

WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 8, 2022

ATTENDANCE

Neighbors: Steve Bieri, Paul Bundy (Community Assembly Representative), Karen Carlberg (Chair), Rick Clapp (Executive Committee), Dwight Emerson (Executive Committee), Kris Fiala, Josette Gates, Mike Gifford (Cleanup Coordinator), William Hagy (Vice Chair), Bill Heaton, Karen Jurasin (Communications), Todd Kosanke, Julieann Morse (Executive Committee), Lyle Morse, Kurt Scudder, Shea Suski, Judith Van Dongen, Brandon Wahl
Guest: Leroy Eadie (Catholic Charities)

DECEMBER MINUTES

Karen J moved, and Rick seconded, that we accept the draft minutes for the meeting of December 14, 2021. Vote was 13 yea, 0 nay.

WEST HILLS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2022-2023

Selection of the 2022-2023 Executive Committee was scheduled to occur at the December 14, 2021, meeting. The discussion about crime went longer than expected, so the selection process was not completed. We did ask for volunteers; there were 10.

The ten volunteers met on December 29 to decide who would serve in each position. Later, one person needed to drop out. The final list of officers:

Chair: Karen Carlberg
Vice-Chair: William Hagy
Treasurer: Paul Bundy
Communications: Karen Jurasin
Community Assembly Representative: Susan Mensching
Community Assembly Alternate Representative: Paul Bundy
Cleanup Coordinator: Mike Gifford
Special Projects: Rick Clapp, Dwight Emerson, Julieann Morse

Because the Executive Committee was not determined at a regularly scheduled West Hills meeting, we needed to vote. Rick moved, and Karen J seconded, to accept this list of officers. Vote was 14 yea, 0 nay.

WEST HILLS BYLAWS

Carly Cortright, Director of Neighborhood Services, is in a newly created position, which gives her time to take care of neighborhood-related tasks that have not been done before. On January 4 she sent an email to all neighborhood chairs saying that neighborhood councils must

have bylaws that are in accordance with the Spokane Municipal Code, and that neighborhood councils must conduct business in accordance with both the Spokane Municipal Code and their own bylaws. The West Hills Neighborhood Council needs to revise its bylaws in order to comply.

Mike Gifford, Rick Clapp, and Bill Heaton volunteered to work on the bylaws. They will have a draft ready to discuss at the April 12 West Hills meeting.

LATAH CREEK CORRIDOR: William Hagy

The Latah Creek / Highway 195 corridor has had major problems with traffic congestion and inadequate transportation infrastructure for a long time. Many studies and community meetings have taken place, but only minor improvements have been made. The most recent study is at <https://us195transportationstudy.com/>.

William represented West Hills at a meeting about this last month. Leaders of the Grandview/Thorpe and Latah/Hangman neighborhoods have organized a petition to the City of Spokane to prohibit building any new residences in the Latah transportation corridor until there have been improvements, or at least plans, for transportation infrastructure, as well as things like fire protection and schools. To read about and sign the petition, go to <https://www.change.org/p/spokane-city-mayor-and-city-council-join-us-in-protecting-latah-valley-4ac36f47-de50-4ea1-93d6-cb0b8de606c3?signed=true>.

Update on Rosamond bridge: WSDOT still plans to repair and reopen the bridge this summer.

BLOCK WATCH: Julieann Morse

Julieann established a Block Watch for a group of 10 homes more than 25 yr ago when renters in one house on the block were selling drugs. The Block Watch continues to function well. Besides improving safety, Block Watch brings neighbors together. It teaches neighbors what to look for and how to report it.

