

WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF JUNE 11, 2019

ATTENDANCE

Neighbors: Steve Bieri, Paul Bundy (Community Assembly Representative), Karen Carlberg (Chair), Rick Clapp (Vice-Chair), Dwight Emerson, Karen Jurasin (Communications Director), Judy Kelsch, LaVerne Truman
City staff: Nathan Gwinn (Assistant Planner, City of Spokane), Alex Mann (Urban Designer, City of Spokane)

MINUTES

Minutes were approved for the meeting of April 9, 2019.

COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY REPORT, Paul Bundy, West Hills CA Representative

Paul told us about several items that were discussed at the May and June, 2019, Community Assembly meetings.

- 1) Neighborhood councils now may use city parks for their activities without paying a fee. Insurance may or may not be required, depending on the activity.
- 2) Spokane Matters has several activities and changes, including a new web site. This city program now is being used to choose which proposed projects will receive federal funding each year for the CDBG program. The city is implementing a "district model" for making the selections, meaning that representatives from each neighborhood will meet with other representatives from their city council district, and as a group, they will choose which projects proposed for their district will receive funding. West Hills will work with District 2 (south Spokane)(West Hills is about 2/3 in District 2 and 1/3 in District 3 (northwest Spokane)). West Hills itself is not eligible for CDBG funding; only the poorer neighborhoods are eligible. Also using the Spokane Matters district model, neighborhood representatives met with their districts to choose which city funded projects will be implemented this year. District 2 chose two projects: a) Improving the 5th Avenue Corridor Loop to make transportation (motorized and non-motorized) easier and safer around the downtown hospitals, other medical facilities, medical schools, and related facilities. b) A South Hill dog park.
- 3) A representative from the Lime company talked about their bikes and scooters. Citizens can register on their web site for a discount. Helmets are not required; instead each individual accepts liability.

CHANGES AT THE OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES, Nathan Gwinn, Assistant Planner, City of Spokane

ONS has had a lot of turnover and is hiring five new people. West Hills will get yet another new liaison. Alex is one of the new people.

BUILDING STRONGER NEIGHBORHOODS TOOLKIT, Karen Carlberg, West Hills Chair

Karen C attended the BSN meeting in which the new neighborhood toolkit was described. It is at <https://my.spokanecity.org/neighborhoods/resources/>. It has 18 links to resources that can help neighborhoods do what they do.

OPEN FORUM

NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS

Judy said that when the mobile speed sign was on Rosamond recently, it showed the speed limit as 25 mph, but actually it is 30 mph. Rosamond is an arterial.

Judy said that the newly rebuilt intersection of F St and Sunset Boulevard has a stop line on F that is too far from Sunset for drivers to be able to see the traffic coming on Sunset. This is dangerous, especially for people walking or cycling in the uphill pedestrian path. The solution seems to be to stop twice, once at the line and again when the driver can see traffic. Maybe it would help to add a "pedestrian crossing" sign.

Other discussion about streets: Driver sightlines obscured by shrubs at intersections or tall grass.
Solution: Call 311.

NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME

Judy organizes the Night Out Against Crime every year. This year it will be on Tuesday, August 6. She advertises it, provides some of the food, and accepts donations to help pay expenses. People can bring potluck dishes if they wish. She works with C.O.P.S. so that Rosamond can be closed, and she invites police, fire fighters, and department of corrections people. Thanks to Judy for doing this!

INTERSECTION OF SUNSET BOULEVARD AND GOVERNMENT WAY

This afternoon Nathan emailed Karen C that he would bring Alex, a new urban designer with the city, to our meeting. Karen decided this would be a good opportunity to start a discussion about trying again to improve the neighborhood around the intersection of Sunset Boulevard and Government Way. The following is a summary of a very long discussion. Alex was full of ideas. Apologies to those who might have liked to participate in this very last minute discussion.

Alex emphasized the importance of "place making." The first thing we should do is create a name for this "place," possibly using the word "gateway." From now on, we should call it by that name.

Place making works best if there are public spaces. Right now the public space is the Fish Lake Trailhead. Involve parks department. FLT needs bigger parking lot.

Making changes to property use involves a balance between "public good" and private property rights.

An early step is to establish dialogue with property owners and involve them in the process.

Creating change requires substantial investment, both of time by community members and of money by ... someone. Commercial businesses need to make a profit. Grassroots effort is necessary.

An early step is to establish what the community wants. Ideas: Erect a chalkboard or something so that people can write ideas. Have an event for discussing ideas.

Start small. Food trucks at the Fish Lake Trailhead.

If we want to proceed with this, we need lots of participation by neighbors.

This will be on our August agenda.

8:00 - ADJOURN

Minutes were approved on August 13, 2019.