

Agenda (West Hills Neighborhood Council Meeting)

Date: April 14, 2026

Time: 6:00pm-7:30pm

Location:	Finch Arboretum Woodland Center 3404 W. Woodland Blvd Spokane, WA 99224
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1.	Call To Order/Officer Roll Call/Establish A Quorum. Motion and vote for the meeting to be recorded for minute taking purposes	6:00	3min
2.	Police Officer Presentation	6:03	10min
3.	City Council Person(s) Presentation – Ginny Ramos (Paul Dillon’s Assistant)	6:13	5min
4.	ONS (Office of Neighborhood Services): Heather Hamlin	6:18	8min
5.	Secretary’s Report (accept/amend minutes) February 10, 2026 March 10, 2026	6:26	2min
6.	Officer’s Reports		
	• CA	6:28	5min
	• New Secretary Election	6:33	2min
7.	Agenda Items		
	• Presentation from District Court Judge Andrew Biviano looking to increase community dialogue and engagement around criminal justice reform	6:35	10min
	• Present the results of the street art survey.	6:45	5min
	• CE Committee report and vote	6:50	15min
	• Tiny homes update	7:05	10min
	• Resolution Discussion and vote	7:15	10min
	• Revitalization Committee update	7:25	5min
8.	Adjourn Meeting	7:30	

West Hills Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes

Date: February 10, 2026

Time: 6:00-7:30pm

Location: Finch Arboretum Woodland Center
3404 W. Woodland Blvd
Spokane, WA 99224

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chair Noah Dickens

Attendance

- **Executive Committee:**
Noah Dickens, Chair; Stephen Cummins, Vice-Chair; Annie Walker, Secretary; Paul Bundy, Treasurer; Sue Arnesen, Communications; Maggie Thornton, CA Rep
- **Guest Presenters:**
 - Pollyanne Birge, ONS
 - Micah Prim, Spokane Police Neighborhood Resource Officer
 - Kate Telis, City Councilmember, District 2
 - Heather Smith, City of Spokane, Parks Department
- **Public Attendees:** 15 (see attendees at the end)

A quorum was established

Officer Introductions

The new Executive Committee introduced themselves and shared their history with the neighborhood, reasons for involvement, and personal goals.

Secretary's Report

December 9th, 2025 minutes approved without corrections.

Community Assembly (CA) Report – Maggie

1. It was announced that all CA reps from all Spokane neighborhoods meet monthly, facilitating communication between neighborhoods and the city.
2. Subcommittees (e.g., safety, land use) are open for all residents to join.
3. Information about the Bark Beetle invading our trees was sent out to the neighborhood.

4. Announced the SpoCanopy program, offering free trees for residents to improve canopy coverage in neighborhoods (care responsibilities emphasized). Details on the types or limits of trees are still to be clarified.

Neighborhood Resource Officer (NRO) Update – Micah Prim

1. Officer Prim discussed Spokane has 4 NROs (previously 9) :
 - Officer Dylan Pavlischak just joined the NRO team and covers downtown
 - Officer Micah Prim covers the rest including West Hills.
2. Main Issues identified: traffic, drug activity, and homelessness.
3. Outlined process for reporting and responding to homeless camps (call 311 for public property, immediate action for private property with owner authorization).
4. Described enforcement practices, collaboration with social outreach and legal processes, including community court.
5. Discussion about property signage (No Trespassing) and proactive communication with property owners.
6. Reported that the Chief of Police gave a presentation to the City Council and noted improvements since the revised HOME Ordinance change on October 27th.
7. Encouraged neighbors to report issues, shared experiences in engagement, and discussed improvement in services.
8. Provided a traffic unit hotline for reporting speeding or reckless driving
 - **Hotline Contact: (509) 625-4150**

