West Hills Neighborhood Council

Ad Hoc Meeting – October 1, 2025
5:00–6:00 PM | Virtual via Zoom

Links & Contacts:

- WHNC Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/spokanewesthills/
- WHNC City of Spokane: https://my.spokanecity.org/neighborhoods/councils/west-hills/
- WHNC Website: https://westhills.spokaneneighborhoods.org/
- ONS Newsletter: https://my.spokanecity.org/neighborhoods/news
- Email: whnc99224@gmail.com

Attendance

Executive Committee Members: Chair Robert Thompson, Vice Chair Ryan Oelrich, Treasurer Paul Bundy, Secretary Bryn McNabb, Communications Chair Joy Peltier, CA Representative Kathy Hagy, Alternate CA Rep Mike Gifford.

Community Members: ~20 neighbors including Tom Angelle, Chris Dill, Noah Dickens, Ginny Ramos, Sherry Bressler, Nolan Steiner, Erika Deasy, Tim Lynch, Pastor Andre Dove, Robin H., and others.

1. Meeting Called to Order

Called to order at 5:00 PM by Robert Thompson. Purpose: Ad hoc meeting to address officer removal per bylaws and set agenda for October 14 meeting.

2. Statement of Facts

Presented by Bryn McNabb regarding alleged bylaw violations by CA Rep Kathy Hagy, including unsanctioned agenda circulation, election scheduling outside approved timeline, and misrepresentation

to ONS. Bylaw sections cited: 4E, 6C, 6E, 7A, 9C, 9D, 9E.

3. Documentation Entered

22 pages of supporting documentation submitted by Vice Chair Oelrich, including emails, text records, ONS confirmations, and notes from Sept 8 & 10 meetings.

(Documentation to be attached to meeting minutes)

4. Rebuttal by Kathy Hagy

- Stated that this is defamation of character.
- Claimed that she was threatened with the release of ONS documentation in an earlier meeting
- Denied claims of misconduct, stating that the stealing of votes was ”physically impossible”
- Stated no unsanctioned meeting occurred.
- Felt unfairly singled out.

5. Executive Committee Discussion

- Ryan Oelrich: Our neighborhood is facing a lot of challenges, we need to be able to work together and take accountability. Denied accusation of threatening, and pointed to documentation that Kathy was asked if she would resign noting that the breaking of seven bylaws seemed reason enough for that ask.
- Mike Gifford: Urged reconciliation and unity, stating that we needed to preserve neighborhood relationships, and acknowledging that “something is definitely broken”. Stated that he would prefer that Kathy resign rather than having to remove an officer by vote. Noted that bylaws were broken, and that we cannot pick and choose which ones we follow.
- Paul Bundy: Stated that the division we are experiencing is unproductive and distracting, time-consuming and frustrating and is ultimately not beneficial to the neighborhood. He felt that the division needs to come to an end, democratically.
- Joy Peltier: Stated that we are all sad that the situation has come to this. That our neighborhood needs to be able to work together as a team. Stated that if there are concerns about how any of us are doing our jobs, we should talk to each other – but that holding a meeting to elect new members outside of the agreed upon process breaks trust within the board and with our neighborhood.
- Bryn McNabb: In situations like this, we are inclined to give the benefit of the doubt, which we have extended to Kathy . We have documented, we have had meetings, and we have attempted remediation that would not have to bring the entire neighborhood into this. We have a lot of very complicated and heavy concern in our neighborhood to focus on, and this type of [infighting] slows us down and doesn’t give us a chance to be as effective as the neighborhood deserves us to be.
- Robert Thompson: This board is governed by certain rules. This vote is not about diminishing the service of any one member of this body, but it is about accountability to the rules that govern how we operate.

6. Motion & Vote – Removal of Officer

- Motion to remove Kathy Hagy as CA Representative. Vote:
- 5 Yes (Thompson, Oelrich, Bundy, Peltier, McNabb);
- 1 No (Hagy);
- 1 Abstain (Gifford).
- Motion passed with 2/3 majority.
- Hagy removed.

7. October 14 Meeting Preparations

- Nominations: All seats open;
    - Robert Stated nominees must attend October meeting to qualify.
        - CORRECTION: Nominees do not have to be present at time of nomination to qualify. Nominees must accept the nomination.
        - Language of Section 9.C. "In odd years, ..., nominations shall be accepted for officers for the following calendar year. Candidates must be qualified WHNC members and must be willing to accept the nomination. "
        - No requirement for being present at time of nomination if specified.
    - Voting members are only eligible if they have attended at least one WHNC in the past year.
- Draft social media guidelines and member removal process under review.
- Attendees whose full names are notes in Zoom will be counted in attendance records.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned shortly after 6:00 PM. Next Meeting: October 14, 2025

WHNC Statement of Facts

Regarding the attempted holding of an unsanctioned WHNC meeting, elections in violation of a unanimous neighborhood vote, and the installation of a pre-selected slate of candidates denying others the opportunity to run.

As reviewed by WHNC. 9/30/2025

KH=Kathy Hagy, Community Assembly Representative

WHNC= West Hills Neighborhood Council

ONS= Spokane Office of Neighborhood Services

Here are the statement of facts as documents have been found to support:

a. KH sent an agenda for an unsanctioned WHNC meeting that as written is in breach of our bylaws: 4E, 6C, 6E, 7A, 9C, 9D, and 9E. KH was handing out copies of the WHNC bylaws at August's meeting and encouraging neighbors to review them.
b. This unsanctioned meeting planned to immediately replace 3 exec members- Chair, Communications Director, and Secretary, as demonstrated by the document's statements *"6:20 Early Elections/Nominees for WHNC Election"* and *"6:50 WHNC New Representative announcements"* with 6 specifically named individuals.
c. The naming of six specific individuals before any nominations or elections have taken place at worst denies any other WH neighbors the opportunity to serve and at best gives unfair advantage in an election process to those named.
d. This was also in breach of what was voted on unanimously at the August meeting- nominations in October, Vote in December as recorded in the minutes, videotaped, and confirmed by ONS. This denies neighbors the opportunity to vote via a process they unanimously agreed on.
e. KH stated it was seconded when it was not. Even if it had been seconded, a WHNC meeting requires three board votes or to be called by the Chair per WHNC bylaws.
f. KH represented this as an official West Hills Neighborhood Council meeting to ONS, which ONS confirmed, in reserving a meeting room when it was not.
g. Robert Thompson, Chair, sent an email to KH notifying her the meeting needed to be cancelled, was in violation of bylaws, and was in defiance of what the neighborhood had unanimously voted on. The email asked Kathy to immediately provide the following information:

