West Central Neighborhood Council (WCNC) Meeting Minutes

Newton Lounge, West Central Community Center

Date: September 1, 2026, Time: 6:15PM – 7:45PM

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

6:20 PM — Nate Call to Order

The September meeting agenda and July meeting minutes were approved.

6:25 PM — Neighborhood Clean-Up and Action

Presenters: Victoria, Neighborhood Clean-Up Coordinator, and Wilson w/ RCY

- The Neighborhood Clean-Up program not only facilitates clean-up events but also helps connect neighborhoods with available resources.
- Efforts are underway to build partnerships that can sustain neighborhood clean-ups and support areas such as the Nettleton Triangle.
- A current project involves cleaning up the concrete holes and swales along Broadway, which may have originally been intended for gardens.
- RCY has been operating for more than 20 years under various names and provides enrichment opportunities for youth, including employment programs.
- Residents were encouraged to attend RCY events. Community involvement provides important opportunities to engage with youth and better understand how residents would like to see the West Central neighborhood operate and develop.
- Produce grown in the RCY garden is provided to youth participating in programs and used for dinners and events. Excess produce is donated to West Central Abbey and Our Place.
- RCY's Bike Fest program at Holmes Elementary is continuing. The next Bike Bus will begin the following week, with adults riding alongside youth on their way to school.
- Whitworth students, led by Meredith, assist with neighborhood clean-ups and youth programs. Students have also helped with community projects such as box fan and air filter setups.
- Residents were encouraged to participate in the next scheduled clean-up event, date and time to be announced.

- Residents were invited to learn more about RCY at RCYouth.org and visit the Monarch Pathway and West Central Abbey.

6:41 PM — Neighborhood Safety Report

Presenter: Captain Spiering

- Code Enforcement is interested in assisting with the Nettleton Triangle and neighborhood clean-up efforts, including the use of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.
- Camping and homeless-related enforcement were discussed, including the distinction between offering assistance and enforcement when individuals decline assistance.
- The group discussed the differences between private property, utility rights-of-way, and commercial property, as well as questions surrounding access, camping enforcement, and trash removal.
- Vehicle prowling was identified as the #1 call type in the neighborhood over the past month. Many reports involved vehicles that were left unlocked or had valuables visible inside.
- Traffic concerns were discussed. Nate recommended that residents email him directly with specific traffic concerns so he can help determine the appropriate approach for addressing them: nspiering@spokanepolice.org
- Residents were warned about reported porch-pirating activity. A white four-door Dodge Ram pickup, reportedly occupied by a woman and two men working together, has been observed allegedly scouting areas and stealing packages.

6:57 PM — City Council Update

Presenter: Kitty Klitzke

- A vote on tenant fire protections was scheduled for the following day, with discussion including circumstances such as tenants potentially losing employment.
- Continued discussion of ongoing need for clean-up efforts at the Nettleton Triangle.
- Four bands are currently scheduled for Porch Fest.
- The next West Central Block Party will be held on September 19th from 4:00–6:00 PM at Dutch Jakes Park, which is celebrating its 50th year.
- The PlanSpokane Comprehensive Plan remains in progress, and residents still have an opportunity to submit comments and recommendations. The comment deadline is October 2nd.

- Kitty clarified that the Comprehensive Plan serves as a guideline for how the city may proceed if land is sold or developed. A designation does not guarantee that an area will ultimately be developed that way.
- The plan is expected to be completed by December and can be revisited annually.

7:06 PM — West Central Wildfire Remediation

Presenter: Liz Marlin

- The focus is on preventing wildfires and protecting the neighborhood.
- West Central is considered a high-risk neighborhood as the climate becomes warmer and summers become drier.
- The River Gulch area presents significant wildfire risk due to timber, brush, and camping.
- Government resources alone may not be sufficient to address the neighborhood's wildfire risks, making community involvement important.
- Creating defensible spaces can help prevent fires from spreading and provide protection for surrounding areas.
- One goal is to prevent crown fires, where flames spread into the tops of trees. Keeping fires on the ground gives firefighters a better opportunity to contain them. The fire at People's Park last fall was discussed as an example where the fire remained primarily on the ground and did not spread into the trees.
- There is currently significant work underway, but additional volunteers are needed to help organize and participate in events.
- The group expressed interest in organizing a wildfire remediation event in October.
- #1 recommendation for homeowners was to remove arborvitae, which were described as highly flammable vegetation.
- Residents were encouraged to sign up for emergency alerts and download relevant emergency preparedness apps:
    - https://www.spokanecounty.gov/3007/Alert-Spokane

7:21 PM — Treasurer Position

The council discussed the open Treasurer position.

- Tina Hammond was identified as a potential candidate to accept the position, which she later confirmed. We are so excited to have you, Tina!
- The council also reported that $107 was raised from the most recent roll-off event.

7:29 PM — Community Assembly Report

- The next Community Assembly meeting will be held Thursday, 9/3 at Shadle Park Library.
- Disposal passes are currently available, with 11 passes remaining.
- $30 disposal vouchers are available through October 1.

7:31 PM — Traffic Safety Report

Presenter: Brian Muegge

- Traffic safety will be a primary focus of the city council's next meeting.
- Residents were encouraged to attend to hear from guest speakers and learn more about traffic safety concerns and potential solutions.

7:33 PM — Open Forum

Jessie Norris

Jessie Norris with REACH provided information about Porch Fest.

- Porch Fest is a neighborhood music festival where residents and businesses provide spaces for musical performances.
- The event will take place September 12th from 3:00–7:00 PM.
- The event was originally started by Marshall Peterson, paused during COVID-19, and has since been reinstated with sponsorship from REACH.

Mike Valerian

Mike Valerian, a court commissioner, introduced himself and shared that he is running for District Court Judge.

Jimmy Mattern

Jimmy Mattern, who recently moved to Spokane, shared observations and ideas regarding neighborhood parking and land use.

- He noted concerns about parking violations, including vehicles parked on the wrong side of the street.
- He also discussed underutilized areas, such as the Gorge, and concerns about residents avoiding certain spaces because of perceived crime and safety issues.
- Jimmy suggested that West Central could potentially serve as a pilot area for improving parking practices and exploring more effective use of available land, with successful approaches potentially spreading to other areas of Spokane.

- He also expressed interest in bringing residents together for neighborhood clean-ups and wildfire remediation efforts.

Brian Muegge

Brian Muegge announced an upcoming Spokane Riverkeeper event on the Centennial Trail at Barker Road Trailhead on September 3rd from 3:00–7:00 PM.

- Topics will include drought and other concerns affecting the Spokane River.

7:45PM Adjournment

Next WCNC meeting:

October 6th, 2026

6:15-7:45PM