

West Central Neighborhood Council (WCNC) Meeting Minutes

Newton Lounge, West Central Community Center

Date: June 10, 2026 Time: 6:30 PM – 8 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87067361169?pwd=QkJxTllzNEhqcmFZa0QwUmQvelRhQT09>

6:35PM – Call to Order by Nate Gwinn

Quorum: Met

6:38PM – June agenda and May minutes approved

6:40 PM – Officer Spearing, Neighborhood Safety Report

- Neighborhood Resource Officer (NRO) Hice is out for training and leave, Officer Hineman will temporarily cover the Northwest NRO area. When Hice returns from leave, he will be at the academy training new officers on polygraph examinations.
- Officer Spearing acknowledged community concerns regarding e-bikes. New regulations now require drivers to possess a license and wear appropriate safety equipment.
- Recent reports of vehicle prowls and thefts in the neighborhood were reviewed. While several incidents initially appeared random, many were determined to have identifiable contributing factors. Residents are reminded to:
 - Lock all vehicle doors and windows.
 - Never leave keys inside vehicles.
 - Keep valuables out of sight.
- If you are unsure whether an incident should be reported to Crime Check or 911, call 911. Dispatchers will determine the appropriate response.

6:46 PM – Zach Zappone, City Council Report

Data Centers

- Council has heard significant public concern regarding proposed data center development.
- A vote on a temporary moratorium is expected at the next meeting to pause future proposals while additional review occurs.
- The currently discussed project is rumored to be outside Spokane city limits. However, a city moratorium would apply to future proposals within city limits.
- Residents with concerns about projects in unincorporated Spokane County are encouraged to contact the County Commissioner Chris Jordan at [509-477-2265](tel:509-477-2265) or cjordan@spokanecounty.org.
- Also discussed challenges associated with tax credits and other development incentives when considering a moratorium.

Spokane Transit Authority (STA)

- The previously approved 0.2% sales tax increase is scheduled to begin in August.
- Federal transportation funding is dependent upon demonstrating successful implementation of recent transit expansion projects.
- Revenue from parking lot increases also supports these efforts.

Cooling Ordinance

- Council continues discussions regarding a proposed cooling ordinance intended to address climate change and safe indoor living conditions.
- Concerns have been raised about potential impacts on housing affordability and the financial burden placed on property owners.
- Affordable housing providers have voiced concerns regarding the ordinance's impact on existing affordable housing stock.
- Earlier proposals referencing an indoor temperature threshold of 80 degrees have been revised. Alternative approaches, including assistance programs for air conditioning installations, are being discussed.
- Council indicated they believe they have heard the major perspectives and are working toward a future vote.

Homelessness Response

- The City continues implementing a tiered response system focused on connecting unhoused individuals with available services before enforcement measures are considered.
- Council acknowledged that available resources remain insufficient to meet current demand.
- Housing affordability and availability continues to be a major challenge.
- The Housing Equity and Attainability Trust (HEART) Fund collects approximately \$6 million annually to support affordable housing initiatives.

Neighbors wishing to share feedback with city council may contact:

- Zach Zappone zzappone@spokanecity.org
- Kitty Klitzke kklitzke@spokanecity.org

Salary Review Commission

- The Salary Review Commission will be considering City Council compensation. City council members currently make \$53,000 per year with most working other jobs.
- Zach noted that if compensation is not adjusted, recommendations have suggested reducing council commitments, including limiting attendance at Neighborhood Council meetings.
- To contact the salary review commission:

Council Office Liaison

Christopher Wright

[509.625.6210](tel:509.625.6210)

cwright@spokanecity.org

7:04 PM – Target Zero Traffic Safety

John Griffin

- John Griffin has over 20 years of experience with traffic safety initiatives and served seven years as a Traffic Sergeant.
- Target Zero is based on the philosophy that no traffic fatalities are acceptable.

