

## WEST CENTRAL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES

Wednesday, July 9, 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](mailto:scorker@ix.netcom.com)

### Welcome and Introductions:

**Present:** Michelle Bennington, Steve Corker, Kelly Cruz, Ken Cruz, Naomi Flaherty, Mary Fryback, Kay Howard, Jen Hussey, Steve, Kounkel, Bonnie McInnis, Kathy Reid, Helen Sandifur, and Larry Swartz,

**Excused:** Toni Lodge

**Absent:** Joann Austin, Jeff Barnes, Josh Brakel, Mike Brakel, Roni Carter, Lynese Carter, Marcus DeWood, Judith Gilmore, Daniel Herbers, Christopher Kuperstein, Andrew Larson, Heather Lundy, Jenny Mele, Jo Ann Stewart, Jim Teeter, Marcia Thompson, Sarah Tosch, and Kaye Turner,

**Guests:** Cavin Cooley, Heather Troutman, and Dallas Hawkins.

Called to Order at 6:30pm

Traci Ponto reported the month to month crime stats comparisons. She was asked how we compare with other neighborhoods. She wants to give comparisons between West Central and Emerson/Garfield, but Comstat limits how she can break them down. She will bring some more broken-down stats next month.

**City Presentation Street Bond & Park Levy –Dallas Hawkins & Gavin Cooley**

**Name of presenter:**

**Levy:** Provided some history on the financing of streets and parks, specifically around bond attempts, failures, and successes in the past. We are now out of bond money. The previous bond was completed ahead of schedule, the city used the money allotted in the 10 year plan in 8 years and now it is time to find new financing. This 10 year plan was based on a 20 year bond payback. Going on in that vein would double the cost of the projects to the citizens. They have a new plan that does not double it. Through creative solutions such as reducing street water runoff through redesigning streets so waste water can be treated naturally through ground absorption. The utilities department is willing to pay \$5 million annually into the streets projects. There are also some grant options to match spending. At the end of 2034, the debt will be paid off and the levy arranges allow for future funding of street to not require bonds with their interest payments.

**Streets:** (New Presenter) the credit rating of a city is based on how solid the infrastructure of the city is. Our streets are not a plus right now. We are at an AA rating, but being able to present the above plan will put Spokane in the running for an even better rating. So, what will we get for our money assuming the above levy plan? Plan: Reinvesting 57 cents per \$1000 of assessed property value paid for streets as part of the 2004 Street Bond Repayment plan. There is a proposal for a Levy Lid Lift. The Levy creates a sustainable, long-term funding source. There will be two separate items on the upcoming ballot: streets levy and park bond. What will the money be for? Rehab, maintenance, and new construction. This

will create 625 jobs, 25 jobs per \$1 million in street construction. This includes a commitment to improving overall street system with a focus on arterial streets with a goal of upgrading and maintaining them at a “Good” level throughout the 20 years of the plan. Improvement of residential streets will be funded through other strategies. Among the proposed projects in 2015 is Lincoln/Monroe from 17th Ave to downtown. They are trying to do projects in each of the three council districts each year so as to spread out the benefit and also the pain, particularly that of detours around projects. It’s all about integrated projects which consider pavement conditions, multi-modal transportation components such as bike lanes, pedestrian improvements, mass transit, storm water management, public and private utility infrastructure, and economic development opportunities. All this comes together in comp plan update: Link Spokane. The Crestline Project done recently followed this model and saved \$1.5 million as compared to not doing an integrated project and doing all that work separately.

**Parks: (First Presenter) Master Plan for River Park Square:** The advisory committee appointed last April has made their recommendation. The Vision of the plan is for the Riverfront Park to becoming the central gathering place for the region by celebrating community excellence, providing greater accessibility to the Park and river, creating a healthy balance between active and passive spaces, providing safety throughout the Park, and more. The Master Plan includes a Central Plaza on Havermale Island. The bond proposal is a \$60 million proposal. The Proposal looks at reinvesting the 34 cents per \$1000 of assessed property value paid into the parks system. The New Bond generates \$60 million to implement the Riverfront Park Master Plan. Why \$60million? The existing infrastructure is 40 years old and definitely aging. The plan looks at the irrigation system, bridge repair, limited power, ADA accessibility and more. What will we see? A new tree lined pedestrian promenades, two new landscaped paved plazas, four new grass meadows, two upgraded playgrounds, new 1.5 acre regional playground, and four improved river overlooks, matching Funds for South River Bridge, new public art, and more. The plan includes renovating the Pavilion into a multi-purpose event center, recovering and re-lighting it; new interactive and multi-media art and storytelling elements, and more. Architecturally, they want shelters to sit delicately on the land. The Park takes priority. Year round use will be key. The Reserve Contingency is \$4.5m. Questions: Will local contractors be used? That is one of the priorities of the plan. Concerns about the life expectancy of the material that will cover the pavilion. It is about 30 years. Bloomsday and Hoopfest are huge partners in this plan. Both are looking for opportunities for investing and being a part of this. So is Pig Out in the Park. They can be reached at [streetsandparks@spokancityparks.org](mailto:streetsandparks@spokancityparks.org) (?)

**Approval of July Agenda and June Minutes**

Agenda was motioned, seconded, and approved by vote.

