

WEST CENTRAL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

6:30 PM @ West Central Community Center

For accuracy, members and guests, please sign in before taking a seat

Remember non-members, 3 out of 4 consecutive attended meetings qualifies you for membership.

If you have attended at least 4 meetings in the last calendar year you may be by written request, become a voting member.

For excused absences please call or e-mail: Steve Corker at 509-230-3901 or at scorker@ix.netcom.com

Welcome and Introductions:

Present:

Excused:

Absent:

Guests:

Called to order at 6:30pm

Crime Stats from officer Tracy Ponto. Question was raised about what “car prowling” meant. You have to actually try a door handle, most reported involved actually getting in a car.

Report from City Council Woman Candice Mumm:

We will have a new representative for the northwest of Spokane as we say goodbye to Steve Salvatori. The City Council will be making that selection. The application window will be about 2 weeks in July and the selection will be made in August. There has been a request to change the name of a section of Bridge Street to Summit Parkway. The area in consideration is just outside our neighborhood around Post Street Bridge and Monroe Street Bridge. There will be an opportunity to attend a hearing and participate in the public process.

Ideas considering what to name the Plaza in front of Huntington Park which was donated to the city. If you have ideas, please share them.

The City Council is tightening up the physical policy at the council level. Some city council members in the past used some money designated to the city council operations to donate to charities. They are making the budget more transparent. Money designated for the council will stay with the council.

There is a crosswalk ordinance coming up to mark crosswalks near schools, parks, etc. Concern was raised by a neighborhood council member that the street committee wants to remove the traffic light on Montgomery and Northwest Blvd. She will follow up about the timing for the crosswalk by Canon Park.

Approval of June Agenda and May Minutes:

We now have quorum at 6:51pm. Motion made, seconded, and approved to accept the June Agenda with one correction of “doormat” to “dormant”.

May minutes motioned, 2nd, and approved with the correction of attendance and “more funding” changed to “funding”. Kathy Reed was here and not absent.

Discussion/Action RE: Nettleton Project:

Steve gave report from the committee about this project. When the discussion was finished between all parties, he reported, there was still concern that the \$6,000 would be enough. The general consensus was that it would not be enough. We are waiting on a recommendation about plants and other aspects of the cost. Bonnie passed out a sheet detailing the outstanding funds for this project. Three funds were discussed, the West Broadway Surge Improvements, the West Broadway Plaza & Gateway Imps, and the Street Tree Program. There was also the \$14,249 already designated to this project. Steve's understanding is that if funds are not designated, committed and submitted to the city by June 30th, the funds will disappear. He asked about transferring funds from the other sources to this project so we could use the funds. The only figure we were giving notice to use or lose was _____. Bonnie stated that we have not been given notice that the other accounts are in danger. Trial Balance sheets are supposed to be sent to the neighborhood chairs on a quarterly basis. We have not seen it, but it is now known to be public record. All of this comes through Community Assembly. It was suggested that we make sure Steve Corker gets these reports quarterly and that the council is given copies either physically or electronically. There is concern about using the Street Trees account for anything else as trees are dying. It is asked why are they dying and will new trees die. Two trees were hit by cars. It is speculated that the trees aren't being watered. The property owners are responsible for watering the trees in front of their property. Returning to the issue of the Nettleton Project. From the information Bonnie brought, it seems no funds are in danger of disappearing. We can wait to make a decision about funds until the study comes back with a ballpark range of funds needed. A neighborhood member asked about the sidewalk money because she's been on a list for three years to get her sidewalks fixed. It was explained that they try to stay in one area to reduce the cost of the project. There was a commitment made to find out where she is on the list. A motion was made to defer moving funds until we get the contract back with a figure for the cost. Discussion. Bonnie wants to know how much money has already been invested in the Triangle. The concern was raised that the WCNC will be responsible for funding the watering of the plants. We should know how this will be done before plantings are put in. Motion: vote unanimous to defer any Community Development funds transfer until the report is received. It was brought up that the contract may need to be reconsidered and perhaps the project modified to bring it within the scope of the funds set aside for it. Much discussion was had. It was suggested that further questions be emailed to Steve so they can be addressed.

Standing Committee Reports:

(All will be submitted in writing)

Community Development Task Force Next Phrase: July 23rd 1-4 in the NE Community Center.

Community Assembly has formed a task force committee that will identify how funding will be handled.

There are meetings on the 12th and 25th to determine how the sidewalks will be handled. There is a July 2nd deadline for determining how sidewalks will be handled. Concerns were raised about funds on the earlier handout from Bonnie about how the SNAP parking lot funds were allocated. Steve and Bonnie will work together to understand and have answers about funds.

The community Assembly is making a change in their policies. A notice must be sent to the neighborhoods and returned to them. Notices about meetings are not getting out. There are multiple email lists. There is great concern among members of the WCNC about the type of communication that is not happening between the city and our neighborhood. It was pointed out that our WCNC website has not been updated to reflect that we have a new chair.

New Business – Kendall Yards Concerns – History Presentation Consideration:

Trisha Goodman, manager of the Kendall Yards Home Owner's Association came to speak to us. There has been a lot of crime over the last few months. Some examples of situations: trespassing at the Highland Apartments, transient was camping in the stairwell. When police arrived they said they could not remove the trespassers because there was not a "no trespassing" sign. She doesn't want to create a community where those signs are necessary. At another time, two transients were seen running out of a vacant apartment with stolen tools. They do not know if police did anything as the individuals ran towards the camp on the river bank. There is a transient, Bruce, who sets up camp in various areas. He is not so much a concern, but his camps attract individuals who are perpetrating theft. Bruce is schizophrenic and refuses meds. She does appreciate Tracy Ponto's support and guidance. They recognize they are a growing community that is bringing more tax dollars to the city and she wants to see more resources for these types of issues. Steve explained that most communities like this end up hiring their own private security force. They have actually already hired a private security group for three weeks to see what kind of reports they get. Steve said we have about 1800 homeless people. Bonnie told Trisha to teach community members how to use the system. Kelly said there are currently four volunteers from Kendall Yards for the COPS Shop. Del brings up that there are potentially county based resources.

We need resources for alcohol and similar issues. There is a group that are intentionally having informal picnics at the Dutch Jake Park on Broadway that are none confrontational and promote outreach workers as options for help. Joanne mentioned Bruce always needs food and then a beer. He used to live in a van in Salem Lutheran's Parking lot. Joanne has known him for 20 years. It is recognized that bad people gather around him. It was also suggested to tell residents to have a camera, even without film, and just to "take" a picture as a deterrent. Trisha wants to come to our meetings more regularly as soon as she's permanently living in Spokane by the end of the year.

Cleanup and Furniture Pickup Report:

It was suggested that having a history presentation in order to raise attendance. Postcards could be used to send out to the entire neighborhood (we have four mailings a year and we've used one), inviting people to learn about the history of the neighborhood. Maybe have two or three meetings. The idea is to get some pride in the neighborhood. We have Nettleton One and Nettleton Two historic districts on the national directory. These meetings could happen August, September, and November. Discussion was had as to whether these meetings would be during normal council meetings or outside. It was suggested either 6pm before normal meetings or on Saturdays.

Public Forum:

There will be a public form on the 26th of June about Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26pm Respectfully Submitted, Naomi Flaherty, Secretary