

Agenda (West Hills Neighborhood Council Meeting)

Date: October 13, 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 – Micah Prim | 6:03 | 15min |
| 3. City Council Person(s) Presentation – Kate Telis | 6:18 | 15min |
| 4. ONS (Office of Neighborhood Services) - Pollyanne Birge | 6:33 | 8min |
| 5. Secretary’s Report (accept/amend minutes) | 6:41 | 2min |
| 6. Officer’s Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CA (discuss/elect a second alternate) | 6:43 | 5min |
| 7. Agenda Items <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Judicial candidate Nicholas Ulrich presents• Judicial candidate Michael Addams presents• Update on social media project• Erik from Spokane Reimagines• Tiny Homes, Illegal Camping, etc. update | 6:48
6:58
7:08
7:13
7:18 | 10min
10min
5min
5min
12min |
| 8. Adjourn Meeting | 7:30 | |

West Hills Neighborhood Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, August 11, 2026

Time: 6:00 – 7:38 pm

Location: The Hive, 2904 E Sprague, Event Room C, Spokane, WA 99202

1. Call to Order and Attendance

- The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Noah Dickens.
- Motion to record meeting for note-taking purposes passed unanimously.

Attendance:

- **Executive Committee:** Noah Dickens, Chair; Stephen Cummins, Vice-Chair, Paul Bundy, Treasurer; Sue Arnesen, Communications, Stu Lee, Alt. CA Representative; Tim Lynch, Secretary. Maggie Thornton, Absent
- **Guest Presenters:** Micah Prim, Spokane Police Neighborhood Resource Officer; Pollyanne Birge and Heather Hamlin, Office of Neighborhood Services; Paul Dillon, District 2 City Council Member
- **Public Attendees:** 16 (see attendees at the end)
- **A Quorum was established.**

2. Guest Presentation — Officer Michael Prim

Officer Michael Prim, the neighborhood officer responsible for the area, provided an update on public safety, encampments, code enforcement, and recent fire-related concerns.

Encampment and code-enforcement activity:

- Officer Prim described his weekly work with the code-enforcement team addressing camps reported through 311.
- The team attempts to connect people with shelters, mental-health resources, medical assistance, and other services when appropriate.
- During the day of the meeting, the team worked in the Sunset area, cited three individuals, and connected others with outreach services.
- One individual was transported to the Navigation Center.
- At the 13th Avenue/Rosamond area, the team removed trash and addressed unoccupied tents. Property believed to belong to individuals was tagged so it could be retrieved before eventual removal.

Fire investigation and reporting:

- Officer Prim discussed the importance of residents reporting suspicious activity and fires.
- He noted that a citizen witness provided information that helped investigators identify and arrest the suspect in a major recent fire.
- Residents were encouraged to report concerns to 311 and to call 911 when witnessing crimes or active fire hazards.

Burning and arson:

Officer Prim explained the distinction between unlawful burning, reckless burning, and arson. Unlawful burning is a misdemeanor involving starting a fire on public property; more serious conduct may constitute reckless burning or felony-level arson. He encouraged residents to report even apparently minor fires on public property.

He explained that police investigate, collect evidence, interview witnesses, and forward cases to the courts, after which prosecutors/courts determine how cases proceed.

Resident concerns:

Residents raised concerns about:

- Recurring encampments and open fires.
- The speed and effectiveness of 311 responses.
- Fires and fire pits in wooded/high-risk areas.
- Vehicles entering high grass near Rosamond/13th Avenue.
- Safety, drug activity, and other problems reported around Rosamond and nearby areas.
- The desire for faster removal of camps in high-fire-danger areas.

Officer Prim clarified that Tuesday is his designated day to work directly with the code-enforcement team, but code enforcement operates more broadly and officers may self-initiate enforcement when they observe violations. Active unlawful burning can be reported to 911 at any time.

Residents were advised that vehicles driving through high grass in a manner presenting a fire hazard should be reported to 911.

Follow-up: Residents expressed interest in working more closely with Officer Prim and other agencies on encampment, fire-safety, and neighborhood-safety issues. The council also discussed bringing these concerns to city officials.

3. Office of Neighborhood Services Update – Pollyanne Birge

Pollyanne provided updates on City programs and resources.

Topics included:

- Free movie nights at the pavilion.
- Free Waste-to-Energy facility tours.
- City resources and service adjustments related to the Spokane Complex fire.
- Fire-related community resources through the city and partner organizations.
- Cooling/safe-air spaces at Spokane Public Library locations.
- Pool and splash-pad availability.
- Summer water-conservation and watering schedules.
- Free fall disposal passes.
- The Plan Spokane comprehensive-plan update and opportunities for public comment.
- The Neighborhood Summit scheduled for **Saturday, November 7.**
- Free motion-detecting solar-powered safety lights, one per household, through My Spokane.

