

Southgate Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 4/12/2023

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: ESD 101 on Regal Street and by Zoom.

Attendees	Zoom Attendees	Guests
Summer Beers	Barbara Brassard	Sergeant Brent Austin-Spokane Police Dept.
Jerry Boyd	<u>Kris Neely</u>	
Rita Conner	<u>Katie Houlihan</u>	Patrick Strider – ONS <u>(by zoom)</u>
Allen Edwards	<u>Tim Houlihan</u>	
Andy Hoyer		<u>Betsy Wilkerson – City Council (by zoom)</u>
Paul Kropp		
Shelley O'Rourke		
Jean Wells		

Presentations

Sergeant Brent Austin – Spokane Police Department

- ❖ 53rd and Regal is the epicenter of crime for Southgate.
- ❖ Southgate is one of the fastest growing neighborhoods so there are more incidents involving the police and more theft.
- ❖ Q: What is happening at Shopko? Calls to Shopko are mostly trespass calls.
- ❖ Muv fitness is going into the old Albertson's on Grand and 37th.
- ❖ Police staffing is in flux. Recruiting is trending down. 21 positions are not filled of the 356 authorized.
- ❖ Q: The state ban on assault weapons passed so will there be a buyback program? Current owners are grandfathered in but future sales are stopped.
- ❖ Q: Did the state pursuit rules change? Yes, justification was reduced from "probable cause" to "reasonable suspicion" but it won't change Spokane procedures much.

Betsy Wilkerson – City Council

- ❖ Salary and benefits for lateral transfers to the police force are being looked at by the city to encourage these transfers.

- ❖ The mayor is holding a budget town hall meeting at the South Hill library on May 9, 5 – 7 pm. The city is in a deficit position with some issues being union contract negotiations and homelessness. The police contract is in negotiation with a demand to increase salary 7-9%.
- ❖ A workshop on the north/south corridor connection is at the Hive on May 10. 5:30-7 pm. Options have been narrowed to 2 proposals and community input is wanted. What will access to and from the South Hill be like?
- ❖ There will be a meeting on community engagement on homelessness at the Downtown library on April 13, 5:30-7 pm.
- ❖ TRAC will require \$10 million to fund through the end of the year. To close the Cannon St shelter and move those people to TRAC will cost \$4 million.
- ❖ Hello for Good, the downtown business consortium, is bringing the woman who helped to design Houston's model on homelessness in to speak at the Davenport Grand on May 9, 8-10 am.
- ❖ Q: What is the big spend out of the \$14 million? The biggest amount is spent on staffing. Currently Salvation Army administration costs are 24%.
- ❖ Q: Has there been any success getting the county or the valley to help pay? The 90-day Discovery for Homelessness has started for the city, county and valley to determine an effective plan to manage homelessness. If it is determined that a regional approach would be best, an amendment to the city charter would be required by the city because the charter currently requires the city council to approve all funding. It is a challenge for all the parties involved to give up control.
- ❖ Q: Where are the homeless people from? They are from within 75 miles so they are from our region.

Patrick Striker – Director, Office of Neighborhood Services – Note that his zoom reception was not good

- ❖ Traffic calming – Southgate's mobile radar submission was made.
- ❖ Drive 25 signs are available.
- ❖ The vote on the traffic calming projects submitted is in May and neighbors can participate.
- ❖ The Engagement Grant application is due mid-June.

- ❖ ONS is working on changes to the city's current insurance requirements for neighborhood events to make them more affordable to put on. Low risk activities may not need insurance. Spokane Parks Foundation sponsoring the events may be another option.
- ❖ Volunteer opportunities can be found at www.volunteerspokane.org/need
- ❖ Dump passes are available.
- ❖ The ONS newsletter is now linked on the ONS website.
- ❖ Summer will follow up with Patrick regarding the clean up of Hazel's Creek and Ben Burr.

