

Community Assembly Draft Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2021 via WebEx web conference

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

Attendance:

- **Neighborhood Councils Present:** Audubon/Downriver, Balboa/South Indian Trail, Bemiss, Browne's Addition, Chief Garry Park, Cliff/Cannon, East Central, Emerson/Garfield, Grandview/Thorpe, Hillyard, Latah/Hangman, Lincoln Heights, Logan, North Hill, North Indian Trail, Northwest, Peaceful Valley, Riverside, Rockwood, Shiloh Hills, Southgate, West Hills, West Central, and Whitman.
- **Neighborhood Councils Absent:** Comstock, Five Mile Prairie, Nevada-Heights, Manito/Cannon Hill, and Minnehaha.
- **City Staff Present:** Johnnie Perkins (Office of the Mayor), Brian Walker (Community, Housing, and Human Services, CHHS), Carly Cortright (Office of Neighborhood Services, ONS), and Annie Deasy (ONS).
- **Visitors:** Dainon Setzer, 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 (17-approve, 3-deny, and 0-abstain).
2. **Proposed Agenda:** Mark Davies moved to amend the agenda to so that Council Member Wilkerson gave the Council Update before Open Forum due a scheduling conflict. Daniel Zapotocky seconded to approve the amended agenda. Motion passes with 17-approve, 0-deny, and 1-abstain.
3. **September Minutes:** Kathryn Alexander moved. Andy Hoyer seconded to approve September minutes. Motion passes with 12-approve, 0-deny, and 2-abstain.
4. **City Council Report:** Council Member Betsy Wilkerson, bwilkerson@spokanecity.org, said we continue to face staffing challenges; work continues with the American Rescue Plan Act funding; and the City Council is reviewing the proposed 2022 Budget. Council Member Wilkerson mentioned that City Administrator Johnnie Perkins may be able to add more details with what is going on at the City.

There were questions and answers about the Children of the Sun Trail.

5. Open Forum:

- Mark Davies. Mark announced that there is about \$5,300 in Community Engagement Grant Funds remaining. Neighborhood Councils can ask for up to \$200 for a Zoom account or printing through the City's print shop on a first come, first serve basis. Requests need to be made by Wednesday, October 20. Also, Mark terms out in December so if you're interested in joining the Budget Committee please put that in the chat.
- Fran Papenleur. Fran announced that there will be a tree planting on Saturday, October 9, at 10 am at Audubon Park and 1pm at Comstock Park. Volunteers are still needed for those events. Fran congratulated Debby Ryan who received an award from the East Central Business Association for her volunteer work helping the community.
- Tina Luerssen. Tina reminded everyone that draft Policy and Procedures were included in the CA Packet for the Budget Committee and Building Stronger Neighborhood Committees if representatives wanted to review and comment. The Utility Bill insert, You Don't Have to Move to Live in a Better Neighborhood, that the Budget Committee approved is going out in utility bills this month; please let your neighbors know.
- Dave Williams. Dave announced that Browne's Addition is hosting their Spookwalk walking tour on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, October 29, 30, and 31. Tickets are \$20 and support the Friends of Coeur d'Alene Park.

Legislative Agenda:

6. **Update on Homelessness Response:** Johnnie Perkins, Office of the Mayor, jperkins@spokanecity.org or 625-6502. Johnnie gave an update on Beautify Spokane, Homelessness Response, to make Spokane the cleanest, safest, and best city in America. The team is comprised of staff from Code Enforcement, Public Safety Operation, Parking Enforcement, and service providers to make sure that the City is addressing homelessness starting with passion and compassion while trying to be firm at the same time for our community and neighborhoods. The City has faced some staffing challenges and has hired about four of the 10 positions and is looking at adding two or three more in the next few months. The City has looking at working with vendors that do community clean ups and litter control to enhance efforts. Also, the shelters, like the Cannon Street Shelter are now open during day and year round. Good Neighbor Agreements are being put in place to have cooperation, input and ownership, and that mechanisms in place to live up to those agreements. Other tools include creating an ordinance to prohibit tents on sidewalks; a sit and lie ordinance that prevents homelessness sitting on sidewalks and illegally camping within a 3-block radius around

homeless shelters; and expanding the sit and lie illegal camping ordinance that is already in place.

Abandoned vehicles strike team (Parking, Code Enforcement, and Neighborhood Resource Officers) conducted a 3-week pilot and took care of 887 of the 1,200 backlogged abandoned vehicles on City streets by issuing citations and courtesy notices and towing. The City will be doing this again within the next couple of weeks.