i. *Please respond to how this meeting was communicated to neighbors.*
ii. *What selection process was used to identify individuals listed in the agenda?*
iii. *In your agenda, you mention new business for the Community Assembly. When we spoke last Thursday, I advised that you send this to the executive team via email for an executive vote, and that this did not require a full convening. Please provide a written copy of the proposal.*
iv. *Please advise as to your plan for cancelling this meeting.*

h. In KH's response, KH did not provide the information requested to resolve and understand this situation. In fact, KH's response stated the meeting would be held and elections "*might*" take place. *(KH's response should be addressed separately- see below)*
i. In the changed agenda KH provided to ONS in planning to continue to hold a meeting on September 9th, 6pm at Finch Arboretum KH stated, *"This may not be an official West Hills Neighborhood Council meeting since there may not be a quorum"*. When in fact it was clearly stated to KH by ONS and WHNC that this would <u>not</u> be an official meeting and KH did <u>not</u> have a quorum.
j. Robert Thompson, Chair met with Kathy Hagy, CA Rep in a 3-hour mediated meeting to attempt to resolve the conflict on Monday, Sept 8th.
k. The entire WHNC Exec Team met to resolve the conflict on Wed, Sept 10th. This meeting resulted in Kathy Hagy, CA Rep agreeing to draft an email by Sept 24 taking accountability for breaking the bylaws and Robert Thompson, Chair agreed to take ownership that the phrase, *"potentially stealing your opportunity to vote"* was overly harsh.
l. Robert Thompson, Chair confirmed and summarized in a group message to all exec members that Kathy Hagy, CA Rep, would provide an email by Sept 24th taking ownership for breaking the bylaws and that he had used imperfect language. Kathy Hagy, CA Rep responded to the group message, "*Amen*". No email or text was ever received from Kathy Hagy, CA Rep and not by September 24th.
m. Kathy Hagy, CA Rep continued to claim that at the August WHNC meeting an early election was voted upon stating, "*the very third first thing that we voted on at the beginning of the meeting was to have a September meeting and an early election so I'm really sorry that you forgot what was going on.*"
    i. The meeting was recorded, and the video clearly confirms the neighborhood unanimously voted to hold nominations in October and elections in December.

ii. It has been confirmed by ONS that West Hills neighbors in attendance at the August meeting voted unanimously to hold nominations in October and elections in December.
iii. It has been confirmed by West Hills Neighborhood Council August minutes that the neighborhood unanimously voted to hold nominations in October and elections in December.

2. Supporting Documentation

Documents

A. WHNC Agenda sent by Kathy Hagy, CA to Robert Thompson, Chair on 9/2/2025.

West Hills Neighborhood Council

Meeting Agenda

September, 9th 2025

- **6pm Introduction**
- **6:05 WHNC old business; Catalyst 2.0 Pallet Container Shelter subcommittee, SEPA comments for Maverick Gas Station, Canyon Road review.**
- **6:20 Early Elections / Nominees for WHNC election;**
  Noah Dickens for Chair
  Sue Arneson for Communications Dir
  Annie Walker for Secretary
  Kathy Hagy CA Rep
  Mike Gifford Neighborhood Cleanup
  Paul Bundy Treasurer
- **6:40 CA New Business; October 2025 deadline.**
- **6:50 WHNC New Representatives announcements, support for west hills community members.**
- **7pm City Council Update**
- **7:05 Open Forum**
- **7:30 Meeting Adjourn**

B. The following email was sent to KH on 9/3/25 at 10:30pm followed by a text message to KH requesting responses to the following urgent questions and requesting a response by 5pm on 9/4.

Gmail

Please Respond by 5:00 PM Thursday, 9/4. Elections to take place as scheduled in December
1 message

Robert Thompson <rtcorderomail@gmail.com>
To: Kathy Hagy <[redacted]@yahoo.com>, Kathy Hagy <[redacted]@yahoo.com>, Kathy.hagy[redacted].com
Cc: [redacted]@spokanecity.org, "Ryan, Gabrielle" <[redacted]>, Michael Gifford <[redacted]>, Paul Bundy <[redacted]>, Bryn McNabb <[redacted]>, Joy Peltier[redacted]
<whnc0922[redacted]@gmail.com>

Kathy,

Regarding the meeting that you are calling for next Tuesday, I would like to bring a few things to your attention:

1. In the August meeting, the neighborhood voted unanimously in a recorded session for nominations to take place at the October meeting and for votes to take place in December. In accordance with that vote, elections will
2. The council cannot hand-pick neighbors for council elections. There is a nomination process that is open to WHNC members. This will take place in October.
3. Official meetings cannot be called by a single member of the council. This meeting does not meet the requirements of the bylaws to be called as an official meeting.

Respectfully, I request that you cancel this meeting as planned, as this meeting is incorrectly being labeled as a WHNC meeting.

Additionally, please provide the following:

1. Please acknowledge receipt of this email. I have sent it to the three emails on file.
2. Please respond to how this meeting was communicated to neighbors.
3. What selection process was used to identify individuals listed in the agenda?
4. In your agenda, you mention new business for the Community Assembly. When we spoke last Thursday, I advised that you send this to the executive team via email for an executive vote, and that this did not require a ful
5. Please advise as to your plan for canceling this meeting.