The council discussed the continuing opportunity to submit comments on the comprehensive plan. The next comment deadline had not yet been determined due to wildfire-related delays.

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

The previous meeting minutes were presented. A motion to approve was seconded and passed by voice vote. No substantive amendments were identified in the discussion.

5. Treasurer and Community Assembly Reports

- **Treasurer's Report:** No report was given and no changes were reported.
- **Community Assembly:** Stu reported that the meeting had been canceled because of the wildfires.

6. West Hills Potluck

Sue reported on planning for the neighborhood potluck.

Event details:

- **Date:** Tuesday, September 1
- **Time:** 6:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Whittier Park

Fourteen residents responded to the scheduling poll. Sue will handle the necessary parks-related paperwork and requested assistance with organizing the event. Residents volunteered games, including cornhole.

The council clarified that the event is a potluck rather than a chili cook-off, although residents may bring chili.

Action: Sue will continue coordinating the event and provide the park address/details when communicating with residents.

7. Revitalization Committee

The committee reported that work is continuing on neighborhood revitalization. A GIS map has been developed, and additional photographs are being collected.

Discussion included:

- Pedestrian safety between the neighborhood and the Finch Arboretum.
- Possible crosswalk improvements.
- Speed-limit concerns.
- Better pedestrian protection and markings.
- Potential revitalization of underused or problematic areas.
- Historic preservation and environmental issues.
- Potential development of a West Hills sub-area plan or study.

The revitalization committee's scope was described as broad, including land-use rules, funding, advocacy, investment, historic and cultural preservation, parks, and related neighborhood-planning issues.

The committee has not yet elected a chair. Discussion emphasized the need for participation and follow-through.

Action: Continue investigating whether West Hills can pursue a sub-area plan/study and identify potential tasks and participants for the revitalization effort.

8. Comprehensive Plan and Neighborhood Advocacy

Members discussed the importance of submitting comments on the city's comprehensive plan, particularly concerning:

- Housing.
- Community health.
- Transportation.
- Pedestrian infrastructure.
- Environmental justice.
- Distribution/concentration of social services.
- Future land use in West Hills.

Members expressed concern that previous neighborhood comments were not adequately reflected in planning documents and emphasized compiling prior comments and communications into a single record.

The council discussed the need for a more coordinated neighborhood response to city planning and homelessness-related issues rather than simply discussing concerns at meetings. Members proposed creating a concrete action plan and presenting neighborhood concerns collectively to city officials.

9. Special Action/Planning Meeting

The council agreed to hold an additional meeting focused on developing a **concrete neighborhood action plan**.

Proposed meeting:

- Wednesday, September 9, 2026
- 6:00 p.m.
- Location to be confirmed/reserved.

The intended purpose is to:

1. Bring forward residents' major concerns.
2. Compile prior communications and unanswered requests to the city.
3. Identify several priority issues.
4. Develop a coordinated plan of action.
5. Consider collective participation at City Council meetings, town halls, or other public forums.

Residents were encouraged to bring copies of comments and communications previously submitted to the City or Planning Commission.

Action items:

- Reserve meeting space for September 9 at 6:00 p.m.
- Publicize the meeting once details are confirmed.
- Residents should bring prior correspondence/comments and proposed action items.
- Compile neighborhood concerns into a concise set of priorities.

10. Fire Evacuation Planning

The council discussed the neighborhood's emergency evacuation planning following the recent wildfires.

A previous proposal involved conducting a practice evacuation similar to exercises held in other neighborhoods. The group understood that such an exercise might not occur until 2028. In the meantime, residents were encouraged to personally identify multiple evacuation routes from their homes and neighborhoods.

Members discussed potential limitations on routes during emergencies and emphasized the importance of knowing alternate routes.

Residents were also encouraged to:

- Check on neighbors during emergencies.
- Make sure vulnerable residents are aware of evacuation situations.
- Consider pets and other household needs in evacuation planning.

Action: Residents should independently review and practice potential evacuation routes until a formal neighborhood exercise can be arranged.

11. Disposal Passes

Stephen reported that the council had received disposal passes that can be used at the Waste-to-Energy facility.

- **17 passes** were available, with some already reserved.
- The passes represent approximately **\$510 in total value**.
- Passes are tracked when distributed.
- Residents who receive a pass should designate an alternate user in case they cannot use it.

Residents interested in a pass were directed to Sue.

12. Illegal Camping, Dumping, and Fires

The council continued its discussion of recurring illegal camping, dumping, and fire hazards.

Residents from the Grandview/Thrope area attended because of concerns about conditions near the West Hills boundary. They brought photographs documenting continued dumping, fire pits, gas cans, human waste, and other hazards in an area that residents had previously been told had been cleaned. They expressed interest in partnering with West Hills on solutions.

