

DRAFT

WEST HILL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES for Oct, 11th 2022

Attendance

Executive Board; William Hagy, Derek Zandt, Mike Gifford, Susan Mensching, Christine Quinn, Annie Ishi, Nolan Stiener. [Absent] Joy.P, Juliann Morse, Dwight Emerson, Kurt Skudder, Lisa Sandbo, Patty Amori, Paul Bundy.

Members; Rebecca Cook, Cole Cook, Carol Fontaine, Lynda.D, Vicki, Nancy Nichols, Will Quinn, Bill Heaton,

Guests, Amber Durkoop, Natalie Poulson, Betsy Wilkerson, Zack Zappone, Mark Carlos, Shane Gronholz, Chief Meidl, NRO Mark Brownell, Kelsey Solberg, Jeff Fix, Matt Judy, D.Amori, +++

Announcements

William Hagy covered the previous emergency meeting to vote in empty seats following two resignations back in Aug 2022, in addition to appointing officers in special committees, the Town Hall meeting with Mayor Woodward and Catholic Charities.

Community Engagement grant money forfeiture for Zoom/FLT signs and printing.

Selection of location for in person meetings, as well as previous motion for monthly in person meetings as WHNC transitions into hybrid meeting to further incorporate remote access for members that are unable to attend due to health or mobility issues.

Future Goals of WHNC was discussed as to our intent and engagement surrounding the direction of west hills, reflecting on both the neighborhood planning projects in 2016 whereas \$21k of revitalization funds were allocated to Catholic Charities development nearest SFCC as well as the City Comprehensive Plan, and newly released grant funding available for neighborhoods separated by the introduction of I90

Nolan Stiener; Brought in additional “Neighbors drive 25mph” yard signs to further assist traffic calming in west hills

Reports of Committees; Food Scarcity| Juliann Morse and Dwight Emerson – no contact / no show

Presentations

Chief Meidl of SPD gave a great in depth overview of law enforcement challenges in our community, staffing concerns regarding County Jail, Geiger, as well as lack of officers on patrol, and funding needed to further support law enforcement efforts, current crime data in community hot spots, etc.. q&a was further covered in regards to potential new jail costs, possibility of Geiger Corrections closure, Betsy Wilkerson discussed briefly the “chatter” regarding the possibility of Geiger being used for homeless housing, the Blake Decision was further discussed in relation to the overall negative effects on communities at large, lack of addiction treatment, overdoses, and complications stemming from both police reform as well as the Blake Decision decriminalizing controlled substances.

SPD NRO Mark Brownell touched base on positive reporting, block watch programs, potential neighborhood watch to further support existing and or new block watch programs.

Kelsey Solberg from Gonzaga University presentation; Spokane Neighborhood Leadership Academy. SNLA is a 5mo program designed to well equip new and emerging NC leaders to increase engagement and effectively address priorities. The program is ideal for all leadership roles, however, tailored for Neighborhood councils, as the program was brought about by City Council President Beggs
Video: <https://vimeo.com/705882916>

Natalie Paulson; Candidate for State Rep Dist 3 level 2, gave an introduction to her professional background as an educator and lifelong resident of Spokane, sharing her concerns for the levels of rampant criminal activities, drug use, lack of addiction treatment, and lack of support for Law Enforcement has made many communities unsafe, specifically the challenges the Blake Decision has introduced to communities state wide, increasing the importance of challenging and reversing the legislative changes.

Jeff Fix gave a background with his involvement as a field manager for Cathy McMorris Rogers, as well as received input to convey to the congresswoman, concerns such as; agriculture, increasing hemp production for sustainable material production, police reform, women's rights, and the Blake decision. (Yard signs are available)

Shane Gronholz; Current Affairs Specialist for Spokane Public Library gave a brief overview of all the positive changes within Spokane, including the Central Library, Hive, as well as other happenings in our community.