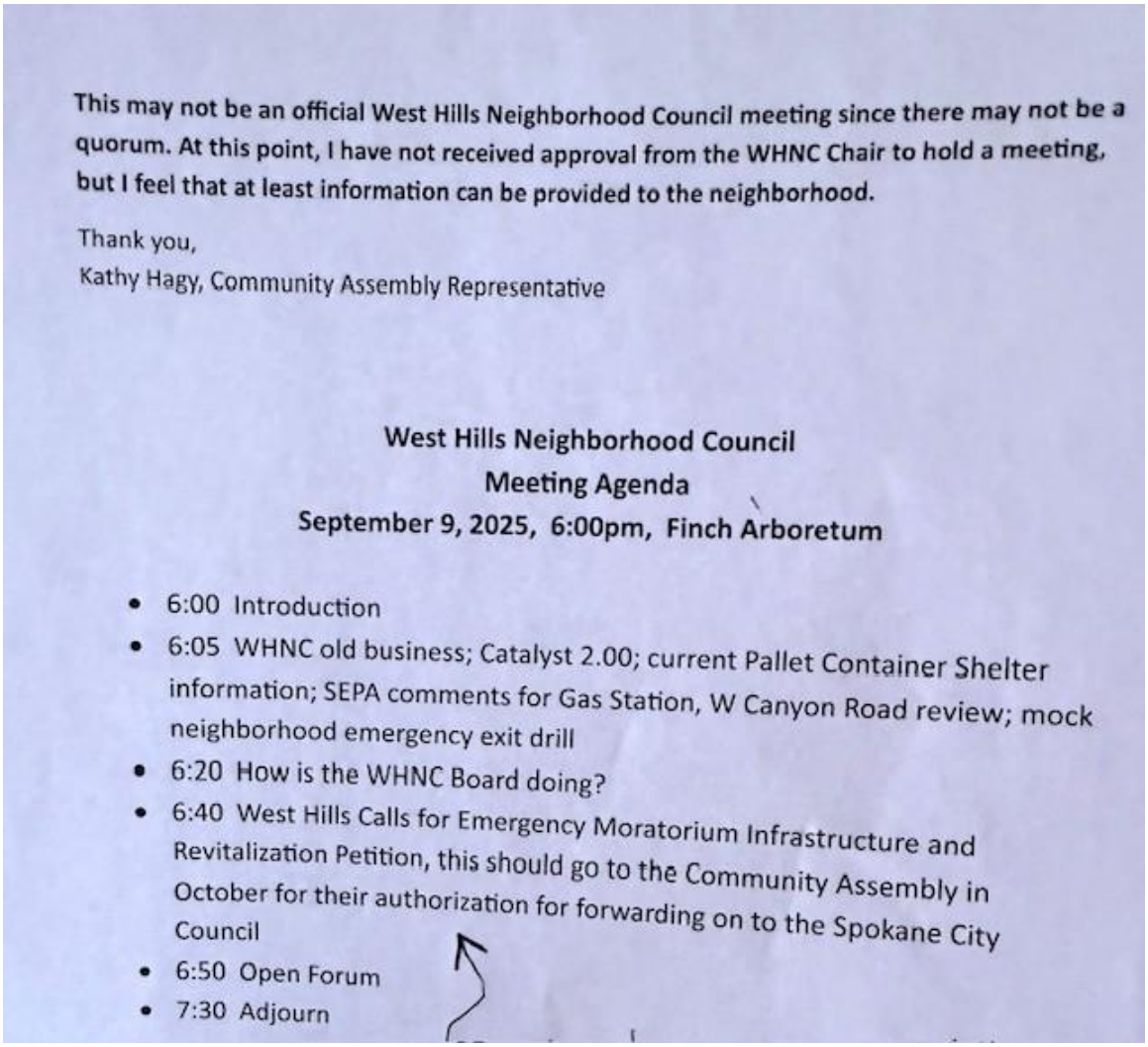
Last Thursday, you mentioned that you would like to collect neighbors to attend city council meetings in a coordinated manner. This also does not require an official meeting, and you are welcome to discuss the strategy of attend meetings at several neighborhood council meetings, including most recently in April, June, and August.

Be advised that this meeting, as you have it scheduled, is not a legitimate WHNC meeting, and the proposed actions are an attempt to usurp the vote of our neighbors and the process outlined in our bylaws.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter,

Robert Thompson
WHNC Chair

C. After communication to KH from WHNC and ONS that their planned meeting would be an unsanctioned WHNC meeting in breach of bylaws and requesting evidence of its immediate cancellation, this new agenda was sent to ONS by KH and later provided to WHNC by ONS.



This may not be an official West Hills Neighborhood Council meeting since there may not be a quorum. At this point, I have not received approval from the WHNC Chair to hold a meeting, but I feel that at least information can be provided to the neighborhood.

Thank you,
Kathy Hagy, Community Assembly Representative

West Hills Neighborhood Council
Meeting Agenda
September 9, 2025, 6:00pm, Finch Arboretum

- 6:00 Introduction
- 6:05 WHNC old business; Catalyst 2.00; current Pallet Container Shelter information; SEPA comments for Gas Station, W Canyon Road review; mock neighborhood emergency exit drill
- 6:20 How is the WHNC Board doing?
- 6:40 West Hills Calls for Emergency Moratorium Infrastructure and Revitalization Petition, this should go to the Community Assembly in October for their authorization for forwarding on to the Spokane City Council
- 6:50 Open Forum
- 7:30 Adjourn

D. KH responded using an email of her sister, Susan Arnesen, and an email alias "Ann Swanson." On the afternoon of 9/4 and before the requested deadline of 5pm. The responses did not provide the following information requested:

a. *Please respond to how this meeting was communicated to neighbors.*
b. *What selection process was used to identify individuals listed in the agenda?*
c. *In your agenda, you mention new business for the Community Assembly. When we spoke last Thursday, I advised that you send this to the executive team via email for an executive vote, and that this did not require a full convening. Please provide a written copy of the proposal.*
d. *Please advise as your plan for cancelling this meeting.*

KH's response stated the meeting was going to go ahead, *"I have called for a WHNC September meeting." "the members could vote on doing an early election"*

KH's response stated another council member had seconded. *"another executive member seconded"* **Every other council member has denied providing a second and three documented votes are needed to hold an official meeting or the meeting to be called by the Chair.**

KH's Email Response:

I have experienced a considerable number of difficulties, stress, and concerns relating to receiving honest answers from the West Hills Neighborhood Council (WHNC) Chair, Robert Thompson, and Vice-Chair, Ryan Oelrich. I've had the same issues with the Communications person, Joy Peltier while seeking answers or assistance. I've discovered that when email notifications are sent to the neighborhood citizens, not all on the email list receive those notifications.

