

Spokane Matters

District 1, Quarter 4

October 25, 2017—5-6:30pm

NorthEast Community Center

Introductions

Background by Heather Trautman, facilitator from ONS. Overview of the pilot program, looking at district specific solutions to district issues. This is our 4th quarter meeting. Meetings started last year at this time. Projects have begun and died off or revitalized and resolved, and we're looking, in this meeting, to give a project update for the existing projects throughout District 1. Additionally, we're looking to wrap up loose ends and then position ourselves for reflection on what could be done differently and our next steps going forward. Thank you for being here, and please don't hesitate to reach out to Abbey Martin with questions or additional thoughts. You can also find information on Spokane Matters here:

<https://my.spokanecity.org/spokanematters>

Project updates

- **GIS Target Map for Abandoned Properties**

Paul Trautman, CHHS, provided background information and efforts around the central questions: how do we get these homes abandoned/foreclosed upon properties to change? How can we improve neighborhood conditions against crime? We saw this was an issue across District 1, and settled upon a Bemiss target area because of many community assets, like the NorthEast Community Center and the school. (We also just did a neighborhood cleanup- Fall Cleaning from the Corridor- in this target area for similar reasons; this area has a lot of assets that can enhance the overarching quality of life more broadly.) Matt Folsom from the Prosecutor's office Spokane Police Department have been really helpful in finalizing property work in targeted area. We're now closing down work in this area, and taking away findings. We learned a lot about the foreclosure experience in Spokane and looking at foreclosures more broadly in District 1. Now we're planning on going "upstream" from specific properties and looking at what we can influence *before* properties become an issue. We are also seeking non-profit partners and have meetings scheduled in the immediate future for "right-sizing" financial arrangements without properties going "dark". Additionally, we're working with banks to be able to step in *before* properties become problematic. City is pursuing (Council Member Waldref) speeding up the foreclosure process in general, in the hopes of eliminating the amount of time and exposure properties have for potential problems. Lastly, we're also exploring the supply of rental housing and potential home ownership opportunities in an affordable way. To summarize: Our benchmark was to use overlay mapping to hone in on specific properties, but once we found a certain concentration we deployed a variety of strategies and as we progressed our group began looking more at systemic changes to prevent foreclosures as opposed to dealing with properties themselves.

- **Solid Waste- Identify and remove**

Rod Minarik, ONS, administers neighborhood cleanup program and updated the group because of his involvement with cleanup. The group utilized a similar process as the cleanup program, including both solid waste and appliances. 45 pieces/appliances were collected yesterday. Today solid waste went out and all seems to have been going smoothly, as Rod didn't receive calls like normally. Special twist: generally done through clean up and charges go back to neighborhood, but with RK Appliance going out, there won't be (significant) charges for the group, largely. Might be able to apply Citywide- have discussed having RK or another appliance group actually come out and do it. Neighborhood Councils are interested in potentially continuing the program because of additional cleanup help and the recycling aspect. Largely

successful; will have final numbers for the group. Additionally, Fall CFTC boundary area, concentrated around community assets w/ foreclosure project, over 20 tons of waste collected!

- **Block watch in coordination with COPS**

Council Member Fagan, District 1, stated that he knew Donna Fagan had been working to get this initiative going, but did not provide detail to the update. Next meeting will have update.

- **Research Alleyways**

Eric Lester, Integrated Capital Management, provided an update for the group. Looking at material filled in by City maintenance crew to provide material and labor and get six alleyways done before winter, this fall. Gary Kaesemeyer, Streets, also added that this is in conjunction with Solid Waste and their plan for alleyway repair in areas that they use for collection. Also still researching Tacoma's use of a polymer and is in touch with them about how it's progressing over the next year or so in order to determine whether that's an applicable opportunity for Spokane. Still exploring cost and process options. City is committed to grading alleyways where there are going to be garbage trucks- makes a huge difference in this district. Also, true, however, that's it's to be phased in and not immediately comprehensive. Allows piloting of grading to happen too and then ability to see options within continued improvements, like in a Local Improvement District (LID) effort. Gary, adding in volunteer aspect- open to providing grindings/material to volunteers that are interested in filling in alleyways. Mayor added that perhaps a workforce/volunteer group, perhaps along with a neighborhood council would be helpful.

- **Junk Vehicles- Pilot to move to proactive enforcement**

Heather Trautman, ONS, provided the update. Continuing discussions about impounds internally and with SPD for junk/abandoned vehicles. Also looking at facilitating tows in a more efficient manner. With snow season coming, have been working on a proactive effort with RVs, boats, etc. and letting persons know they need to get those seasonal vehicles off the right of way ahead of snow season. We can get you the flyers our office will be disseminating and would ask for your help in facilitating this overall process and project goal. Hopefully neighborhoods will help distribute, hopefully COPS can help too! Families living in RVs will be offered resources similarly to abandoned homes and persons living there, homeless resources and SPD always present.

Update on The Zone/NECC

Dave Richardson, Executive Director, NECC, provided an update on the new housing of The Zone at NECC. The Zone is a place-based initiative and the group has learned a lot from the former administrator back in June. NECC examined focus areas of The Zone (education, housing, safety, etc.) and all focus areas worked really well with values and tenets of the NECC. NECC decided to take it on, were allocated money from CDBG, now looking to have staff on by Nov 1 and Advisory Board by Nov 15. Looking to staff beyond just normal programming and have NECC augment supports and services. Will honor overarching priorities set initially. Will generate ongoing funding sources, and will hope to continue work, for example, by this group, as Spokane Matters and the district approach has resonated so much with the goals of The Zone and NECC. The breadth of this group's work is vast and diverse and we hope to continue the great foundation that's been created here. We also want to partner with Neighborhood Councils, and we're excited about bringing in Community Court.

Next Steps

After all districts have met for their 4th quarter meeting (early December), all can expect a survey via email to provide feedback on this pilot program and reflect on this process. Additionally, look for an invite from Abbey Martin for a meeting with all other district teams to connect on projects happening City wide. Next steps will be determined utilizing feedback on the process and takeaways and after the showcase of projects in each district. Projects should continue to wrap up loose ends and Abbey will be in touch about final reports. Thank you for your efforts!

In Attendance

Trudy Lockhart (Chief Garry Park); Abigail Martin (ONS); Mike Fagan (City Council, District 1); Capt. Dan Torok (SPD); Charles Hansen (Whitman); Jason Conley (Parks); Clara Strom (SPL); Mary Joan Hahn (Logan); Kathryn Alexander (Bemiss); Gretchen Chomas (SRHD); Eric Lester (ICM); Dave Richardson (NECC); Jamie McIntyre (SFD); Rod Minarik (ONS); Heather Trautman (ONS); Paul Trautman (CHHS); Melissa Owen (Planning), David Condon (Mayor)