**Resignation of Board Member/Replacement**

The acceptance of the resignation of board member Kay Turner was motioned, seconded, and approved by vote.

**Discussion/Action RE: Nettleton Project – Funds Transfer Consideration**

Steve Corker, Bonnie, and Craig and Mike were to meet on the 8th. This did not happen. Bonnie and Larry did make contact with Mike and reported.

Larry’s report: The project has been going on for a very long time and he thinks it’s getting close to completion. Whether or not it made sense to spend \$8,000 on a landscape proposal fee, we do need documents we can hand off to a contractor. Once we have these we submit them to the city. Then the city is committed to managing the project. Mike Terrell has done a basic overlay of how things would be done and how it could be executed. It did not include irrigation or planting plan. None of the materials we have include those. Mike Terrell indicated he did not want to interfere with Craig and AHBL’s work because of professional ethics. Mike indicated that worse comes to worse, he could get it done for approximate \$1,500. This is a verbal quote. This would do the project on a different scope without interpretive signage. The other group indicated they can bring down the price to \$2,500. It was recommended to move forward with AHBL for \$2,500 as this is more likely to get done this year. This will still be pretty tight with the funding. The initial estimate for the remaining work is \$40,000. This is not possible. Realistically, this can only be cut in half to \$20,000. This would require creativity and planting done by neighborhood residents. An email will be sent out.

Bonnie McIness's report: She thanked Steve Corker for great minutes from the executive meeting. She suggests everyone looks at a copy of those minutes as part of her report. There was much hearsay around this project. The minutes span ten years of history and definitions for this project. At a meeting at City Hall, she pulled out the spreadsheet handed out at the meeting of this council last month. There was concern about funds on this spreadsheet and about losing funds. This concern is not accurate; the money can be transferred and does not need to expire. Bonnie found that there have been three architects involved with this project. There have never been definitions of the plants. This project has been defined, redefined, and redefined again over ten years. There are therefore many verbal stories of this project, all of which are true. There has been a horrendous lack of records from the past of this council. This has caused a lot of frustration as funds are accessed concerning this project. Jeff, vice-chair, came to the meeting and stated that he had a conversation with the city and Parks was not there. None of the funds being asked to be transferred are in jeopardy. Steve asked if there was any objection to moving to the discussion.

It was moved and seconded to agree to the recommendation of the executive committee that a special committee be formed and that committee will perform an audit/review on the funding, the action, and the leadership between the dates of January 2010 to present. No vote was taken at this time.

City input (Heather Troutman :) There is \$1,000 in jeopardy. This money has been flagged. The other amounts have not been flagged. They get flagged for lack of use. The City is looking to help us with the Nettleton Project. They can provide project management. In order to transfer money, you have to move it to an existing account. There was not account existing when the decision was made. The money can be transferred to the other accounts on the same trial sheet. This money is what was meant to be used to purchase the equipment. The money was not available to Parks to make this purchase.

Kelly Cruz questions the fact the money was not available in an appropriate account as our trial sheet seems to show it was. He asked if it was a mistake at the City level. Heather Troutman said she can follow up on how the scenario was created in which money was not available.

Steve Corker called attention back to the motion on the floor.

It was asked what the timeline of the audit would be. The Executive Council estimates 90 days.

Heather Troutman cautioned that if we take time to do this audit, we may not have construction on the project this year.

A letter or email will be sent to Steve Corker from the city regarding the needed action on the flagged \$1,000.

Discussion ensued.

Heather said whatever funds we have, the \$14,400; the city can work with that amount of money. If no action is taken, due to waiting the 90 days for an audit, Heather is not certain the city can help us get a project done this year. It was asked if we could transfer the \$1,000 and add it to the \$14,400 and then next year add more funds. It was answered that the project can be done in two pieces.

It was clarified that there is no construction document. In Larry Swartz's opinion, the project would need to be the \$20,000. This would be everything including limited plant materials.

Steve Corker allowed this conversation to waver from the audit decision because it became clear that the greater scope would play apart in deciding about the audit.

All three of the needed professional men are willing to come to the table and have a cohesive discussion.

Steve Corker had a question of qualification: Is the work that has been done sufficient to go to the City for bid to do work. Bonnie McInnis confirmed that we do indeed need a conceptual drawing and a construction document.

**A vote is called on, motioned and seconded for the chair to form a committee to perform an audit on the last four years. It passed. Committee: 4 people. Let the record show: Kay Howard, Mary Fryback, Bonnie McInnis and Helen Sandifur.**

**Discussion regarding: Kelly Cruz explained funds in various CDBG West Central accounts.**

**Bonnie McInnis: in the last meeting, Kevin Shafer cautioned there's a backlog of contracts against the Street Tree account. It was cautioned that we should not move funds around until that backlog is processed. Heather Troutman clarified again about the \$1,000. Bonnie McInnis asked if a letter would have been sent to our chair. No letter has been sent. They have been letting neighborhoods know about flagged accounts via email and verbal communication. Heather confirms it is the Office of Neighborhood Services that should be notifying us.**

**Further discussion about transferring of funds.**

**A quorum call was moved and seconded. 7 in favor. 3 against. The Chair indicated that a quorum of the membership was not present.**

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:43pm. Respectfully submitted,**

**Naomi Flaherty, Secretary**