City Council / Local Updates-Kate Telis

1. Councilmember Kate Telis highlighted Maggie's contributions to strengthening the Good Neighborhood Agreement, now passed February 10, 2026. The agreement was described as including stronger enforcement and accountability measures for involved parties.
2. Announced the leasing of a portion of Highbridge Park to the American Indian Community Center, listing planned upgrades (e.g., gardens, arts, daycare, sweat lodge, expanded food bank, etc.), with financial support earmarked for \$2 million.
3. Councilmember Telis encouraged increased community participation in the Monday night City Council open forum. A survey is being developed to improve participation and potential website updates are being considered to expand remote access.
4. A neighbor comment noted that while testimony from West Hills is active, two-way dialogue is important for addressing concerns and improve continued participation.
5. In response to a question from a neighborhood resident regarding her position on House Bill 2049, addressing regional responsibility for homelessness, Councilmember Kate Telis explained that the bill is intended to require broader regional participation in providing shelter and would limit criminalization of public camping unless adequate shelter space is available. She stated that philosophically the concept makes sense but that she is currently not taking a formal position of the bill as it is still being formulated.

6. Concentration of social services (e.g., transitional homeless shelters) and equitable distribution was discussed. Continued communication and engagement were discussed to address concerns.

Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) – Pollyanne Birch

1. President’s Day updates (council meeting canceled, city hall open, parking/free, libraries closed).
2. Emphasized using 311 for reporting and suggested uploading photos online.
3. PlanSpokane 2046 Environmental Impact Statement – comments due Feb 18; meetings announced for public input.
4. Building Stronger Neighborhoods: Spring series and other upcoming trainings and resources provided.
5. Community Engagement Grant details announced (funding for neighborhood events, signs, food – training required).
6. New “speedy neighbor” signs made available at the WHNC meeting.

Whittier Park Improvements – Heather Smith, City Parks Dept.

1. Update on sport court redesign: removing old tennis court, replacing with new courts based on survey (option with two pickleball courts and one tennis court chosen by 88%).
2. ADA improvements planned.
3. Construction scheduled for summer/fall 2026, pending bidding and funding.
4. Playground upgrades funded via \$30,000 CDBG grant: options for new structures aimed at ages 2–5; survey to gather resident preferences will be distributed.
5. Engineered wood fiber to be added to play surfaces.
6. Future plans for baseball field improvements and restroom maintenance/repairs were discussed – no major restroom renovation funding this year and no grounds work is budgeted for this year, but repairs and maintenance will be discussed in the future.

Meeting Schedule & Ad Hoc Meetings

1. Noah Dickens announced regular meetings will continue every other month; ad hoc meetings may be added between regular scheduled meetings to discuss topics requiring more time and attention with added emphasis to allow the neighborhood to express ideas and concerns.

Speed Trailer Placement Discussion

1. Survey results reviewed for possible locations for speed feedback trailers (F Street at Whittier Park, School bus sites, segments along Government Way, Rosamond, A Street, Sunset Boulevard noted).
2. Emphasis placed on school bus sites and high-traffic/dangerous areas.

3. Maggie added speed trailers intended as psychological deterrents; data collection may be limited.
4. WHNC members voted to prioritize locations, with top votes that include:
 - (2) South Government Way locations (north and south bound)
 - “F” Street adjacent to Whittier Park between Hartson and 7th
 - NOTE: other locations presented will be submitted for consideration if the application allows, which includes:
 - South Government Way near the cemetery and Life Center Church
 - Rosamond Ave between F and D street
 - “A” street from Riverside to Hartson-Southbound
 - West Sunset Blvd-Eastbound
 - Sunset Blvd-East of Government Way-Eastbound

Community Engagement Grant Subcommittee-Annie Walker, Secretary

1. Call for volunteers to participate in a planned subcommittee to develop ideas of ways to utilize the community engagement grant (examples: signs, events, flyers, etc.).
2. Announced if interested in becoming a part of this subcommittee, please send an email to WHNC99224@gmail.com

Revitalization Committee Formation-Noah Dickens, Chair

1. Proposal was presented to create a standing Revitalization Committee focused on long-term vision and neighborhood protection—includes addressing the pursuit of a sub-area plan, learning about current land uses in the neighborhood, investigating possible grants to fund a sub-area plan, community advocacy, and historical preservation.
 - Motion by Nolan to create a standing Revitalization Committee
 - Second by Maggie
 - Motion passed
2. Announced if interested in becoming a part of the Revitalization Committee, please send an email to WHNC99224@gmail.com

