fran Papenleur seconded. Motion passes with 15-approve, 1-deny, and 0-abstain.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:48pm.

Next Community Assembly scheduled for **Thursday, September 2, 2021.**

