

WEST CENTRAL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

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: Mike Brakel at 509-993-3339 or at mbrakel36@gmail.com

Present: Arielle Anderson, Mike Brakel, Kevin Brownlee, Steve Corker, Naomi Flaherty, Judith Gilmore, Kay Howard, Jen Hussey, Christi Kimball, Steve Kounkel, Harry Lawrence, Kimberly Lawrence, Bonnie McInnis, Jake Miller, Helen Sandifur, Jo Ann Stewart, Stephanie Swan, Larry Swartz, Jeremy Williams.

Guests: Alicia Powell, Neighborhood Services; City Council Woman Karen Stratton; Heather Trautman, Community Housing and Health Services; Benjamin Serr; Keith Kelley.

Call to Order at 6:30pm

The Greening Grant presentation was made by Alicia Powell.

Opportunity was give to Counsel Woman Karen Stratton for comments. She and Counsel Woman Candice Mumm will be holding a mobile office next Tuesday, at 1:30-2:30pm at the Shadle Library. The Citizen's Hall of Fame is accepting nominations and the Spokane Library has information on the nomination process. Counsel Woman Stratton and Judith Gilmore attended a Mayor's Task Force meeting this morning on median income in Spokane versus Spokane County. Information and updates may become available on the city website.

It was motioned, seconded and approved to accept the Agenda.

Code Violation Breakdown Report was given.

February 18th, 6-7 at City Council Briefing Center Neighborhood Council Clean Up Orientation

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously voted to accept Mike Brakel as Chair of the West Central Neighborhood Council.

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously voted to accept Steve Kounkel as Treasure.

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously voted to elect Larry Swartz as Member at Large.

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously voted to elect Bonnie McInnis as Community Assembly Representative.

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously voted to elect Judith Gilmore as Community Development Representative.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously voted to close nominations for Secretary. The nominations are Naomi Flaherty and Jen Hussey.

Joanne Stuart was written in for Vice Chair.

Motioned made, second, and accepted that nominations be closed for the role of Vice Chair.

Reports:

Treasurer: No changes

(Clarify) Community Assembly: it was requested that we bring back our approval to the counsel of the pedestrian and transportation committee taking over custodianship of the bike trail amendments. There is a public hearing Wednesday February 25th at 4pm. It was also reported that the Short Term Rental Ordinance is making its way through City Council. This would allow someone in the residential zone to rent rooms for less than 30 days. The hearing will be in March. Next month the Community

Assembly will be considering next month about a rental house inspection program. Concern has been expressed that this will drive up the cost of rent. The question before the the community assembly is whether neighborhoods are interested to pursue this as an ordinance. Bonnie suggested we may need to take a vote as to whether West Central would express interest in moving forward with a conversation around a Rental House Inspection. This potential Ordinance would require an annual inspection of all month to month rentals. This is meant to protect the renter from exploitive or “slum” landlords.

It was moved and seconded that we support this discussion to the Community Assembly. Discussion ensued.

It was moved and seconded to suspend debate and take a vote on the motion.

The Council voted to instruct the Community Assembly Representative to state we support opening the dialogue with the Community Assembly on this important topic. Vote 15 to 1.

A count of the ballot was taken and Naomi Flaherty was elected Secretary.

Community Building report. They are going back to the beginning regarding the process of distributing the Federal Community Building funds. They are looking at possibly changing the process. The neighborhoods astoundingly told the city that what we want is a process very similar to what we had last year that also took into consideration the neighborhoods that are more economically challenged. No decisions have been made. The three things being considered are: who participates, how funds are allocated, and how decisions are made. There is a CA retreat Friday, Feb 20, 9am-2pm. There is dialogue around a vehicle Storage Ordinance. All Community Assembly information is available on the website.

Now is the time to start thinking about what projects we want to include when we apply for funds come the end of this year.

Parks Report: We need more involvement from neighbors attending the parks subcommittee each month. They will start again in March.

Community Center Announcement: there will be an event, Building Dreams, including a raffle and auction, at the Conventional Center downtown. Raffle tickets are a \$1 and are for a heated dog house. Funds raised are for several Community Centers, including our own, for activities for children and others.

Traffic Calming applications are open again. There was a consensus to request mobile traffic speed signs. The two locations are: Maxwell at Elm and Maple Street Bridge at Dean as you come off the bridge. (When these minutes were approved at the April 8, 2015 meeting, it was decided to note that the discussion at the February meeting regarding this topic was confused due to a misunderstanding around the difference between permanent and temporary traffic calming options.)

It was moved, seconded and accepted to extend the meeting by 15 minutes for discussion of traffic calming and remarks by the Retiring Chair.

We received an extension on the application for the traffic calming and red light project applications from the city. This will be on next month's agenda.

Remarks from Steve Corker. He thanks the leadership of this council. He stated that 2015 will be critical year. There are forces that may try to diminish the neighborhood involvement. He enjoyed working with us and he is not saying goodbye.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:11pm

Respectful Submitted,
Naomi Flaherty Secretary