Pallet Shelter/St Agnes Update

1. A summary was provided of prior WHNC and private neighbor correspondence to City officials regarding concerns about cumulative siting of supportive and transitional housing in West Hills. It was noted that no formal response has yet been received.
2. An update was provided regarding the New Roots SEPA MDNS determination and subsequent appeal.
3. An upcoming meeting with Catholic Charities and Frontier Behavioral Health was announced to discuss the St Agnes project.
4. Waters Meet Foundation New Roots updates were shared

5. Questions raised about supervision, drug testing, and fencing for New Roots and St Agnes
6. Pallet Shelter Subcommittee has completed their findings; the WHNC will continue to monitor and engage with the City.

General Announcements & Next Steps

1. Ad hoc meeting planned to focus on next steps regarding pallet shelters and revitalization plan, update on time and location will be announced as time allows.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM.

List of Public Attendees:

April Box
George Bressler
Sherry Bressler
Karen Carlberg
JB Freeman
Darlene Gaffney
Kathy Hagy
Karen Jurasin
Tim Lynch
Sandy Nichols
Shayla Scott
Nolan Steiner
Tana Tenold
Sandy Wicht
Barbara Wos-Elledgen

West Hills Neighborhood Council (WHNC) – Ad Hoc Neighborhood Advocacy Meeting

Minutes

Date: March 10, 2026

Location: West Hills Neighborhood

Purpose: Discussion of revitalization committee formation and housing project updates and next steps.

Attendance:

Executive Committee: Noah Dickens, Chair; Stephen Cummins, Vice-Chair; Paul Bundy, Treasurer; Sue Arnesen, Communications; Maggie Thornton, CA Rep

Public Attendees: 12 (see attendees at the end)

1. Meeting Overview

- The group discussed the formation of the new **Revitalization Committee** and its intended role in shaping long-term neighborhood planning.
 - Residents raised concerns about the **over-concentration of supportive and special-needs housing** in West Hills, noting that this conflicts with the city’s comprehensive plan calling for equitable distribution.
 - Multiple inquiries to city officials regarding these concerns have gone unanswered.
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2. Revitalization Committee: Purpose, Functions & Structure

2.1 Proposed Functions

- **Sub Area Plan Exploration:**
 - Investigate pursuing a 20-year Sub Area Plan covering mixed-use development, retail, art studios, coffee shops, supportive housing, and condominiums.
 - Explore hiring a consultant (e.g., firm used by Hillyard) and contact other neighborhoods for funding leads.
- **Advocacy Wing:**
 - Represent neighborhood interests in current and future development decisions.

- Track city responses and formulate questions.
- **Business/Investment Coordination:**
 - Explore joining a business association.
 - Assess eligibility for **Tax Increment Financing (TIF)**.
 - Identify opportunities to attract appropriate commercial activity.
- **Zoning & Land Use Expertise:**
 - Map existing zoning, identify gaps, and work with Councilmembers Paul Dillon and Kate Tellis on potential rezoning.

2.2 Committee Governance

- Committee established as a **standing committee**.
- Nolan drafted a template including purpose, officer roles, and metrics.
- Maggie and another Spokane Neighborhood Leadership Academy member will help formalize bylaws.
- Division of labor recommended.

2.3 Subcommittees

- **Advocacy:** Manage communications and city inquiries.
- **Business/Investment:** TIF research, business outreach.
- **Zoning & Land Use:** Parcel mapping, zoning proposals.
- **Finance/Funding:** Grants, consultant funding, budget management.
- Additional subcommittees to be determined.

3. Development Opportunities & Neighborhood Vision

- Identified a **large vacant city-owned lot** between Sunset Blvd. and the cemetery (near Pacific & Government Way) as a key redevelopment site.
- Market insight from Nick Grumbach: ~58% renters; middle-income demographics support mixed-use development.

