

## **West Central Neighborhood Council (WCNC) Meeting Minutes**

**Newton Lounge, West Central Community Center**

**Date: July 8, 2026 Time: 6:30 PM – 8 PM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87067361169?pwd=QkJxTllzNExqcmFZa0QwUmQvelRhQT09>

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### **6:35 PM — Nate Call to Order & Approval of Minutes**

July meeting agenda and the June meeting minutes were approved.

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### **6:38 PM — Spokane Police Department: Neighborhood Resource Officer**

Officer Tyler Hieman, encouraged residents and council members to contact him with concerns regarding neighborhood issues, problem properties, or other community safety matters.

Email is the preferred method of contact.

#### **Contact Information:**

- Email: [theiman@spokanepolice.org](mailto:theiman@spokanepolice.org)
  - Phone: 509-873-4760
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### **6:40 PM — Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency: Air Quality Update**

Lisa from the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency provided an overview of the agency and discussed air-quality concerns in the Spokane area.

Key points included:

- The agency was formed in the late 1960s following the Washington State Clean Air Act. It is overseen by elected officials and receives funding from local, state, and federal entities.
- Businesses that emit significant pollutants are required to obtain permits. The agency works with businesses to ensure compliance and can issue citations for repeated violations.

- The agency board consists of council members from diverse backgrounds who provide guidance and recommendations.
- Daily and two-day air-quality forecasts are available, along with smoke and fire maps. Residents were encouraged to visit [spokanecleanair.org](http://spokanecleanair.org) for current information.
- The agency provides assistance to small businesses navigating air-quality requirements and regulations.
- Odors are considered air contaminants under Washington State law.
- The agency cannot enter private homes but can monitor chimneys for smoke levels and contaminants.
- Smoke monitoring requires specialized training and scientific knowledge.
- Residents were encouraged to stay informed about seasonal fire restrictions, which generally begin in June and continue through October.
- Approved outdoor-burning materials include dried firewood and pellets.
- Grant funding may be available to assist residents with replacing older wood stoves.
- The agency also offers asbestos programs related to renovation and demolition projects.

#### **Primary Spokane Air Pollutants:**

- **PM10:** Primarily associated with dust.
- **PM2.5:** Associated with combustion sources, including vehicles and outdoor wood burning.
- An AQI above 100 is considered unhealthy and indicates elevated pollution levels.
- Ground-level ozone is a significant summer pollutant and forms through a photochemical reaction involving sunlight and pollutants.
- Gas-up in the evening, when gassing up in the morning ozone peaks in the evening after engaging with sun rays all day.

Residents were encouraged to reduce exposure during periods of poor air quality by limiting time outdoors and staying indoors when appropriate. Additional information is available through [Smoke Ready Spokane](#).

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## **7:00 PM — Gonzaga Institute for Climate, Water & Environment**

Rowan and Kai, representing the Gonzaga Institute for Climate, Water & Environment, provided information about climate and heat-related resources in the Spokane community.

The Institute's work focuses on promoting environmental resilience and addressing challenges associated with a changing climate.

Key points included:

- Spokane County experienced 19 heat-related deaths in 2021.
- There can be approximately a 14-degree temperature difference between the hottest and coolest areas of Spokane.
- The number of days with AQI readings above 100 increased from an average of 2.6 days between 2000–2014 to 9.2 days between 2015–2025.
- An open forum regarding a proposed **Renter's Right to Cooling ordinance** was scheduled for July 15.
- The Institute's website provides resources including cooling maps and information about cooling hubs. Cooling hubs include public libraries, the West Central Community Center, the Maxey Center, and other community locations.
- Members can contact the Institute at [ClimateInstitute@gonzaga.edu](mailto:ClimateInstitute@gonzaga.edu) for additional information.

## **7:12 PM — Congressional Candidate: Bajun Mavalwalla, 5th District**

Bajun grew up in Stevens County. The 5<sup>th</sup> district is bigger than the the size of Maryland and includes a significant veteran population. Bajun discussed challenges facing the district, including farmers ability to obtain affordable parts and resources needed to repair agricultural equipment. Bajun expressed a desire to help all members of the community, regardless of political affiliation or partisan lines.

## **7:17 PM — Meeting Time, August Event & Treasurer**

Nate led a discussion regarding the council's new meeting schedule, the August community event, and the treasurer position.

### **Meeting Time:**

Survey results showed that the meeting time did not matter, while 6:00 PM and 6:30 PM received equal votes. Following discussion, the council voted to move meetings to **6:15 PM**.

Beginning **September 1**, West Central Neighborhood Council meetings will be held on the **first Tuesday of each month at 6:15 PM.** \*\*The council noted that the meeting time can be revisited if the new schedule does not work well for members.\*\*

**August Event:**

There will be **no regular WCNC meeting in August.** Instead, the council will participate in an event in the park.

The council discussed sponsoring **COPS West** for the event, which would allow COPS West to host the event and have the park fee waived. The Neighborhood Council voted to sponsor COPS West for the event.

**Adjournment**

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**Next Meeting:**

Tuesday, September 1, 2026 at 6:15PM