

WEST CENTRAL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES

Wednesday, August 13, 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

Unable to call to order as there are only ten members in attendance and this does not meet the required quorum count.

Discussion was had for informational purposes of those attending about the CBD Funds that are feared to be in jeopardy. There is now concern that all unused CBD Funds could be lost by the end of September or middle of October. There are questions as to who gets various financial reports. Office of Neighborhood Services should be giving us reports. They've just done an audit of their records and will give us a report of where they see things in our accounts. It was stated that nobody has been officially notified of anything. Different people have received phone calls and word of mouth about various funds. But there has been no paper trail as of yet. It was explained that several key people at the city level in community development have retired and they are having to rebuild knowledge base. At the city level, the financial information for (I think one of West Centrals accounts) one of the last four years has been lost. A committee from the West Central Neighborhood Council is doing an audit of our records for the last four years.

Kelly made a brief remark: COPS West is having a fall fundraiser on August 27th, 6-8pm at the Nest in Kendall Yards.

Moved to the agenda, recognizing that they are not approved. Steve recognized edits to the attendance, again, recognizing we cannot approve the minutes. On page three in Bonnie McGinness' report, it states that Jeff was at a meeting and parks was not there. Strike the following sentence. "Jeff, vice-chair, came to the meeting and stated that he had a conversation with the city and Parks was not there."

Kay gave a standing committee report about the audit. They've gathered the necessary records and are about to start the process of checking for any missing funds.

The Community Assembly met on the first day of the month. Steve pointed out that there is a lot of activity coming out of city council regarding vacant properties and rental properties. They are working to develop a definition of blight. They are referencing the space between Maple and Ash as an example. They may make stricter requirements for property owners regarding safety, but also neighborhood aesthetics. The city is considering an annual inspection for rental and vacant properties that would enforce a fee. This could raise rents \$100-150 a month. This could create safer living conditions, but put a huge burden on low income residents. A resident, not yet a member of the council, asked to speak. She shared

that this legislation is likely to come to a vote in the next six months. The proposal may be coming up in the city council meeting this coming Monday. She is referencing the Vacant Property Ordinance. This will definitely affect property owners. The ordinance Steve was originally referencing is about renters rights. "Abandoned Property Registry" seems to be the title of the proposed ordinance.

Steve explained that there is a very aggressive agenda in the City Council regarding properties and blight. He is disturbed that it has been drafted quickly and during the summer when many neighborhood council hardly meet. He highly encouraged landowners to attend the City Council Meeting this coming Monday. He also brought up the policy regarding short term rentals, one to 29 days. There is also work happening around pedestrian safety and roads. With the new council majority, we will see the council taking leadership, not the mayor's office. A lookout is being considered to be constructed by the Saniford Bridge. This will be built by the developer of Kendall Yards. The design is to represent the trestle that used to cross the river. It will be handicap accessible. This is supposed to be a presentation to the neighborhoods. Steve talked with Jim Franks, he assured Steve he would approach the neighborhood council to present us with the proposal. It will be on park property, if approved. Jeff expressed concern that the developer would have the power to limit access. Steve said it is on the Centennial Trail and they cannot deny access.

Steve says, he hasn't seen a copy, but he's heard there is a draft of the proposed ordinance for rentals, both long and short term.

Park report. They were made aware of a grant that could apply \$5000 towards the Nettleton Project. They're gonna hit it hard and see if they can get that.

Kay brought up that Project Hope has sent us a letter offering to help with the Nettleton Project. They've offered to clean up the property. The discussion of partnership is subject to our neighborhood's participation in the future of Nettleton. The issue was brought up before the limited membership. Steve is issuing an executive order that he intends to call Heather and authorize that this group be given this opportunity. He will ask for the executive order to be approved next week. The city will get a release from Project Hope so that neither the city or the neighborhood will be responsible if an incident occurs. At this time, it is only for the one time offer to clean up the property. It was pointed out that using a neighborhood organization such as Project Hope, speaks in our favor when applying for a grant. Discussion was had regarding options for getting a vote to apply for the grant.