- Vision for a **Perry District / Garland-style** mixed-use hub with small-scale retail, residential, and community-oriented spaces rather than industrial uses.
 - Next steps include parcel mapping, rezoning research, and TIF exploration.
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4. Immediate Action Items

1. Schedule the first Revitalization Committee meeting; assign officers.
 2. Compile all existing correspondence with city officials.
 3. Contact other neighborhoods for consultant/funding leads; reach out to the city's Sub Area Plan specialist.
 4. Map current zoning and identify parcels for rezoning or development.
 5. Investigate TIF eligibility; contact local business associations.
 6. Create a shared cloud-based information hub.
 7. Finalize standing committee logistics: meeting set for Wednesday, March 25 at 6 p.m. at Sue's house.
 8. Continue outreach to potential investment partners (Brumback, Bill Lawson, Dwight Hume) and leverage the temporary building moratorium.
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5. Housing Projects & Advocacy Updates

- **48-Unit West Hills Project (two 24-unit buildings):**
 - **Frontier Behavioral Health:** Supportive housing for individuals with mental health challenges (near Government Way & Sunset).
 - **St. Agnes Family Haven:** Low-income family housing (near Hardison).
 - Existing building will remain between the two new structures.
- **Trueblood Class Explanation:**
 - State settlement funding mental-health beds and transitional housing for individuals detained in jail due to untreated mental illness.
 - Residents selected by Frontier Behavioral Health for permanent supportive housing.

- **Security Measures:**

- Fenced facility with single entry point.
 - Weekday staff, weekend rapid-response team, potential 24-hour on-call coverage.
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6. Advisory & Catholic Charities Involvement

- Catholic Charities' Advisory Committee serves as a liaison; attendance has been inconsistent.
 - Residents volunteered to join to improve communication.
 - Upcoming meeting scheduled at Catalyst at 5:30 p.m. with West Hills officers.
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7. Legal & Policy Landscape

- Recent state legislation allows transitional homes and shelters in residential zones **without public input or city approval**, over-riding local comprehensive plans.
 - The city supported the bill and did not propose amendments addressing neighborhood concerns about clustering.
 - **Waters Meet / "Pallet Homes" Project:**
 - Permits approved for 30 units + 2 congregational spaces (32 total).
 - Project in pre-development; court appeal pending.
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8. Community Action & Resolution Process

- A letter was sent to City Council requesting clarification on comprehensive plan compliance and siting criteria.
- Councilmember Paul Dillon indicated responses are forthcoming.
- A draft resolution will be submitted to the **Community Assembly (CA) Land Use Committee**, then to City Council.

Procedural Steps if Responses Remain Unsatisfactory

1. Email resolution to all relevant parties.

2. Add resolution to the April Neighborhood Council meeting agenda.
 3. Hold discussion and vote to refer the resolution to the CA Land Use Committee.
- Legal considerations include potential land-use rule violations; group plans to seek a no-fee initial legal consultation.
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9. Political Context & External Support

- State Representatives Natasha Hill, Timm Ormsby, and Senator Riccelli have sponsored related initiatives.
 - Concerns raised about broader state actions that may limit voter-initiated measures (e.g., sheriff election changes).
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10. Timeline & Accountability

- City Council has not responded to neighborhood inquiries for many months.
- The group will set a firm deadline for a response in the forthcoming resolution.
- Fundraising, revitalization planning, and partnership outreach will continue.

Public Attendees:

Amber Groe, ONS

Micah Prim, Spokane Police Neighborhood Resource Officer

Kelly Lee

Akua Lum-Reeser

Tim Lynch

Charlotte Mecklenburg

Sandy Nichols

Dale Reeser

Mary Nell Sikorra

Nolan Steiner

Miles Toland

Annie Walker

Community Engagement Grant

Requested Action: Discussion leading to a Decision

Key Points:

The Community Engagement Grant (CE) is a City-funded program that provides up to \$850 per neighborhood council to support projects that:

- Increase neighborhood engagement and participation
- Improve communication and outreach
- Support community events, meetings, and neighborhood initiatives

This funding is specifically intended to help neighborhoods connect, organize, and build capacity.