I am not sure the individuals are acting in good faith while serving on the WHNC. It has become more than obvious to me and many others in the West Hills community that the above individuals are and have been conducting private meetings relating to their own personal interests in special interest groups involving land use in West Hills, while withholding information from other WHNC elected members.

In April, the approved WHNC agenda had a slot for Community Development Updates. It did not mention that a presentation was to be made by Catholic Charities (CC) about the Catalyst 2.0 (adding additional places), the apartments at the bottom of the Sunset Hill, or the Salish School and apartments. Since no one had prior notice that CC was even coming to discuss upcoming projects, does that mean that the meeting would qualify as a meeting with the neighborhood? In the past, this neighborhood has not had a cordial relationship with CC, and I don't think much has changed.

I have learned that a City of Spokane required meeting with WHNC, relating to the siting of a homeless shelter involving Zeke Smith from Waters Meet Foundation, had previously met with WHNC Leadership. When I asked Robert about this, there was no answer.

In the past, I've asked Joy for assistance and help in posting on the WHNC page to provide information regarding the Comprehensive Plan and the Growth Management Act and was told that I needed "special permission" and she would talk with Robert, only for me to be ignored.

I have witnessed a number of occasions where others including myself are being told "this needs executive vote" but only when those individuals do not wish to give answers in good faith, which leads me to wonder…

Another executive council member and myself have been left out of due process and executive voting relating to: meeting agendas, guest speakers, SEPA comments, approval of meeting notes, and most recently the selection of applicants for a subcommittee to procure an "official comment for WHNC in relation to proposed land use and/or developments in West Hills". (I've learned that one individual selected for that committee has not attended a WHNC meeting for over 3 years, yet still receives emails and was confirmed for a subcommittee without notifying all executive council members for review. This is while many others who have currently been attending meetings did not receive the same notification.)

I have called for a WHNC September meeting. Another executive member of the council seconded having the September meeting. This meeting relates to a CA deadline for submitting a proposed Resolution involving the Comprehensive Plan; what is happening with the micro-shelters; as well as, our current petition for a Moratorium in West Hills due to the closure of the West Canyon Drive, weight limits, and lane closures on a failing bridge (Sunset Highway Bridge). Both of these roads are critical evacuation routes in the event of a wildfire or other natural disaster.

I drafted an agenda and booked a meeting space. The agenda was sent to Robert on Thursday, 8/28/2025. I have been told that "you will be answered soon" and "we need to have an executive vote to add this meeting" but have received no further response.

Also included in the agenda, is to see how the West Hills Neighborhood feels about how the WHNC elected executives are doing. If they vote that they are not happy with the current Board, the members could vote on doing early elections – several people have shown an interest in filling those positions. Robert, Ryan, and Joy have all indicated that they would not be running again. Ryan, in fact, publicly announced that he would resign at any time due to conflicts and members concerns of his actions.

Over the last 18 months, I have witnessed failed leadership. I have seen manipulation of meeting agendas and falsifying or withholding information pertaining to meeting notes of land use and developments. Personal interests seem to take priority over the West Hills Neighborhood needs. They are supposed to provide factual information and be the voice of the neighborhood. WHNC at this point is not professional or productive.

Kathy Hagy

Community Assembly Representative

West Hills Neighborhood Council

E. WHNC Exec members provided the following responses to KH's email including confirmations from Spokane's Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) (highlighted):

I have experienced a considerable number of difficulties, stress, and concerns relating to receiving honest answers from the West Hills Neighborhood Council (WHNC) Chair, Robert Thompson, and Vice-Chair, Ryan Oelrich. I've had the same issues with the Communications person, Joy Peltier while seeking answers or assistance. I've discovered that when email notifications are sent to the neighborhood citizens, not all on the email list receive those notifications.

I am not sure the individuals are acting in good faith while serving on the WHNC. It has become more than obvious to me and many others in the West Hills community that the above individuals are and have been conducting private meetings relating to their own personal interests in special interest groups involving land use in West Hills, while withholding information from other WHNC elected members.

***Robert Thompson, Chair Reply:** This is too vague to meaningfully respond to. To the best of my knowledge, no member of WHNC is holding any private meetings for their own gain. There have been meetings that have taken place without the full council, which is an acceptable requirement of the role. These meetings then get reported to council as is outlined in the bylaws.*

***Ryan Oelrich, Vice Chair reply:** I have not conducted any "private meetings". I provided a copy of all my meetings for West Hills for the last few months which were included in the August minutes. I have withheld no information. In fact, on multiple occasions when I've reached out to KH by phone or email, I've received no response.*

***Joy Peltier, Communications Reply:** Kathy has attended all WHNC Executive Committee meetings that I have attended. I am not aware of any WHNC meetings that have taken place without Kathy. WHNC emails are sent to all members of the WHNC email list. Kathy has never asked me to check my email list for the people she states are not receiving emails.*

In April, the approved WHNC agenda had a slot for Community Development Updates. It did not mention that a presentation was to be made by Catholic Charities (CC) about the Catalyst 2.0 (adding additional places), the apartments at the bottom of the Sunset Hill, or the Salish School and apartments. Since no one had prior notice

that CC was even coming to discuss upcoming projects, does that mean that the meeting would qualify as a meeting with the neighborhood? In the past, this neighborhood has not had a cordial relationship with CC, and I don't think much has changed.

