West Central Neighborhood Council (WCNC) Meeting Minutes

Newton Lounge, West Central Community Center

Date: October 6th, 2026, Time: 6:15PM – 7:45PM

6:18 PM — Nate Call to Order

The October meeting agenda and September meeting minutes were approved.

6:22 Amber Groe – Office of Neighborhood Services

- **Spokane Neighborhood Summit:** Free event on November 7th, that includes a day of education and networking with different workshops to choose from. Register online at: https://my.spokanecity.org/neighborhoods/programs/spokane-neighborhood-summit/
- **Call 311 instead of Crime Check:** The city is preparing to transition all non-emergency calls to 311 by the end of October. The goal is to streamline reporting by providing one central number. Don't forget to download the My Spokane 311 app on your phone.
- **BUILD Spokane Comprehensive Plan:** The City is seeking community feedback on its 20-year comprehensive plan and proposed development code. The survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete, with comments due November 15th. For more information and to submit feedback, visit: https://engage.spokane.gov/build-spokane
- **Spokane Neighborhood Leadership Academy:** A free, five-month leadership program meeting once per month. The program is geared toward individuals interested in serving in neighborhood council or committee leadership roles and typically includes mentorship opportunities. Applications are due December 31st. You can find more information and submit your application here: https://my.spokanecity.org/neighborhoods/programs/leadership-academy/
- **Want to Give Recognition:** Community members are encouraged to nominate individuals or organizations who deserve recognition. You can view the categories and submit nominations online at: https://my.spokanecity.org/neighborhoods/community-assembly/awards/

6:38PM Nicholas Ulrich – District Court Judge Position 4 Candidate

Nicholas Ulrich introduced himself as a candidate for District Court Judge Position 4. He shared that he was raised in Spokane and graduated from the University of Washington School of Law. For the last several years, Nicholas has served as a substitute judge in several courts including Spokane and Airway Heights. Additional information on Nicholas can be found here https://nicholasulrichforjudge.com/endorsements/.

Remember to cast your votes by November 3rd.

6:43PM Joe Richter – Centennial Ridge Townhome Subdivision Update

- The proposed development has been reduced to 25 three-story town homes. All units will include two car garages.
- The current design includes duplex-style buildings, allowing windows on at least three sides of each unit rather than placing several units in a row.
- Green spaces throughout the property have been expanded, with consideration of proper vegetation.
- Located at the corner of West College Avenue and North Summit Blvd, with views of the Spokane River. The project presents an opportunity to revitalize an area that was previously gated off and overgrown, creating a more accessible and welcoming space for the community.

6:53 PM Heather Smith – A.M. Cannon Park Design Update

Heather provided an update on the AM Cannon Park refresh project, focusing on ways to bring more activity into the park and create a safe, welcoming environment for everyone.

Discussion included:

- **Phase 1:** Anticipated to begin in Fall 2027.
- **Restrooms:** Plans include rebuilding the park bathrooms.
- **Positive Activation:** Encouraging increased use of park spaces and positive community activity to help discourage criminal activity and create a welcoming atmosphere.

- **Feedback:** Community members are encouraged to submit comments and suggestions to Heather Smith at hmsmith@spokanecity.org.

7:03 PM – Internal Committee Reports

- **Committee Volunteers:** The Council is seeking additional committee members and welcomes all volunteers. Anyone interested in participating in committees is encouraged to email wcnc.secretary@gmail.com.
- **Treasurer Appreciation and Report:** Thank you to co-treasurers Tina and Stephanie for their continued work and support. A fundraising policy is currently being developed as part of the Council's 501(c)(3).
- **Community Assembly Alternate Update:** Comments on the 2046 Comprehensive Plan have officially closed; however, residents may still submit comments to the Planning Commission: plancommission@spokanecity.org. The next public hearing is scheduled for November. There is also an open position on the Urban Canopy Committee, and interested residents are encouraged to contact the Community Assembly.
- **Traffic Committee:** Cycle 15 preparations are underway, and comment deadline is approaching. You can find more information online: https://my.spokanecity.org/neighborhoods/programs/traffic-calming/
  Proposed traffic circles are planned for Dean Avenue and Elm Street, followed by Dean Avenue and Nettleton Street. Traffic circles are preferred because they can be installed relatively quickly and help address unprotected four-way intersections.
- **Welcoming Committee:** The committee reported a successful effort, with more than 100 welcome bags assembled and distributed to new neighbors. Special thanks to OutWest Wines & Ciders and Hat Trick Brewing for donating promotional materials.
- **Arts Commission:** The Arts Commission will be working with WCNC to explore fundraising opportunities for neighborhood signage.

7:16 Zach Zappone – City Council Update

- **Traffic Calming and Maple Street Bridge:** Discussions regarding traffic calming measures and the Maple Street Bridge are ongoing.

- **Security Lighting:** The Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) still has a supply of solar-powered, motion-activated security lights available. Property owners and homeowners can request a light online: https://my.spokanecity.org/neighborhoods/programs/residential-light/
- **City Budget:** Budget season is approaching, and the mayor has released a preliminary budget. The city is facing an estimated $20 million deficit, prompting discussions about how to address the shortfall, including a proposed sales tax. Spokane County is facing an even larger deficit and has indicated that some of its costs may be passed along to City entities. To view the current and preliminary budgets, visit: https://my.spokanecity.org/budget/
- **Fire Recovery and Emergency Planning:** Evacuations and fire recovery remain significant topics. Discussions included how to manage high volumes of traffic during emergencies while maintaining slower traffic speeds during normal conditions.

7:35PM – Open Forum

Brian Muegge

- Shared information about a new tavern on Broadway Avenue, Natatorium Tavern, that is almost ready to open.
- The business is seeking historical memorabilia and artifacts. Community members with items or information are encouraged to reach out to Brian at brianamuegge@gmail.com.

Jessie Norris

- Reported that Porchfest was extremely successful and generated significant positive community feedback.
- Thanked Greenstone and the Native Project for their generous donations.
- Porchfest is expected to return next year.

Eric Robison

- Raised concerns about the increasing number of brush fires in the neighborhood and the need to reevaluate areas where the city has focused vegetation thinning efforts.

- Following discussions with city council member Kitty, Eric suggested that the neighborhood take a more proactive approach rather than waiting for city-led initiatives.
- Proposed forming a neighborhood group to address fire safety and vegetation management.
- Eric will begin addressing vegetation around his surrounding area in hopes of encouraging other residents to participate.
- Neighborhood cleanup events focused specifically on vegetation removal were also discussed as a possible next step.

7:50 PM meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: November 3rd, 2026.