Grant funds can support things like:

- Community meetings, workshops, or open houses
- Outreach materials (flyers, newsletters, mailers, banners, signage)
- Event costs (permits, space rentals, equipment rentals, speakers, bands)
- Up to \$300 on food costs
- Neighborhood communication tools and engagement activities

In addition, the City's Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) maintains an inventory of equipment that neighborhoods can use — such as tents, tables, chairs, projector/30-ft screen/sound equipment, popcorn machine, sno-cone machine, and other event supplies — reducing out-of-pocket costs for neighborhood events.

At the February WHNC meeting, one person volunteered to be on the ad hoc CE committee and two more were talked into joining — but none of us are event planners.

Suggestions:

A potluck for Night Out Against Crime; a Movie Night at the Park; a Daytime Dance Party in a park (hire a DJ); an ice cream social by itself or, in conjunction, with the Night Out Against Crime or the movie night. The funds can be used to purchase paper plates, plasticware, ice, and other items as necessary.

Also, some of these funds may be needed for any additional meetings that WHNC has at the Finch. We will need to know if or how many additional meetings will be needed through April 2027.

Are there any other suggestions?

The condition of the park will be unknown; the timeline for the construction on the courts has not been announced yet.

A decision needs to be made at this meeting. There is a time element involved. If WHNC waits until June to submit the application, there is no access to any funds until July.

Depending on what is chosen, people will be needed to help develop and staff the event/s.

Previous Discussions: This Grant was discussed at the February 10, 2026 meeting.

West Hills Neighborhood Council Information - April 2026

- **Dorian Studio Building:** A pre-development conference on a 32-resident residential treatment facility apparently has happened. No other details are known.
- The **Mobile Speed Feedback Trailer application** was submitted to the City with the three locations approved at the 2/10/26 meeting: S Government Way at 2nd Ave – southbound, S Government Way at 6th Ave –northbound, and F Street at 9th - northbound.
- **The Free Curbside Collection** for West Hills Neighborhood will be Wednesday, May 6, 2026.

This will be in addition to the regular garbage pickup. Apartment complexes are not eligible for this event.

All items must be on the front curb by 6 a.m. on Wed. May 6, 2026.

Accepted: Things that would normally go in your brown trash cart. Small appliances, such as microwaves, blenders, toasters are OK. Mattress and box spring are OK. Two (2) tire limit (rims must be removed).

Not accepted: Items over 85 lbs., air conditioners, large appliances or oversized items, recyclable (big blue cart) materials, yard waste (green cart materials), or paint.

A postcard will be sent approximately 2 weeks prior to the pickup with more information. Questions? Contact Neighborhood Council Clean-up Coordinator, Mike Gifford at mshkg@hotmail.com or 509-838-0060.

- Remember **Disposal Passes** may be obtained from the City of Spokane:
Creating an account or login to your account at my.spokanecity.org/account via web browser. Once you're logged in to your account, visit the [Disposal Pass Request Form](#) page to request your pass.
- The **Asphalt Art Design** for the intersection at W Trinity Pl and W Woodlawn Blvd has been decided. By survey. The survey was completed by 48 people and the first design shown (see attached) was the winner. Of the voters, almost 72% chose it.
- The survey for the **St. Agnes Siding Color Options** was completed by 78 people. The Light Green and Iron Grey option was the winner at slightly over 33%; the Dark Blue and Iron Grey option was second place.
- **Residential Light Program.** City of Spokane homeowners can receive a FREE motion detecting, solar light to illuminate the darkened areas around their home for safety. Interested homeowners can visit the [City of Spokane website](#) to request a light. Once approved, pick up will take place at City Hall (808 W Spokane Falls Blvd.) Available while supplies last.
- **Arbor Day Celebration**, Saturday, April 25, 2026 from 11 am- 2 pm at the Finch Arboretum.