Robert Thompson, Chair Reply: *This agenda item covered multiple projects, including those not presented by Catholic Charities, this is a learning experience. The information shared by Catholic Charities was not new and was the same information shared at their public open house, which was shared with neighbors previously.*

ONS Reply in email dated Sept 4:

- ***"In April, the approved WHNC agenda had a slot for Community Development Updates. It did not mention that a presentation was to be made by Catholic Charities (CC) about the Catalyst 2.0 (adding additional places), the apartments at the bottom of the Sunset Hill, or the Salish School and apartments. Since no one had prior notice that CC was even coming to discuss upcoming projects, does that mean that the meeting would qualify as a meeting with the neighborhood? In the past, this neighborhood has not had a cordial relationship with CC, and I don't think much has changed."***

  ONS continued: *I have gone back to look at previous meeting agendas to see how presentations are listed and have noticed that every month the agendas seem to be brief in their descriptions of presentations. If you feel that the neighborhood would benefit from a different style of agendas, that would be something to bring up at the meetings at which the agendas are being set. Regarding if the informational presentation that Catholic Charities provided about various projects would count as a community meeting, the answer is no. I received this from DSC: "If their project requires a special permit, the impromptu meeting with the Neighborhood Council would NOT qualify as the required community meeting. Those are required to be noticed with a mailed letter and a sign posted on-site. That letter is prepared by our office and mailed by the applicant."*

I have learned that a City of Spokane required meeting with WHNC, relating to the siting of a homeless shelter involving Zeke Smith from Waters Meet Foundation, had previously met with WHNC Leadership. When I asked Robert about this, there was no answer.

Robert Thompson, Chair Reply: *I have not had any private meeting with Waters Meet on behalf of WHNC. I received one phone call ahead of the press release,*

during which I was provided with limited and unclear information. I began reaching out to Spokane Building and planning immediately to learn more, and WM made their release in the interim.

ONS Reply in email dated Sept 4:

- ***"I have learned that a City of Spokane required meeting with WHNC, relating to the siting of a homeless shelter involving Zeke Smith from Waters Meet Foundation, had previously met with WHNC Leadership."***

I received this from DSC: "The Tiny Home project is proposed at the corner of 7th and Audubon and is being led by Water Meet, previously called Empire Health Foundation. The DSC has stated that at this time, there are no permit applications for the proposed construction of the tiny homes, but they are in discussion with the applicant about the required development standards. The proposed use is classified as Community Service, per the definition inf 17C.190.420, which is allowable in this zone (Residential Multi-Family) and is therefore not subject to community meeting requirements per SMC 17G.061.110. As the zone allows this use, no additional land use applications would be required, which would be the trigger for a formal Community Meeting, as described by the Municipal Code in 17G.061.110.B."

ONS continued: *Since they are not required to have a formal community meeting by the City, for reason mentioned above, it would seem that Waters Meet's willingness to meet with neighborhood council leadership, respond to questions and inquiries from concerned residents, and to be available for tours/questions is one of a willingness to build a relationship with the West Hills neighborhood and to understand the residents in the area. In the August meeting, I recall the WHNC leadership proposing the creation of a committee to take lead on West Hills development/land use, which I believe has had two meetings now. If residents are concerned about Waters Meet and the proposed tiny homes, the residents should reach out to those community members appointed to the committee so that their concerns can be addressed through processes/procedures set by that WHNC committee.*

Ryan Oelrich, Vice Chair Reply: *Yes, our chair asked that I reach out to Zeke Smith on behalf of the West Hills Neighborhood Council in advance of their planned information meeting. I wanted information on the meeting format which I communicated to neighbors and to advocate for an additional meeting time so more neighbors could attend. I also asked for more information about the planned pallet village. This was all documented and reported.*

In the past, I've asked Joy for assistance and help in posting on the WHNC page to provide information regarding the Comprehensive Plan and the Growth Management Act and was told that I needed "special permission" and she would talk with Robert, only for me to be ignored.

Joy Peltier, Communications Reply: *When neighbors ask me to send emails out to the WHNC email list my response is always that the chair decides what is emailed out, so I encourage you to talk with the Chair about your request. If the Chair asks me to send out an email, I will do so. I do not decide what is emailed to WHNC. Additionally, I do not remember Kathy asking me to post something to the WHNC page. I do not have access to the West Hill webpage, so I would have asked her to contact the Chair.*

I have witnessed a number of occasions where others including myself are being told "this needs executive vote" but only when those individuals do not wish to give answers in good faith, which leads me to wonder…

Robert Thompson, Chair Reply: *I am unsure to what item she is referring. If Kathy has asked me to share something, I have asked her to draft it so that we can review and share it out. This is not an action she has chosen to take. On the most recent communication, where she called me and asked to create a new meeting to share something that she wants to send to CA, I told her that this does not require a full meeting and that she can send a draft for an executive vote. She did not send that email, she has not provided copies of the information referenced, and she has not made a motion at council for any votes to be taken.*

Joy Peltier, Communications Reply: *Kathy is assuming she knows the intentions of the people she is accusing here. Kathy never shared her concerns with me in the nearly 2 years we have been serving on the executive team together. I only learned about her concerns through this letter she sent to the executive team in September of 2025.*

Another executive council member and myself have been left out of due process and executive voting relating to: meeting agendas, guest speakers, SEPA comments, approval of meeting notes, and most recently the selection of applicants for a subcommittee to procure an "official comment for WHNC in relation to proposed land use and/or developments in West Hills". (I've learned that one individual selected for that committee has not attended a WHNC meeting for over 3 years, yet still receives emails and was confirmed for a subcommittee without notifying all executive council members for review. This is while many others who have currently been attending meetings did not receive the same notification.)

Robert Thompson, Chair Reply:

- *I am unsure which executive member she is referring to. When we have received requests for guest speakers, we have added them to the agenda. When we have had a SEPA comment period, we have added it to the agenda, there is possibly an additional step that can be taken in approving minutes, but this has not been brought to my attention.*
- *Regarding the subcommittee – an email was sent for all interested parties to send a new email and provide information about themselves. Kathy did not send the requested information. Of the people who responded to that prompt, all have been given the opportunity to participate and no person has been left out.*
    - *I am not sure to whom she is referring regarding not coming to a meeting in over 3 years.*
    - *We have repeatedly asked neighbors to send an email to WHNC if they have not received emails to ensure they are on the email list. One neighbor, SN– had an email address in the email list that is not his current one – this was corrected, and we even extended the deadline to respond for the committee so that he has time to respond. We did not receive a response from him. Kathy has three email addresses listed. It is impossible for us to know who is not receiving emails if they do not engage and let us know.*

Ryan Oelrich, Vice Chair Response: *Bylaws state that any individual over 16 who lives, works, or owns property in West Hills can be a member. Subcommittee membership isn't specifically addressed by our bylaws except to say that they can be created by vote or by the Chair. All those who returned the requested information via email were invited to join the subcommittee, so no review process was needed.*

I have called for a WHNC September meeting. Another executive member of the council seconded having the September meeting. This meeting relates to a CA deadline for submitting a proposed Resolution involving the Comprehensive Plan; what is happening with the micro-shelters; as well as, our current petition for a Moratorium in West Hills due to the closure of the West Canyon Drive, weight limits, and lane closures on a failing bridge (Sunset Highway Bridge). Both of these roads are critical evacuation routes in the event of a wildfire or other natural disaster.