Current programs include:

- High Visibility Enforcement (HVE)
- Teens in the Driver Seat
- Community Outreach

Highlights:

- Spokane continues to experience pedestrian fatalities, making pedestrian safety a priority.
- Many teens delay driver's education until age 18 or begin driving without formal training.
- Crash data shows drivers ages 16–17 who complete driver's education experience lower crash rates than first-time drivers beginning at age 18.
- John expressed interest in returning driver's education programs to local schools.
- Whether walking, biking, or driving, everyone benefits from safer roadways.

Additional resources:

- SpokaneSharesTheRoad.com provides educational videos, traffic laws, and safety reminders.
- Target Zero partners with local organizations on seasonal safety campaigns, designated driver initiatives, and public education.
- The program currently has limited staffing and welcomes neighborhood partnerships for localized safety campaigns.

Traffic Cameras

- John discussed need to expand traffic safety cameras to additional areas, including portions of the South Hill.
- He emphasized that cameras should be installed where they improve safety rather than simply generate revenue.

7:22 PM – Traffic Safety Updates

Brian Muegge

Topics included:

- Safe Streets for All Program Maple Street Bridge Traffic Calming Project (currently in preliminary for DOWL Scoping Success cycle 15)
 - Street Vision SPD Pilot Program utilizing anonymous cellphone data to track vehicle speeds.
 - City Council recently approved updated penalties for excessive speeding and street racing.
 - Mobile speed trailers remain deployed throughout the neighborhood. Speed trailers display vehicle speeds but do not record data.
 - While school may be out, pay attention to posted signs, playgrounds and parks remain 20 mph.
 - "Quick Build" transportation projects continue to provide lower-cost improvements while permanent infrastructure is planned.
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7:29 PM – Spokane Zero Waste

Lisa

- Spokane Zero Waste is partnering with River City Youth to improve community resilience while reducing waste.
- Current programs have diverted more than 4,000 pounds of textile waste from landfills and provided approximately \$50,000 in free repair services.
- Spokane faces increasing pressure to modernize waste facilities to be compliant with state regulations.
- The 2021 Heat Dome resulted in 19 heat-related deaths in Spokane and highlighted west central neighborhood with limited tree canopy and excessive heat exposure.

Urban Shade Project

- Pilot project located at West Central Abbey in partnership with River City Youth.
- Uses recycled textiles to create shaded community spaces while trees mature, must see the Monarch butterfly pathway in our neighborhood and throughout the city.
- Community members are encouraged to participate in designing culturally inclusive gathering spaces.

- Spokane Zero Waste is partnering with the Climate Institute and Spokane Regional Health District to educate residents on heat impacts and gather community input.
- The organization is seeking Neighborhood Council funding support for future projects.

More information is available at SpokaneZeroWaste.org

7:40 PM – Neighborhood Council Business

Facilitated by Nate

Meeting Schedule

- Newton Lounge is available for meetings on multiple dates.
- Following discussion, members voted to move regular Neighborhood Council meetings to the first Tuesday of each month, while further discussion is needed on meeting time.
- July 8 will be the final Wednesday meeting.
- An additional community survey will be distributed to gather broader neighborhood feedback regarding meeting times.

Community Engagement Grant Proposal (\$850)

Proposed funding includes:

- Neighborhood Block Party: \$350
 - Neighborhood Council advertising costs: \$300
 - Zoom license renewal: \$200
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7:55 PM – Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report

- Current account balance: \$5,145.48
- Reimbursement from the recent Recycling Roll-Off Event will be added before the next meeting.

Community Assembly Report

- Report will be distributed separately via email.
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7:58 PM – Open Public Forum

Phillip Wibisono: Budget shortfalls for state universities

- Expressed deep concern regarding declining federal and state grant funding, with reduced funding significantly impacting graduate programs and education.
- Encouraged residents to advocate for continued investment in higher education research and grant funding.

Jill Yotz: Housing availability and the City's proposed cooling ordinance

- Discussed concerns regarding the proposed cooling ordinance and its impact on Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing (NOAH).
- Emphasized the importance of partnerships and funding assistance before implementing new housing requirements.

Lorna: Acknowledgement and moment of silence for Marshall Peterson, Jr., West Central PorchFest Founder

Community Announcements:

- Attend the Rock the Block event on July 18th at The Listening Room, featuring community booths, music, refreshments, and neighborhood activities.