She provided a PowerPoint presentation

(https://d16kzk4negkp9h.cloudfront.net/21/08/31/210831491ac100657994f0c2865df995/Block_Watch_Presentation_for_West_Hills_Community_Meeting_Feb_2022.pdf?Expires=1644798346&Signature=gXc6D3lUqdAPXm3B-20UNDKu1JYsa-e5gNmBkrBoqs7iZezA8F5zQXKlnuxkwHEX4kEYQNWLOnlwsNgyOJj4ntLwDqszNWcRCRz0vch~d2qlXZMGrlxMHhuGH2Y4Wtsmy6o8yMcu5o3M3f4Os4mJpGXAEWt-FeTv2Zn3gncoUsY_&Key-Pair-Id=APKAIBZNN3ZZBIBSIDQ) and a brochure (https://d16kzk4negkp9h.cloudfront.net/c6/21/ac/c621ac429551863c327f917e92541892/Block_Watch_Brochure_2021.pdf?Expires=1644798346&Signature=hZc7RYiesGFu7sHYRjzm2q3wDXScwGmMIrdrgl2VYWNLSL7YlffQesft-VYlzG60Rn~F~w2ZYjhr2SSYWshFVIqkLyf7fOJKvn9HvvVYh3er8UjPf9ac5jRm~bOKUSKdtrC-kc14Jej9jxi6xC0-3MuzL9WTwbTEWm7MQTedAw_&Key-Pair-Id=APKAIBZNN3ZZBIBSIDQ) .

Both are very informative for someone who wants to establish a Block Watch on their own block.

A Block Watch works with the local COPS Shop. Ours is the southwest one, on W Third Avenue (see brochure). To organize a Block Watch on your block, contact our COPS Shop, and then talk with all your neighbors. Your neighbors will be glad you did it!

Kurt volunteered to work with the managers of the apartment complexes around Deska and Westcliff on organizing Block Watches.

PROPERTY PURCHASED BY CATHOLIC CHARITIES: Leroy Eadie, Vice President, Development & Asset Management

Catholic Charities purchased three parcels on the northeast side of S Government Way between W Sunset Boulevard and W Hartson. The property currently has an old motel, an old house, and an empty office building. They will demolish the motel and house. They will improve the office building and move most of their corporate offices there.

Leroy presented a tentative plan for affordable apartment buildings. He emphasized that the plan could evolve. His PowerPoint is at <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1TXbv74AZaND6r5AqMoUpTshtYuTgVs3j/edit#slide=id.p1>.

The plan shows two apartment buildings, one between Sunset Boulevard and the office building and one between Hartson and the office building. Each has three stories, eight apartments (1, 2, and 3 bedrooms) per story, for a total of 24 apartments per building, therefore 48 total apartments. There will be adequate parking, a community building, green space, and a playground for children. The zoning already is appropriate.

Neighbors sent questions to the West Hills email account before the meeting and to the Zoom chat during the meeting. Will these buildings have solar power, as some CC properties do? Yes, where possible. Some CC properties are surrounded by litter and drug dealing. How will this complex be better? There will be site managers, as well as staff to take care of maintenance and support services. Having the corporate offices there will help. Residents will sign a lease that includes prohibition of drug use. Who will the residents be? Low income, mostly not transitioning from homelessness. There could be rental subsidies. Are you aware of people parking on Audubon, next to the CC property, doing undesirable things? We can add lighting there, and the city may need to add lighting, and there will be more eyes on the area. How is the project funded, both for construction and for paying staff? Leroy explained their funding model, which includes multiple funding sources, low income tax credits, and investors who have equity in the properties.

OPEN FORUM:

Karen C, William, and an adjacent property owner are working with Johnnie Perkins (City Administrator), Loren Searle (Water Superintendent), and Kelly Mongan (Spokane Police) on increasing security and safety around the water tower on W West Drive. This is in response to the truck fire that occurred there recently, along with other suspicious activities. Expect to see changes.

Where shall we locate mobile speed signs this season? Send ideas to westhills99224@gmail.com.

Mike Gifford proposed that West Hills hold a workshop to discuss neighborhood goals and planning. Our neighborhood shares the many problems that most neighborhood face. What can we do about all these challenges? We need new ideas. William Hagy and Kurt Scudder volunteered to work with Mike.

APPROVED APRIL 12, 2022