Discussion focused on:

- Improving cleanup and reporting procedures.
- Clarifying property ownership.
- Reducing access for vehicles into sensitive areas.
- Removing underbrush and improving fire mitigation.
- Working with railroad authorities where applicable.
- Creating more park-like areas that discourage camping and illegal activity.
- Coordinating with neighboring councils.

The group discussed contacting property owners and railroad authorities and pursuing environmental-design solutions such as barriers, fencing, signs, and landscaping.

Potential partnership: The Grandview/Thorpe residents indicated that they intend to continue participating and coordinate with West Hills and other nearby neighborhoods on shared concerns.

13. City Council Update — Paul Dillon

Paul, representing City Council District 2, provided an update focused primarily on wildfire recovery and several West Hills issues.

He thanked first responders and discussed the scale of the recent emergency response. He noted that the city and partner agencies were transitioning into recovery while continuing to focus heavily on fire-related needs.

Fish Lake Trail Extension:

Paul reported that the construction bid for the Fish Lake Trail extension had been approved at the previous council meeting. The extension is intended to connect toward High Bridge. He emphasized environmental design, activation, lighting, and other safety features as opportunities to improve public safety in West Hills.

Alcohol Impact Area:

Paul reported that work was underway to expand the alcohol impact area into West Hills, particularly around Sunset Grocery. The proposed restrictions would address sales of high-volume alcohol products.

Community Health Impact Area:

He also reported progress toward expanding the community health impact area, including restrictions intended to address the sale of certain smoking-related products. The ordinances were described as written and ready to move forward.

Comprehensive Plan:

Paul stated that the comprehensive-plan update had been delayed because of wildfire recovery. He identified Sunset/Government and Russell Road/Sunset as areas where future planning and land-use changes may present opportunities for neighborhood improvements.

14. Tiny Home / Housing Discussion

Residents asked Paul for an update on the proposed tiny-home development. Paul stated that he understood the project to remain in pre-development and agreed to check with the Planning Department and report back to the neighborhood.

Residents also raised questions about reports concerning a possible House of Charity project near Catalyst. Paul stated that he had heard there had been a proposal but had not heard the specific information described by residents.

Additional discussion concerned:

- The city's Urban Experience Committee.
- A presentation by the Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI).
- Potential temporary tiny-home applications in response to wildfire displacement.
- Permitting and municipal-code requirements.
- The need for appropriate due diligence and safeguards if temporary structures are considered.
- The status of funding associated with an expired grant.
- Questions concerning funding and procurement for the tiny-home project.
- Comprehensive-plan comments regarding housing and equitable distribution of special-needs housing.

Action: Paul agreed to follow up with the Planning Department regarding the tiny-home project and email the neighborhood with an update.

15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm.

List of Public Attendees:

Becky Cook	Rick Kitchen
Sunday Cummins	Lalena Lamson
Elizabeth Goldsmith	Nick Lamson
Deb Greel	Kelly Lee
Kathy Hagy	Sandy Nichols
Judy Kelsch	Nolan Steiner
Deb Kitchen	Robert Thompson
Lori Kitchen	Annie Walker

Key Action Items

Action	Responsible Party	Timing
Reserve space for special neighborhood action-planning meeting	Council/organizers	September 9, 6:00 p.m.
Publicize September 9 meeting once details are confirmed	Web/communications volunteers	Before meeting
Bring prior city/Planning Commission correspondence and comments	Residents/council members	September 9
Develop coordinated neighborhood action plan	Participants	September 9
Continue investigating West Hills sub-area plan/study	Revitalization committee / assigned members	Ongoing
Coordinate West Hills/Grandview and neighboring councils on shared safety issues	Council members/residents	Ongoing
Continue work on West Hills potluck	Sue and volunteers	September 1
Distribute and track Waste-to-Energy disposal passes	Sue / council	As requested
Review personal evacuation routes and check on neighbors	All residents	Ongoing
Follow up with Planning Department regarding tiny-home project	Paul Dillon	Follow-up requested
Continue compiling neighborhood concerns and prior city communications	Council/residents	Before September 9

West Hills Neighborhood Council Information – October 6, 2026

CITY TO SIMPLIFY SERVICES BY ROUTING NON-EMERGENCY POLICE, FIRE CALLS THROUGH SPOKANE 311

Residents will soon have one easy-to-remember number for all non-emergency City services

On October 27, non-emergency calls within City of Spokane limits will transition from Crime Check to Spokane 311, creating a single point of contact for those seeking assistance. Once the transition is complete, people who need to report a non-emergency police or fire matter – such as suspicious activity, a crime no longer in process, or other incidents that do not require an immediate emergency response – will simply call 3-1-1.

