

WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF APRIL 12, 2022

ATTENDANCE

Neighbors: Steve Bieri, Paul Bundy (Treasurer), Karen Carlberg (Chair), Rick Clapp (Executive Committee), Dwight Emerson (Executive Committee), Kris Fiala, James Fulton, Mike Gifford (Cleanup Coordinator), William Hagy (Vice Chair), Karen Jurasin (Communications), Susan Mensching (Community Assembly Representative), Julieann Morse (Executive Committee), Lyle Morse, Kurt Scudder

City staff: Amanda Beck (Planning Services), Annie Deasy (Office of Neighborhood Services), Nathan Gwinn (Planning Services)

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 8, 2022

William moved, and Rick seconded that the minutes for the meeting of February 8, 2022, be accepted without change. Yea 10, nay 0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Karen C read a list of announcements:

Karen C gave the annual Town Hall presentation to the City Council last evening. The presentation included several of the items below.

A group of West Hills neighbors communicated with the City Administrator and the Director of Water & Hydroelectric Services about suspicious and dangerous activities that have been occurring at the city water facility in the 3600 block of W West Dr, including a truck fire. The Director of Water & Hydroelectric Services sent us an email on April 6 listing the mitigations they plan to implement to deter this activity: no trespassing sign; tow away sign; improved lighting; physical barrier around parking area consisting of large boulders. These should give police more options for removing individuals and abandoned vehicles, as well as keeping people away from the facility.

Spokane Police delivered a chronic nuisance complaint to the owner of the Motel 6 in December concerning the ongoing criminal activity associated with the motel. The owner's attorney replied with a list of mitigations soon thereafter. In March, Karen C asked our neighborhood police officer if they had data yet to know whether the crime situation had improved. No response yet.

Last spring Jerico Cairns and Karen C, with city staff help, created a brochure and flyer to distribute to River Run and the new City View Apartments, with information about joining WHNC. Jerico distributed them. There are some left over, which Jerico volunteered to distribute again this spring.

Several new apartment buildings are planned (or recently opened) around the intersections of Sunset Boulevard and Government Way, as well as Sunset Boulevard and Rustle Street. The total number of apartments may be 400+. The Grandview/Thorpe neighborhood has proposals for 10 housing developments with up to 1000 new homes. All of these will add traffic to adjacent roads.

At a recent Grandview/Thorpe neighborhood meeting, the director of the Eastern Division of WSDOT announced that left turns will be blocked at the intersection of Highway 195 and W 16th Avenue within a year or two. This will reduce congestion at the 195 entrance to eastbound I-90, but increase traffic on Sunset Boulevard and the Maple entrance to eastbound I-90. He also said that funding has been identified for planning of improvements to S Inland Empire Way, which will carry more traffic that is diverted from Highway 195 toward downtown.

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT CODE AMENDMENTS

Amanda Beck and Nathan Gwinn of Planning Services described proposed changes to Spokane's residential codes. See <https://drive.google.com/file/d/10wpDWXYIBgTi4-G5ECdPDCAmxS17pzc4/view?usp=sharing>. The goal is to increase the housing supply, especially at the middle income level. Proposed changes include things like allowing smaller lots, accessory dwelling units and other housing options, and streamlining permitting. There will be lots of opportunities for public engagement and comment, including workshops.

CLEANUP

Mike Gifford said that West Hills will have a curbside event (city solid waste employees pick up garbage left at curbside) on May 10. The city will send everyone a postcard about it soon.

West Hills will have a clean greens collection later this year. One dumpster will be placed at Whittier Park. We need a location for a second dumpster. Julieann suggested a street adjacent to Finch Arboretum; she will ask. We always need volunteers to help.

REVISION OF WEST HILLS BYLAWS

No report.

WORKSHOP FOR WEST HILLS GOALS AND PLANS

The committee has not met. However, Mike has some suggestions: The main concerns for West Hills are crime, homelessness, police, pollution, and I-90 noise. Mike's and William's suggestions for solutions include increasing funding for helping homeless; teach skills to homeless; employ homeless; build housing that goes up, not out, to house more people; keep neighborhoods walkable; keep green spaces.

OPEN FORUM

Susan and Julieann expressed concern about the effects of increased population on the Latah Creek bridge. (City engineers say the bridge can withstand it.)

Rick expressed concern about sufficient parking with increased population. This is a problem in other cities.

James stated that construction has started on a new apartment building at Whistalks Way and River Ridge in River Run. It will have 96 apartments.

Annie reminded us about the upcoming traffic calming workshops. Please attend. (Dates for West Hills are May 26 and August 17.)

APPROVED JUNE 14, 2022