Robert Thompson, Chair Reply*:*

- *I have reached out to all executive team members – no one has stated that they seconded that September meeting. Regardless, our bylaws require 3 council members to call a meeting.*

- *When I spoke with Kathy on Thursday Aug 28, I told her that the CA Resolution could be emailed to the executive team for us to approve and did not require a full meeting. Kathy did not send a follow-up email or any document regarding that resolution.*
- *Kathy also stated that the agenda would include planning for how neighbors would attend the City Council meetings in a coordinated fashion. I advised that this also did not require an official meeting and that if Kathy wanted to hold an unofficial strategy meeting that I would be happy to circulate the information. Kathy did not send a follow up.*
- *Canyon drive, the Sunset bridge, and fire evacuation have been discussed at length in multiple forums.*
- *In a call with Kathy on Friday August 15th, I discussed the wildfire evacuation drill planning that Sarah Nuss presented at the August WHNC meeting. Kathy stated that she did not see the point in a fire drill, because people could not get out. I explained that a fire drill is exactly how we obtain data to support that position. Kathy expressed that she does not believe that gathering data or tracking research is useful and that she does her research "in the streets." I mention this because I believe it speaks to a fundamental and ongoing concern with Kathy not being able to provide data, documentation, or communication as requested in multiple forums, multiple times.*

Ryan Oelrich, Vice Chair Response: *This is potentially harmful information as West Hills Neighborhood has repeatedly been informed that West Canyon Drive is NOT an evacuation route let alone a critical one by both the City and the County and should NOT be used as such. While Sunset Bridge is in disrepair and has proven problems, we've been repeatedly informed and shown a recent structural survey that demonstrates the Sunset Bridge is not "failing".*

I drafted an agenda and booked a meeting space. The agenda was sent to Robert on Thursday, 8/28/2025. I have been told that "you will be answered soon" and "we need to have an executive vote to add this meeting" but have received no further response.

Robert Thompson, Chair Reply:

- *The agenda was sent to me on 3:27 on* ***Tuesday the September 2nd*** *after the meeting space was apparently already reserved. I did not say that an executive vote was required, nor did I say she would receive any answer. I did reach out to the rest of the council and determined that the meeting did not meet the requirements to call an official meeting.*

- *I had previously spoken with Kathy Hagy on the phone on Wednesday, August 27th. Kathy stated that she wanted to hold a meeting in September to address a plan that she needed to bring to CA in October, and to discuss a strategy for sending neighbors to city council open forum meetings. I let Kathy know that the strategy for the open forum did not rise to the level of needing a formal meeting, and that I would be happy to send notice of an informal meeting. Regarding the CA work, I asked Kathy to share in writing what she hoped to approve, under the impression that this was something that was already drafted and just needed an executive vote. Kathy said she would bring a draft at Ascenda that evening. I did not see her while I was at Ascenda, and she has never provided a written copy in any form since*

Also included in the agenda, is to see how the West Hills Neighborhood feels about how the WHNC elected executives are doing. If they vote that they are not happy with the current Board, the members could vote on doing early elections – several people have shown an interest in filling those positions. Robert, Ryan, and Joy have all indicated that they would not be running again. Ryan, in fact, publicly announced that he would resign at any time due to conflicts and members concerns of his actions.

Robert Thompson, Chair Reply:

- *This is not reflected as such in the agenda that was sent. The agenda presents this as an early vote for elected officials, lists who those officials would be, and makes time to congratulate the new officers. It is not represented as a vote to see how neighbors feel. Additionally, Neighbors voted on a process for the election in August. The agenda as written for the September meeting, directly circumvents that vote with no due process.*

Ryan Oelrich, Vice Chair Response: *No, the members could not vote on "doing an early election" at this unsanctioned meeting as it violates multiple bylaws. I did not state I would resign due to "conflicts". If members have concerns, our bylaws provide a course of action for council leadership removal. I serve at the discretion of the neighborhood.*

Over the last 18 months, I have witnessed failed leadership. I have seen manipulation of meeting agendas and falsifying or withholding information pertaining to meeting notes of land use and developments. Personal interests seem to take priority over the West Hills Neighborhood needs. They are supposed to provide factual information and be the voice of the neighborhood. WHNC at this point is not professional or productive.

Robert Thompson, Chair Reply:

- *I am inclined to agree with that last line. I will not deny that many of us are doing this for the first time and there are always opportunities for improvement. I will say, however, that these opportunities for improvement have not been shared in a productive manner. I have repeatedly asked Kathy for follow-up via email and not received it. These concerns about leadership have not been brought to our attention until very recently. We have taken opportunities to respond and show accountability, and have even thanked neighbors publicly for this accountability. We have offered grace to Kathy repeatedly and asked for her to step into her leadership multiple times. Kathy has not chosen to take the opportunities presented, to coordinate via email, and to provide clear input regarding her needs.*
- *In multiple conversations, I have reiterated the same points regarding providing specific, clear communication. This letter itself is riddled with vaguery that makes several points difficult to respond to. Kathy and a close family member of hers have taken to weaponizing neighborhood council communications, have tried to circumvent the processes of this council, and continue to sow dissent and confusion.*

Ryan Oelrich, Vice Chair Response: *I have never falsified or withheld information nor have I seen any of my fellow council members do so with one exception- Kathy. I've watched Kathy spread false information about Sunset Bridge, West Canyon Drive, a building moratorium, and our neighborhood elections. I don't believe it has always been intentional, but, regardless, it still has done harm and caused confusion and extra work. In the months of July and August, I volunteered over 40 hours for the West Hills Neighborhood. I have not used this role to advance any "personal interests." We're all volunteers donating our time for our neighborhood, so I've tried to extend a lot of grace. However, our neighborhood faces significant challenges ahead- a lack of infrastructure, increasing fire threats, the potential concentration of homeless service providers on one corner, etc. The role of the Neighborhood Council is a part of the solution and needs capable individuals who can communicate clearly, accurately, and professionally (and via email).*

