

WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Minutes for the meeting of October 10, 2017

Minutes for the meeting of August 8

Correction: In summarizing the August Community Assembly meeting, Patrick Rooks DID NOT say that the Washington Department of Transportation is considering adding a Garden Springs onramp to I-90; he just said he thought it would be nice if they did. Rather, it seems more likely that some onramps will be eliminated. Katie Myers said that the Maple Street eastbound onramp may be eliminated.

The minutes were approved.

Block Watch

Julieann and Lyle Morse talked briefly about their Block Watch on Buena Vista Drive. The neighbors meet at least once per year, share contact information, and watch out for one another.

Snow removal

Katie Myers, Office of Neighborhood Services, with help from Breean Beggs, City Council, described the changes that will occur this winter in snow removal. The changes result from substantial input from citizens, as well as research on other cities in our region. When the changes are finalized, probably next week, they will be made available for distribution to the public, including NextDoor.

A full city plow will be implemented as soon as there is snow, even if there is just an inch or two. Most plowing will be done during normal Monday-Friday work hours, using workers from several city departments, as part of their normal work day. Night and weekend plowing will occur if there is a lot of snow. The city has purchased a lot of new equipment so that plowing can be done more quickly.

The city will have a "snow season" from November 15 through March 15. During this time, parking will be allowed only on the odd side of the street. This will allow the plows to leave more snow on the non-parking side of the street. No RVs or boats on the street. In the downtown area (Maple to Division, river to I-90) no street parking at all will be allowed between midnight and 6:00 a.m. The city will create alternative parking outside the downtown core.

The city will make more effort to move snow away from driveways and sidewalks. They have purchased equipment for this. However they may not have enough equipment to get all driveways.

Priority will be given to school routes, bus stops and routes, and medical facilities.

Residents and business owners will be encouraged more strongly to keep their sidewalks clear, with a 3 ft width.

The city will try to communicate to the public about these changes more clearly and through multiple channels.

Katie distributed flyers for Community Living Connections, which is one source of help for people who cannot shovel snow themselves.

The city wants feedback from the public so that they can adjust as needed.

Free trees

Karen Carlberg announced that the city still has free trees to give to residents. Last week there were 200 trees left, mostly ponderosas. Breean said that, as of last night, there were 100 trees left. Go to www.arboday.org/spokane.

Potholes

Karen Carlberg encouraged everyone to report potholes. In her experience lately, the potholes have been repaired quite quickly. City crews just need to know where they are. If you use <https://my.spokanecity.org/account/report/pothole/> you can zoom up a map and drop a pin on the precise location of the pothole. You also can call 509.625.7733 or 311. If you leave an email address, the city will keep you apprised of progress.

New Business

311: Breean said that you can call 311 with any question or concern, and you will be connected with the right person.

Homeless people at the Fish Lake Trail: Katie said that the Spokane Police Department is responsible for dealing with it, even if it is on parks department property. Call 311.

Code enforcement: Katie suggested that we discuss code enforcement at our next meeting.

Police liaison: Katie said that the police liaisons, including Tim Ottmar, now have access to NextDoor, as do the COP Shops. This will allow better communication.

Sunset Boulevard: Julieann Morse asked about the large increase in traffic on Sunset Boulevard, as well as I-90. Breean said it is due to increased residential and commercial growth just outside the city, which is the highest ever; a new speeding camera may provide additional income to help with law enforcement.