

WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 11, 2020

ATTENDANCE

Neighbors: Steve Bieri, Paul Bundy (Community Assembly Representative), Karen Carlberg (Chair), Rick Clapp (Treasurer), Dwight Emerson, Mike Gifford (Vice-Chair), Karen Jurasin (Communications Director), LaVerne Truman, Chuck Wootan
City staff: Annie Deasy (Community Programs Coordinator), Kelly Mongan (Police)
Guest: Kathleen Weinand (Principal Transit Planner, Spokane Transit)

NEIGHBORHOOD POLICE OFFICER: Kelly Mongan

Crime is down slightly for the city as a whole and up slightly for the P7 district (southwest Spokane). Kelly will send us a crime report, which will be distributed on Nextdoor. Most of the crime in West Hills is around the intersection of Sunset and Rustle, especially at the Econo Lodge and Motel 6. Kelly said the Econo Lodge owner seems to want to help reduce crime. He described the patrols that he and his colleagues have been doing in the area.

MINUTES

Minutes for the meeting of December 10, 2019, were approved.

COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY REPORT: Paul Bundy, West Hills CA Representative

Paul reported on the January and February CA meetings. The City Council interviewed candidates and chose Betsy Wilkerson as the new City Council member for District 2, replacing Breean Beggs, who was elected City Council President. Mayor Woodward wants to work cooperatively with the council. The city continues to work on homelessness. Money is available for leadership training of CA Reps and other neighborhood officers; there will be more local training instead of sending a few people to NUSA (the national meeting for neighborhoods). Kathy Lang, who lives in West Hills, is the new chair for the Design Review Board. The CA has started audio recordings of the CA meetings to help with writing the minutes.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO BUS ROUTES: Kathleen Weinand, Principal Transit Planner, Spokane Transit

Spokane voters approved more funding for Spokane Transit in 2016. Some of the improvements already have been implemented. Now Spokane Transit wants public input on the remaining improvements. Kathleen focused on routes 60, 61, and 63, which use Sunset Boulevard to go between downtown Spokane and destinations to the west. These routes no longer will go through Browne's Addition because the new Central Line will do that, so there will be a more direct route between Sunset Boulevard and the STA Plaza. There will be increased service to Airway Heights, Spokane Tribe casino, and Spokane Airport.

Kathleen distributed handouts showing two proposed new routes for 60, 61, and 63. Everyone is encouraged to go to SpokaneTransit.com/Survey to vote on their preferences.

LaVerne asked if safety has been improved at the STA Plaza. Kathleen described some changes that are intended to improve safety.

MOBILE SPEED SIGNS FOR 2020:

These are our choices:

- #1: Government Way, southbound, about half way between Pacific Avenue and Fourth Avenue.
- #2: Sunset Boulevard, eastbound, a little east of F Street.
- #3: Fort George Wright Drive, eastbound, just west of N River Ridge Boulevard.

CLEANUP DATES: Mike Gifford, Cleanup Coordinator

Mike described our two annual cleanup events. "Curbside" means that residents can put garbage, including large items like mattresses, on the curb in front of their house, by early morning on the event date, and garbage crews will pick them up. "Clean greens" means that residents can take yard waste to dumpsters that are located in two places in the neighborhood on the date of the event.

We selected these dates for 2020:

Curbside: mid-April

Clean greens: mid-late September

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT IN WHITTIER PARK:

The Grandview/Thorpe neighborhood has sponsored a family movie night in Grandview Park, using Community Engagement Grant funds, the last few summers. They have hired a company that brings everything, including projector, screen, and movie. It has been very successful in attracting families to the movie and to the neighborhood council. For 2020 they have invited West Hills (and another southwest neighborhood that has not yet responded) to join them, so that there can be two or three movies for everyone to attend.

In order to participate, we need volunteers. Paul volunteered to take charge; LaVerne and Dwight volunteered to help.

The first step is to write a Community Engagement Grant proposal. Paul attended the meeting on how to write the proposal. Karen C and Annie can help, as can the Grandview/Thorpe officers. The proposal needs to be completed by the April 14 West Hills meeting so that we can vote on it; minutes from this meeting are a required part of the proposal. The purpose of the Community Engagement Grant program is to tell neighbors about the neighborhood council and encourage them to join.

NEIGHBORHOOD PUBLICITY:

Annie talked about various ways that we can attract more of our neighbors to the neighborhood council. She mentioned things like flyers and door hangers. These could be distributed at the movie or to front doors of our neighbors. The city can help with graphic design at no charge. Often there is money left over in the Community Engagement Grant fund that can be used for these sorts of things.

Karen C said that Karen J has been very successful in inviting neighbors to join the West Hills Nextdoor. There now are about four times as many residents connected to our Nextdoor than there were two years ago. Thank you KJ! Karen C said that the cleanup postcards also have helped in telling neighbors about the West Hills Neighborhood Council and how to connect to us.

OPEN FORUM:

LaVerne said that the library box that she and her daughter installed near Finch Arboretum, for the purpose of lending books, has a leak. She asked if anyone knew of someone who could fix it. Karen J will post a request on Nextdoor.

Dwight said he still is interested in working on placemaking around the intersection of Sunset Boulevard and Government Way. (We'll try to make room for this on the April West Hills agenda.)

Rick talked about increased crime in his neighborhood, around Government Way.

Mike, Chuck, and Dwight expressed excitement about the new Susie Stephens Trail, coming to our neighborhood sometime this summer.

APPROVED February 9, 2021