When someone dials Spokane 311, their call will be assessed and routed to the appropriate department or emergency personnel. Emergencies requiring an immediate police, fire, or medical response **should always be reported to 911. Emergency calls that come in through 311 will be transferred to 911.**

Spokane 311 will continue to connect callers to City services and general information. Residents will still utilize the 3-1-1 number to submit service requests, report issues like potholes and unauthorized camping, as well as pay utility bills. This change means residents will no longer need to remember separate phone numbers depending on the type of City service they need.

The transition from Crime Check to Spokane 311 is the first in a series of operational milestones to be completed over the next two years as the City of Spokane establishes its own Primary Safety Answering Point. This is the first step in the implementation of the City's independent emergency communications system. It will streamline the reporting process, improve response, and make it easier for Spokane residents to call for non-emergency related needs. Over the past several months, foundational pieces have been set in place for this new City--operated public safety answering point. New technology and the hiring of new call-takers will achieve this first part of the transition.

Residents should continue calling Crime Check ([509-456-2233](tel:509-456-2233)) through October 26. 311 will begin accepting non-emergency calls on October 27. Throughout the entirety of the transition, the City will continue working with SREC and regional public safety partners to ensure residents and visitors maintain reliable access to 911 and emergency services.

Lend Your Voice in Shaping Spokane's Built Environment

Help influence the future of the City of Spokane's built environment by taking the

[BUILDSpokane Community Survey](#). The BUILDSpokane code modernization project seeks to

align the Spokane Development Code with current policy objectives and community feedback while supporting and streamlining desired development and redevelopment.

Spokane Safe and Bright Residential Light Program

The City of Spokane is offering property owners a FREE solar-powered, motion-detecting residential light! The Spokane Safe and Bright Residential Light program aims to help residents illuminate commonly dark areas in their neighborhoods, such as alleys, sidewalks, and public walking spaces. Visit my.spokanecity.org/residentiallight to apply!

STA Link Brings On-Demand Transit to Latah Valley (part of the West Hills Neighborhood Council area is included)

Spokane Transit Authority's (STA) new mobility-on-demand transit service, STA Link will improve access to public transportation in areas that are underserved or difficult to serve by traditional bus service. The first pilot service areas are Latah Valley and North Spokane Valley. STA Link provides shared rides in SUVs and wheelchair-accessible vans that can be requested in real time or booked in advance through the new [STA Go app, online](#), or by phone at [\(509\) 364-6200](tel:5093646200). Riders can use STA Link for curb-to-curb trips within designated service zones or to connect with STA's broader bus service network. [Visit their website](#) to learn more!

Spokane Parks Activity Guide

The [Fall Activity Guide](#) is here! This is your one-stop shop for recreational opportunities for all ages and abilities in the Spokane area.

Community Resources

Need Mental Health Help?

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 9-8-8

Contact or Walk-In: Frontier Behavioral Health [\(509\) 838-4651](tel:5098384651) ext 012082.

Contact or Walk-In: Inland Northwest Behavioral Health [\(509\) 992-1888](tel:5099921888)

CHAS Health: [\(509\) 444-8200](tel:5094448200)

Excelsior Wellness Center: [\(509\) 559-3100](tel:5095593100)
[Request Online Appointment](#)

Help for children, adults, and families is available via telehealth.

Teen Text and Chat Line: [844-814-TEEN \(8336\)](tel:844814TEEN)

Free confidential safe place service available to any teen or young adult.



Are you prepared in case of an emergency?
Check out the [City's Emergency Management page!](#)

Veterans Crisis Line: Dial 9-8-8, then Press 1 or Text 838255

Need Resources?

Call Washington 211 at [2-1-1](tel:211) or [\(877\) 211-9274](tel:8772119274) to speak to a local agent

Text your Zip Code to 898211 or email

ew211@incontactmail.com

Apply for basic food assistance over the phone!

Access to resources online at: wa211.org

Sign up for their Newsletter!



Behavioral Health Services

- Individual, Group & Family Involved Therapy
- Wraparound with Intensive Services (WiSe)
- Family Outreach Crisis Intervention Services (FOCIS)
- Problematic Sexualized Behaviors

Victim Advocacy and Education

- Sexual Assault 24-hour Support Line
- Crime Victim Support Line
- Sexual Assault & Medical Advocacy
- Legal Advocacy
- Safety Planning
- Support Groups
- Community Education



Maddie's Place

Maddie's Place is a nonprofit recovery nursery for substance-exposed infants, providing wraparound support for their parents/caregivers. Call [Maddie's Place](tel:5093155146) at [509-315-5146](tel:5093155146).



Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Prevention Resources

Trauma Recovery Services

[Lutheran Community Services: \(509\) 747-8224](tel:5097478224)

Intensive Behavioral Health, Victim Advocacy and Foster Care, are available.



Washington Poison Center Helpline

Call the [Washington Poison Center](tel:8002221222) Helpline at [800-222-1222](tel:8002221222) if a person has been exposed to dangerous or potentially dangerous substances.