Joy Peltier, Communications Reply: *Kathy has provided no evidence to support her claims, and in the past 18 months she did not come to talk with any of the executive team members to express her concerns. If she was unhappy with the leadership of the executive team, she could have come to us directly to express her concerns, and we could have had a chance to address it together. Instead, she misled ONS and stated she was holding an official WHNC meeting, she misled neighbors by telling them she had the authority to hold early elections, and she broke the trust she had with the WHNC executive team by organizing an unsanctioned WHNC meeting to replace the WHNC executive team members she is accusing in this letter.*

Kathy Hagy

Community Assembly Representative

West Hills Neighborhood Council

F. Here are the WHNC Bylaws which have been breached: 4E, 6C, 6E, 7A, 9C, 9D, and 9E

a. 4E No member shall purport to represent the WHNC unless authorized to do so by WHNC. *(Breach: without a vote or approval of the council, KH represented themselves as having the full support of WHNC to reserve a room through ONS for an unsanctioned WHNC meeting)*

b. 6C Ad hoc meetings of WHNC may be called by the Chair or any other three members of the Executive Committee. *(Breach: No second was received, no third was received, the Chair did not call a meeting)*

c. 6E The minimum number of voting members necessary to establish a quorum at any regular or ad hoc meeting includes at least two members of the Executive Committee and a total of five members. *(Breach: The minimum number of voting members would not have been achieved)*

d. 7A All WHNC meetings will be publicized to WHNC members and associate members at least seven days prior to the meeting date using email or another reasonable method. *(Breach: No 7 day notification plan was provided and in fact neighborhood residents unanimously voted to hold nominations in October and elections in December at the August WHNC meeting as video recorded, documented by minutes, and as witnessed by ONS)*

e. 9C In odd years, at the fourth regularly scheduled WHNC meeting of the calendar year, nominations shall be accepted for officers for the following calendar year. Candidates must be qualified WHNC members and must be willing to accept the nomination. *(Breach: In August 2025, WHNC residents and officers unanimously voted to hold nominations in October and elections in December 2025 after consulting with ONS)*

f. 9D Officers shall be elected by qualified voting members attending the fourth regularly scheduled WHNC meeting of the calendar year. A majority vote is required if there are two candidates; a plurality vote is required if there are three or more candidates. *(Breach: In August 2025,*

WHNC residents and officers unanimously voted to hold nominations in October and elections in December 2025 after consulting with ONS)

g. 9E Voting shall be by secret ballot if there are two or more candidates for an office. The ballots shall be maintained for 60 days by the Secretary and then shall be destroyed. *(Breach: No communication with WHNC Secretary was had or voting plan discussed with other WHNC members)*

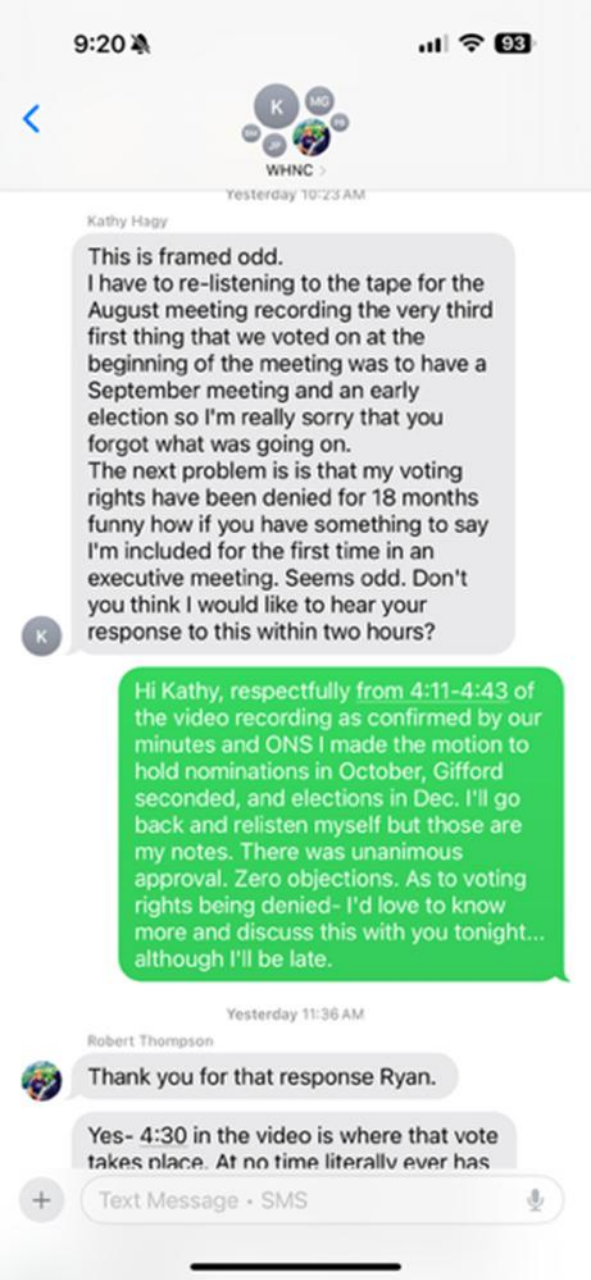
G. Moderated meeting between Kathy Hagy, CA Rep & Robert Thompson, Chair on 9/8/2025, 4:30-7:30pm (3 hours).

H. **Meeting of Executive Team to Resolve Conflict:** West Hills Neighborhood Council held an unofficial meeting as an executive team to discuss the issues at hand on 9/10/2025 from 4:30-6pm. All council members were present: Robert Thompson, Chair; Ryan Oelrich, Vice Chair; Joy Peltier, Communications; Brynn McNabb, Secretary; Paul Bundy, Treasurer; Mike Gifford, CA Alternate; Kathy Hagy, CA Rep. All members provided written consent for group messages to be saved and shared to the WHNC email as a record.

