

Southgate Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 3/8/2023

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: ESD 101 on Regal Street and by Zoom.

Attendees	Zoom Attendees	Guests
Jerry Boyd	Rita Conner	Sergeant Brent Austin-Spokane Police Dept.
Allen Edwards		Patrick Strider - ONS
Andy Hoyer		
Lynda McPhee		
Dave M.		
Shelley O'Rourke		

Presentations

Sergeant Brent Austin – Spokane Police Department

- ❖ Calls for service are mainly around Regal and 53 and 55th.
- ❖ Calls to the apartments have slowed in the last month.
- ❖ The department is 2 months into a new shift configuration and it takes 1 to 1 ½ years to adjust.
- ❖ Q: What are you seeing at Camp Hope?
 - 82 residents down from 750. Calls are way down but the calls for medical service and police to the Trent Resource and Assistance Center (TRAC) are way up in the area (3 in January 2022 and 247 in January 2023). There are 350 beds. TRAC is safer for residents and services are offered. 2 officers are dedicated to the facility and there are 2 security guards. The Fire Department won't go without the police. Arrests are probably less than 20.
 - Businesses in the area are experiencing more crime. The Salvation Army, which runs the center, is trying to be proactive by using vans in the area to try and get that population back to the center for services.
- ❖ Q: Are you seeing the use of the animal tranquilizer which is a problem in Philadelphia?

- Fentanyl is still the big thing in Spokane which tends to be behind other cities as far as drugs. The Sinaloa Cartel controls the drug trade out of the Tri-Cities. The drug runners come up from there for sales.
- ❖ Q: How is recruitment?
 - Not as good as it was. We are competing with other agencies that are offering more. The city is trying to fix some of those things. We are currently filling 6 or 7 out of 10 training spots.

Patrick Striker – Director, Office of Neighborhood Services

- ❖ Patrick will be the Southgate liaison to ONS.
- ❖ Clean-up:
 - Dump passes are out. There is a correlation between how the neighborhood looks and crime.
 - Southgate has applied for a clean-up event.
 - He likes the big clean up events for building community.
- ❖ Community Engagement Grants of \$850:
 - Training is next week.
 - Funds to be used for events that build community.
- ❖ Traffic Calming:
 - Mobile Radar Requests are due April 7 and coordinated by Annie Deasy.
 - Neighbors drive 25 signs are available at City Hall. There is anecdotal evidence that suggests that these decrease speed.
 - Controlling speeds creates better attitudes and reduces crime.
 - As regards the intersection of Thurston and Pittsburgh, Patrick likes to defer to the city experts on traffic calming.
- ❖ The South Hill library is set to reopen March 21.

Neighborhood Business

Minutes – Allen recommended approval and Jerry seconded. Passed.

Treasurer's Report – Andy Hoyer

- ❖ \$1,028.21 in checking.
- ❖ The Annual Report for WA and Notice of Acceptance was received.
- ❖ Annual Report (990-N) was sent to the IRS and accepted.

Community Assembly Report – March 2 – See notes at the end of minutes

- ❖ There will be a Townhall meeting on March 20. Southgate will be asked to present at a future Townhall meeting. We have some materials but some volunteer effort will be required to create a Power Point. We can talk about this at the April meeting.
- ❖ Traffic calming applications are due 4/7. Rita, Andy and Summer will make sure that Southgate submits something, perhaps projects from a prior list. We note that 44th and Freya and Thurston and Pittsburg intersections are important.
- ❖ There is an ONS newsletter and Summer will put the link on Southgate's website.
- ❖ Engagement grant training is 3/13. Andy will attend.

PeTT Committee Meeting on February 28 – Rita

- ❖ Colin Quinn-Hurst and Tyler Kimbrell, Assistant Planners with the city, reported on the grant Safe Streets and Roads for All, focusing on pedestrians and cyclists.
- ❖ The bike parking survey results were shared.

Land Use Committee

- ❖ The Building Opportunity for Housing project has a survey on housing and there is a link on our website.
- ❖ Rita took the survey and said it was aimed at people who did not have secure housing. The follow up talked about building more duplexes and townhouses to increase housing availability. See <https://my.spokanecity.org/projects/shaping-spokane-housing> for more information on proposed code changes. You can make comments by emailing developmentcode@spokanecity.org. Perhaps we should have someone come and talk about it.
- ❖ A state law passed this week that allows a 6 plex to be allowed on single family residence lots.

Updates - Thurston at Pittsburg

Andy says the solution to calming Thurston at Pittsburg traffic is not a done issue as far as Southgate is concerned. The city has decided that bump outs that cost \$22,000 are the solution while the neighborhood desired solution is a stop sign at

a cost of \$2,600. Rita received an email from a PeTT committee member with different stop sign suggestions. Patrick Striker is aware of the situation.

Suggested future speakers/guests:

YMCA

N-S freeway update. WSDOT wants to come and talk to us.

Shaping Spokane Housing and code changes

Next meeting – April 12, 7:00 p.m. by zoom and in person at ESD 101

CA meeting Notes – March 2, 2023 – via Webex

21 neighborhoods present

The PCTAB re wrote the bicycle parking code for future buildings – to encourage more safe storage for bikes.

Councilmember Kinnear: The Council finally approved a Housing Security ordinance requiring landlords to provide safer rentals, will require registration of landlords, a business license. The CC also approved an ordinance providing police with more tools to stop human trafficking centered around massage parlors.

The CC is plans to use tax incentives to encourage developers to build more vertical workforce housing downtown, by converting parking lots to mixed use buildings – ten years of no taxes.

Randy McGlenn: A committee is working on developing a hybrid format for CA meetings. WSDOT still wants to talk about the N-S corridor at a CA meeting. He is asking for topics for discussion at the March 30 CA/CC meeting.

Patrick Striker, ONS: They are still hiring a fourth employee. There will be a Townhall meeting on March 20. Traffic calming applications are due April 7. **[Do we need to update our requests???**] Newsletter forthcoming. There are “Neighbors drive 25” signs available, also mobile speed feedback signs. Dump Passes are available online now. We are reminded that clean neighborhoods have less crime. The Engagement Grant training is March 13. The budget for each neighborhood will be \$850. The current understanding is that neighborhoods still need to buy liability insurance for individual park events – can run \$800 or more. Striker will report back on this.

The CA voted to encourage ONS to hire a facilitator from Gonzaga University.

The CA voted to allow all liaisons to have access to the master ONS email distribution list.

The Strategic Planning Committee is still meeting, no report yet.

The CA voted to continue to allow recording of the meetings, and is reminded that we must comply with OPMA requirements.

The CC housing action subcommittee will be recommending a uniform background check form for all landlords, and will be resuming regular meetings.

The possibility of joint meetings (more than one neighborhood council participating in the same meeting) was discussed.

The City Line kickoff will be July 15 from 11:00 AM until 2:00 PM...free rides.