

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF JUNE 12, 2018
WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

ATTENDANCE

Neighbors: Ned Beckman, Steve Bieri, Karen Carlberg, Rick Clapp, David Duhaime, Jean Duhaime, Karen Jurasin, Ron Kelling, Susan Mensching
City staff: Kevin Freibott, Nathan Gwinn, Katie Myers, Rich Proszek
Guest: Dwight Hume

REBUILDING OF SUNSET BOULEVARD

Richard Proszek, City of Spokane Engineering Services, described the rebuilding of Sunset Boulevard that will occur this summer, from July through October or November (the specific dates have not been determined). Details: Royal Street to Sunset Bridge. Two westbound lanes, one eastbound lane, bike lanes both ways, pedestrian lane on north side. Gateway enhancement at Royal Street, with basalt columns and landscaping. New medians from Assembly to Rustle, with crosswalk and flashing beacon, to enhance pedestrian safety, and to prevent crossing Sunset at Rustle. Eliminate current bus stops at Assembly and Rustle and replace with one bus stop, with new shelter, between Assembly and Rustle. Reconfigure intersections at Assembly and Rustle to improve visibility. Improvements to F Street on both sides of Sunset. Add turn/acceleration lanes at Rustle, F, and Lindeke. Improve storm water system. One lane open throughout construction. Eastbound first, then westbound. Questions/concerns: rproszek@spokanecity.org, 509-625-6907.

UPDATE ON FORT GEORGE WRIGHT CORRIDOR PROJECT

Kevin Freibott, city planner, reviewed West Hills' contributions to this project over the last couple of years, and the current status of plans. Planning has involved West Hills, Spokane Transit Authority, Spokane Falls Community College, Mukogawa University, Catholic Charities, and two developers with adjacent property. Priorities include pedestrian and bicyclist safety, sense of place, and some commercial establishments such as a grocery store. The city will plan for a corridor that will serve the population size that is expected when all potential development is completed. A new traffic signal already has been installed at Elliott and FGW. Pedestrian safety will be enhanced with a wider sidewalk on the north side and a new off-street pedestrian path on the south, two new crosswalks, and a slower speed limit. Still to be determined: number of vehicle lanes; specific design of new transit routes through the SFCC campus; location of commercial developments. Nathan Gwinn, city planner, will work with West Hills on planning a new neighborhood center. Development of privately-owned properties is up to the owners, although the owners are likely to work with us. Rebuilding the road is likely to begin four years from now.

COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY REPORT

Paul Bundy, our CA Representative, attended two CA meetings, but was unable to attend tonight, so he wrote notes for Karen Carlberg to present. Karen presented these: 1) The City of Spokane has a new online complaint form for code enforcement problems. Now we can use either this form or call 311. Info will be sent out soon on NextDoor. 2) Spokane has a new

program called SpokaneScapes which will give residents a \$500 credit for removing lawn and replacing it with native or drought tolerant plants. Info was distributed on NextDoor on June 1.
3) Kate Burke, city councilwoman for northeast Spokane, is organizing a Cyclist Town Hall on July 11. Info will be distributed on NextDoor.

ZONING CHANGE FOR U HAUL PROPERTY

At our February, 2018, meeting Manny Mendez presented information on a request for a zoning change for the U Haul property at Sunset and Rustle. Currently the property is zoned for office use; the change will allow them to rent vehicles and trailers, as well as offer storage units. We discussed this thoroughly in February and decided the only impact to the neighborhood is a small increase in traffic at the intersection. Now they are required to make a formal presentation to the neighborhood. Dwight Hume represented the company. Because we already had a good discussion, there was no further discussion, and no questions for Dwight. Dwight has sent us a form for submitting comments, and this will be distributed soon on NextDoor; comments are due by July 27.

WEST HILLS VICE CHAIR

Rick Clapp volunteered to serve as Vice Chair. Thank you Rick!

OTHER BUSINESS, DISCUSSION, IDEAS

Is it possible to create a route that goes more directly from I-90 to SFCC?

We should try again to create a Neighborhood Center around the intersection of Sunset Boulevard and Government Way. A first step is to invite one or both of our city council representatives to one of our meetings. It will be a few years before the city is ready to consider additional Neighborhood Centers.

We could invite a master gardener to one of our meetings.

Lots of complaining about the condition of our streets, both paved and dirt. We could invite someone from the city street department to discuss how street improvement and maintenance are funded and implemented.

Homelessness is a continuing problem. We had a good discussion about this at our June 2017 meeting with our police liaison and the Director of Priority Spokane. The police have made good progress in cleaning up homeless camps around the Fish Lake Trail.

There has been a lot of car prowling in church parking lots during church services. Be careful.

Jean stated that traffic on southbound Government Way is much too fast, especially near the intersections with 4th, 5th, and 6th. This is a blind curve, making it dangerous to turn from those streets onto Government Way. Katie suggested that we make this our next traffic calming proposal, and that we start this right away. We could ask for a mobile speed sign, a permanent

speed sign, weed trimming, or other improvements. We will assemble a committee to work on this.

Jean suggested that we could have a neighborhood block party.

Katie suggested that we could create a new neighborhood gateway, with a sign and landscaping. She will discuss this with Rich Proszek. Selection of a location will take some discussion.

The West Hills clean-up is scheduled. Curbside collection will be Sep 11, large appliance/furniture collection will be Sep 12, and clean green collection will be Oct 20. Mike Gifford is in charge again. Mike could use some volunteers to help. A postcard will be sent out a month or so ahead of time.

Karen Carlberg described some of the ideas that were presented at the open house for the Finch Arboretum Master Plan. Among the improvements are changes to the F Street entry and improved signage from Sunset Boulevard into the arboretum. They are considering making a formal pedestrian entrance at the northwest corner of the arboretum; neighborhood input is welcome. Karen Jurasin suggested that the natural pine area be thinned so that it is more inviting for hiking, and to discourage homeless camps.

Kathy Lang has instigated improvements to our neighborhood communication, with a goal of finding something better than NextDoor. Katie Myers has lots of ideas. Kathy, Katie, Karen Jurasin, and Karen Carlberg are working on this.