Prior to the meeting at 10:23am on 9/10/25, KH sent the following message to the WHNC group of council members stating,

"I have re-listening to the tape for the August meeting recording the very third first thing that we voted on at the beginning was to have a September meeting and an early election so I'm really sorry that you forgot what was going on."

Oelrich, Vice Chair responded providing the time frame on the recorded video, referencing the meeting minutes, and referencing ONS's email all confirming elections were unanimously voted to be held in December with nominations in October.



I. **Meeting of Executive Team to Resolve Conflict:** After extensive discussion, KH was asked to resign by Vice Chair, Ryan Oelrich. She declined. After further discussion it was agreed by all present including KH, that KH would draft an apology statement for breaking bylaws and attempting to hold an unsanctioned meeting along with an unsanctioned election. Robert, Chair, in turn agreed to draft a statement acknowledging his phrase *"potentially stealing your opportunity to vote"* was overly harsh. Mike Gifford volunteered to support KH in drafting the statement. It was agreed KH would provide the statement by September 24th.

RESULT: No statement was received from Kathy Hagy (KH) on or before September 24th.

The following messages were exchanged by all executive members, having provided written permission to save the conversation to the record, from Robert Thompson, Chair & KH, CA Rep to the WHNC chat:

Wednesday, Sept 10th
Robert, Chair: *"Hey team,*

I would like to request that we keep the specifics of tonight's meeting in the family so we can keep from adding to the rumor mill.

Course of action: Kathy to write a communication taking responsibility for broken bylaws and the confusion sewn regarding the calling of the meeting and agenda.

Rob to write a communication taking responsibility for the fact the email was an imperfect reaction to the information we had, and specifically the heightened language.

Follow up by Friday with confirmed timeline. Preferred timeline by next week with a hard deadline two weeks from now on the 24th.

If these communications cannot be brought together in that time, we decide next steps."

*"To be clear. When I say, 'in the family' I don't mean tell your family members *laughing emoji* I mean, let's keep our conversation between the executive committee only so that we can maintain a united front."*

KH, CA Rep: *"Amen."*

MONDAY, SEPT 15
Robert, Chair: *"Hey Kathy, do we have an updated timeline? I also haven't seen anything regarding what you need for community assembly. Please advise"*

WEDNESDAY, SEPT 17

KH, CA Rep: *"Good afternoon some things expired and I don't foresee, I need any more than 10 or 15 minutes for CA.info*
Robert, Chair: *"Can you share more about what the report out will be and context on what you will need"*
"Specifically- can you tell me what you need to address and what outcomes you need."
KH, CA Rep: *Specifically, I'm just giving the information I get from the CA I don't have any help come thanks"*
Robert, Chair: *"Ok great- just the report out. Are we still on track regarding swing out a public statement?"*
*"*sending*"*
KH: *"Regarding what in the public statement?"*
Robert: *"Getting it completed like we discussed last week so we can send one out"*
KH: *"Would you please spell that out specifically?"*
Robert: *"We already did at length *face palm emoji*"*
Robert: *"It's earlier in the text messages"*
KH: *"I'm busy right now and I don't have time to go back through all that so could you just fill it out clearly thank you"*
Robert: *"I'm busy right now and don't have time to retype what was already said. You can scroll back to September tenth and answer when you have more time. If you don't want to do it anymore, just say so and we can choose a different course of action as a board."*
"Thanks for the clarity on the CA."
KH: *"Oh, are you talking about the part where Ryan was threatening me?"*
Robert: *"*sigh* No one threatened you. Asking you to do something is not a threat. What I'm talking about is the solution you agreed to. If you feel like it's no longer necessary, just say so. We can meet again next week as a committee and choose a different course of action."*
KH: *"I felt threatened singled out, called out because I wanted to have a meeting and get some CA stuff out now it's too late. It's OK. It's no problem. You guys do whatever you want to do. I'm just sad."*
Robert: *"I'm sorry you felt that way- I'm sure you can understand why other people who you tried to replace might have also felt singled out.*
Also, I still haven't been able to get you to provide a clear reconciliation of what you actually needed for CA. Read the CA description, it's a very involved position. I fear that a lot has been missed due to that lack of clarity and communication, which is a shame.

I don't want to waste my time by following up on something that's not going to happen. I also don't want to keep making you sad by bringing it up- so if you've decided you don't want to do it anymore, please let me know."

THURSDAY, Sept 18
KH: *"Do what please be specific?"*
Robert: *"It's in the sept 10 text message. Please feel free to read that and then let me know if you have a clarifying question."*
KH: *"Oh on the reservation for a meeting that never happened oh yeah"*
Robert: *"On the 6 bylaws you broke in making that reservation, but yeah*
*Those are also all listed out in two emails you've received- one from ONS and one from me. You'll find them in your inbox *smily face emoji* glad we're on the same page.*
Again- if you don't think it's necessary- just say so. At our big ages, we don't need to keep dancing around it."
No further response from KH was received.

SUMMARY: The results of the September 10th meeting were agreed to by Kathy Hagy, CA Rep both verbally and confirmed in writing, "*Amen*". However, the agreed upon statement was not received by the 24th.

J. **Failure to properly update West Hills Neighborhood**. Kathy stated on Facebook on September 23rd in response to a post updating the neighborhood on Spokane Transportation Commission plans:
KH's comment*: "This information was given out and July and I was going to discuss it in the September meeting that I was told I couldn't have so I guess we're just stuck with what we got."*

West Hills had its regularly scheduled August 12th meeting where this information could have been shared and it was not.

Spokane West Hills Neighborhood
Ryan Oelrich · 4h ·

Please consider advocating for the prioritization of street and other transportation improvements in this identified section of West Hills Neighborhood by sending written comments to: Director Jon Snyder at jsnyder@spokanecity.org and copy staff member amccall@spokanecity.org

Thank you!

my.spokanecity.org
Transportation Commission

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Most relevant

Kathy Hope · 34m
This information was given out and July and I was going to discuss it in the September meeting that I was told I couldn't have so I guess we're just stuck with what we got

Reply Message