Parks monitoring illegal activity like food being improperly dropped off and vehicles parking near parks overnight. Four parks have been identified (Coeur d'Alene, Logan Peace, Harmon, and Fairview) that will have no parking signs between 10pm and 6am to help eliminate vehicles parking overnight.

Graffiti busters to go out on two Saturdays and de-graphitize our neighborhoods and community. If you're interested in volunteering reach out to [Annie](#) or [Carly](#).

Hiring if you know of anyone who would like to work for the City reach out. There are a number of open positions in addition to the homeless outreach team.

Nuisance properties have been identified. There is a backlog of properties and we are putting together a small task force to go out to those properties as well as some commercial properties and will help assist them to develop strategies before moving down the nuisance avenue.

The City will be installing three **emergency call boxes** on Monroe Street Bridge that will link someone to 911 or direct line to a mental health counselor to assist someone who is contemplating jumping.

The preliminary **Budget** was introduced today. The Mayor's Office welcomes that discussion. The budget prioritizes funding for public safety, homelessness, housing, economic development and there are workshops with City Council this month. The General Fund represents a projected increase of 6% which is about \$5 million short of where we were back in 2019 before the pandemic.

Motion to extend: Tina Luerssen motioned. Carol Tomsic seconded. Motion passes with 16-approve, 2-deny, and 2-abstain.

Second motion to extend: Kathryn Alexander motioned. Daniel Zapotocky seconded. Motion passes with 13-approve, 3-deny, and 0-abstain.

There were questions and answers.

7. **Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) Update:** Carly Cortright, ccortright@spokanecity.org. The **pedestrian safety committee** work wrapped up. Neighbors Drive 25 yard signs are being ordered with a launch in the spring, but an

education campaign will not be done. In order to have a successful education campaign, traffic enforcement also needs to be done and because of recent Spokane Police staffing changes the enforcement piece is not possible. **Gonzaga University Leadership** continues to make progress with their video library and pilot leadership program. The program was originally expected to be held at the end of this year, but it is looking like it will be held starting in January and are hoping to have 12 leaders participate. The **budget** that was submitted to City Council was for \$35,000: \$25,000 for the Community Engagement Grant and \$10,000 for the Gonzaga University Leadership training program. The **traffic calming** workshops may not be feasible to be held this year. The consultant contract is in place, but the facilitators need to be trained before the workshops can be scheduled. Council Member Stratton added that the Traffic Calming Sub-Committee is hoping to hold the workshops in person, so they are most likely looking at the beginning of next year. The no parking notices/bookmarks for campers and RVs should soon be available because our snow season starts November 15. **Boards and Commissions** has many vacancies such as the Council Redistricting Committee which has a short application time. If you are not getting a response from your staff liaison, please let Carly know.

Motion to extend: Daniel Zapotocky motioned. Carol Tomsic seconded. Motion passes with 16-approved, 2-deny, and 3-abstain.

There were questions and answers.

8. **Administrative (Admin) Nominating Committee Update:** Colleen Gardner, said the nominating committee has five candidates to bring forward that would like to serve on the Admin Committee: Christopher Savage, Tina Luerssen, Mark Davies, Cliff Winger, and Seth Knutson. CA representatives will vote on the Admin Committee candidates next month.
9. **Park Board Development and Volunteer Committee (DVC) Position:** Paul Kropp, spoke about the newly approved Park Board DVC position. Currently, one good prospect has applied, but one is not enough and Paul encouraged CA and NC representatives to look at the DVC position and consider applying before the October 25, deadline.
10. **Round Table: Tina Luerssen:** the Budget Committee approved \$200 for neighborhoods for a Zoom account or printing of flyers, brochures, magnets, etc. through the City's print shop. Requests must be received by Monday, October 20, and will be approved on a first come, first served basis. Send requests to [Annie](#).

Scot Webb: asked if there was a rumor about a potential development in the area of Wall Street and Garland Avenue in the North Hill neighborhood. Carly said that ONS forwards the notification information to the neighborhood councils once we receive, bit that she was not aware of anything for that particular area, but would check on that and get back to Scot.

Council Member Karen Stratton: on Monday, October 11, at 1:15pm on CityCable 5 the City Council will be given an update regarding the services, resources and direction of the CHHS department. Also on Monday, October 11, at the 6pm City Council meeting, the Mayor is giving Annual State and Condition of the City.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:46pm.

Next Community Assembly scheduled for **Thursday, November 4, 2021.**