

WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 8, 2019

ATTENDANCE

Neighbors: Paul Bundy (Community Assembly Representative), Karen Carlberg (Chair), Rick Clapp (Vice-Chair), Dwight Emerson, Karen Jurasin (Communications Director), Marilyn Linke, Jim Maguire, Linda Maguire, Susan Mensching, LaVerne Truman
City staff: Colin Quinn-Hurst (Planning)
Guests: Breean Beggs (candidate), Cindy Wendle (candidate), Paul Wenfield (candidate assistant), and an intern and an assistant who did not sign in

CANDIDATE FORUM

Breean Beggs and Cindy Wendle, candidates for city council president, had 45 minutes to answer and discuss our questions. Topics included: paving unpaved streets; trash cleanup; homelessness (potential causes, problems, solutions); services vs incarceration for offenders.

MINUTES

Minutes were approved for the meetings of August 13 and September 25 (after accepting Colin Q's change to the discussion about land use designation around the intersection).

WEST HILLS ELECTION

An announcement was made about the election of 2020-2021 West Hills officers, which will occur at our December 10 meeting. Neighbors may nominate themselves or others. A list of officers and their duties is in the West Hills bylaws, available at <http://westhills.spokaneneighborhoods.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Bylaws.WestHills.2016-Final.pdf>

COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY REPORT

Paul reported on the August and September Community Assembly meetings. He included these topics: 1) The review for project proposals for NCDP/CDBG grants and school zone improvements may change so that projects may be larger or more long-term, enabling bigger projects to be considered. 2) The mayor gave a presentation on the 2020 city budget. One thing he said was that the average family income in Spokane is \$48K, whereas the cost of living for that family is \$53K. Info on the 2020 budget is at <https://my.spokanecity.org/news/stories/2019/09/05/first-look-at-the-2020-budget/>. 3) Dr. Barbara Brock gave a 40 minute presentation on homelessness in Spokane. One of her take-home messages was "be kind."

TRAFFIC CALMING PROPOSAL

Susan Mensching submitted a traffic calming proposal for Government Way on behalf of West Hills last spring. She and Karen C received the first assessment of the proposal a few days ago. The city engineers stated that only one of our requests is justified: installation of two permanent speed signs, one northbound and one southbound. Our proposal will be added to the list of proposals from other neighborhoods, and after further review, some of those will be selected for implementation. We will know in a few months.

SUNSET BOULEVARD / GOVERNMENT WAY INTERSECTION

We continued discussion from our September meeting on this topic.

Fish Lake Trail: Colin Q sent an email to Karen C about the city engineer, Nathan Anunson, who is in charge of the FLT Connection Study, and Karen and Nathan have been communicating. Nathan currently is selecting an engineering firm to study four possible connection routes between the Sandifur Bridge and FLT. This connection route will go through or near the Sunset/Government intersection. Nathan is planning to include nearby neighborhoods throughout the development process. Our participation will begin in a few months. Colin said in our September meeting that this project is an opportunity for us partner with the city in creating change around the Sunset/Government intersection.

Maps: Colin said at our September meeting that he would provide us with a map showing the ownership of properties around the Sunset/Government intersection. We saw that the city owns two small parcels on either side of Government Way immediately south of Sunset Boulevard; West Hills can use these.

Colin reminded us that the land use designation for the area around the intersection could be changed from "mini-center" to "center" with a Comprehensive Plan amendment. This could increase property values.

Dwight suggested that we focus on public properties. This might encourage investment by private property owners.

Susan suggested that improvements to the Sunset Bridge are a good place to start. It is a great gateway to our neighborhood. We could paint lamp posts, install flags, add art, murals, do cleanup.

Colin reminded us that there will be a pop up protected bike lane installed in the university district this weekend. We could use a similar temporary street alteration for a neighborhood event.

Marilyn complained that the burned area next to Sunset Boulevard near the Rosamond bridge still has not been cleaned up completely. Karen C contacted Angel Spell about this a few months ago, and Angel responded that their work had been completed.

Approved December 10, 2019