Meeting called to order at 7:26pm with 14

Welcome and Introductions:

Present:

Excused:

Absent:

Guests:

Approval of August Agenda and June & July Minutes

It was motioned, seconded and approved to accept Project Hope's offer.

Motion made and seconded to transfer \$1000 from streets to sidewalks.

Motion made, seconded and approved to approve the July minutes with edits. Passed.

Motioned made, seconded and approved to approve the June minutes with edits. Passed.

Standing Committee Reports – (All will be submitted in writing)

New Business – 911 Concerns –Fall Dump Passes

Discussion was had on applying for the Neighborhood Greening Grant.

Motion made and seconded to authorize the chair of the park to apply for the grant. Discussion continued. The \$5000 that we would apply for is only for materials. Concern that maintenance requirements may be linked. Larry will have to find out what will satisfy the city's maintenance requirements. Motion passed.

Project for traffic calming around the neighborhood pool has been approved by the city. Should be able to be completed by the time it opens next year.

There is an opportunity create a neighborhood profile to present ourselves online. Steve interested in learning more about that.

Fair Housing Basics Training on August 25th, 2014, 11am-1pm, bring own lunch, at the Lindeman Center, 315 W. Mission Ave, Spokane.

Jen has resigned as chair of the Neighborhood Community Building Committee. A training is taking place one Wednesday, August 27th. We need someone at the training as it concerns the transitions in the area of CDBG program and how it effects our neighborhoods. Between Jen's resignation, Kay's from two months, and Naomi's as the secretary, the executive council will only have four members. He needs a member at large and a secretary. Steve is asking for people to step forward.

One member has stepped up. Mike (Michael) Brakel. He will serve as the chair of the CDGB committee. He will go to the meeting on the 27th.

Executive Council meetings will be at the Community center at 6:30 pm every first Wednesday of the month.

Chair will entertain a motion for Mike to be the acting chair of the Community Development Committee and attending the Executive Council Meeting. Moved, Seconded, Approved.

Chair will entertain a motion to allow the chair of the parks committee to be an acting member of the executive council, subject to the modification of the bylaws and their approval by the membership. Motioned, Seconded, and passed.

Tim Burns: We've gone forward as a city to nominate and choose the five OPO commissioners. In the next few weeks, we will move forward with CD and community interests.

This Saturday, Unity in the Community, at Riverfront Park 10-4.

Fall Dump Passes: They have had the date and time, but tonight it was found out there may be a problem with this time. Discussion was had around how to distribute the passes. It has historically been done at the COPS Shop. We need to decide as a council, what time and what place. Some members felt the passes

only need to be available for four hours. Others felt that the passes should be available for the two weeks they are valid.

If we can still change postcards, that are about to go to printers, a motion was made and no approval was reached.

Motion to go with the current plan, distribution from West Central Community Center. Motion seconded and passes 9-2. It was suggested that an announcement could be put in the Spokesman and it could go on the reader board.

There was a special request to talk about 911. One member shared that she had three encounters with 911 in the last month. People don't have the tendency to call 911 on her block and there is a seemingly schizophrenic neighbor who she felt might endanger himself or put himself in harms way. She asked 911 to do a health and welfare check. The cops never showed. She called the ombudsman and he took a report and a sergeant called her. She found out the reason they didn't prioritize her call was because she said the individual was heading east on college. She said she's not the only one that calls 911 and no one shows up. She believes a discussion is necessary between individuals and 911 so that we communicate effectively to them so the police will come. She also stated that we need to start talking to social services about outreach in the Dutch Jake park on Broadway. She's asking for assistance in making calls to service providers. She doesn't feel they answer calls from citizens. Judith felt that a good point is made about learning how to talk to 911. She suggests that West Central invite someone from 911 to come and speak to us and help us learn to define things to a 911 officer. From there, maybe they can give us ideas on how and who to contact about social services. A community member who is not a council member was recognized to speak. He shared that he's witnessed shootings, stabbings, and other violence in the park and it was difficult to get cops to show up, if they did. He says its becoming known as "Needle Park". Steve will make a request for 911 to come and talk to us at the September or October Meeting. It was also suggested that Crime Check come speak to us.

Steve thanked people for coming.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:21pm.

Kevin Brownlee 328-3730