Neighborhood Business

Minutes – Allen recommended approval and Jerry seconded. Passed.

Treasurer's Report – Andy Hoyer

- ❖ \$1,028.21 in checking.

Community Assembly Report – April 6 – See notes at the end of minutes

Engagement Grant

- ❖ The grant is for \$850 and the application deadline is in June.
- ❖ The grant is to help us engage the neighborhood and increase participation in the neighborhood council.
- ❖ Southgate used it to renew zoom license in the past.
- ❖ Other possibilities are events but the insurance for those is expensive and the grant money cannot be used for the insurance. In addition, someone needs to organize the event and no one in the room raised their hand to do so.
- ❖ It is now possible to use up to \$100 for food.
- ❖ Officer Austin says that the other neighborhood meetings that he attends have the same low turnout that Southgate has.

PeTT - Rita

- ❖ The committee is looking for a new leader.
- ❖ Street Art
 - The first street mural will be the rainbow at 12th and Perry.

- The funds for the painted crosswalks are coming out of traffic calming funds. Carol Tomsic said a study showed that they can calm traffic. Paul has read that they are shown to improve safety.
- Lincoln Heights hopes to be chosen. They have a neighborhood artist who wants to design it and neighbors that want to paint but liability is a problem.
- ❖ Policies and procedures for the committee need to be updated.
- ❖ Rita completed the housing survey and reported it seemed like it was really aimed at people who are struggling to obtain housing. Rita is going to the city meeting on housing.

Clean Up – Summer

- ❖ Ben Burr
 - Parks want to do the clean-up but there might be the opportunity to help mulch beds.
 - Summer will walk through and see what neighbors can do and will check on insurance requirements.
- ❖ Hazel's Creek
 - We have received complaints that it is overgrown but the City says that those conditions are good for wildlife.
 - Summer will organize a presentation.
- ❖ The extra neighborhood pickup is tomorrow!

Updates

Kris completed the broadband surveys for Southgate.

Next meeting – May 10, 7:00 p.m. by zoom and in person at ESD 101

CA Meeting April 6, 2023 Notes – via Zoom

19 Neighborhoods present – This was a hurried meeting due to Striker/facilitator needing to leave

Leslie Hope introduced herself as the CHHS liaison. She said there was an annual allocation within a 5-year consolidated plan, a 30 day comment period from 4/5/22 to 5-5-22 and stated the remaining CDBG funds that weren't allocated were put into affordable housing/rapid housing projects.

-Leslie Quick asked what happened to their \$20 thousand CDBG funds for a trail. There was no answer. Betsy Wilkerson said the council members had no input.

Fran said there was a Shred Day at COPS NW on Friday 4/28 from 11-2 pm. She said the Park's Make A Splash donation was on and low-income residents would benefit.

Gail Cropper said Building Stronger Neighborhoods discussed their future meeting location. It would be at WCCC for their 4/18/23 meeting. She asked everyone to review their proposed goals to spark interest in their meeting. She said the budget committee had their fifth member.

Randy said there was no facilitator for this meeting and that Patrick would give an update (see later). They had the survey results from the email sent to the neighborhoods. He was working with the city on technology for hybrid meetings. He ran out of time to give an update on the CA/CC meeting other than a succession plan was discussed.

Susan - Apologized to everyone for having to put up with the West Hills problem. She said, in reference to homeless, HUD and the Department of Commerce have put all the money into just one neighborhood - West Hills.

Betsy Wilkerson said the council was on Spring Break. She reiterated the importance of succession planning for the council and neighborhoods cited at the CA/CC. She said Lori, Breean and Karen are leaving. She mentioned the budget was being discussed. Sustainability was necessary with the budget. In reference to the shelters budget shortfall, she said the Covid and ARPA funds were all allocated and they were not going to reallocate funds that were already allocated. She said a Rainbow Crosswalk is going to be in the Perry District (multi-color stripes). She mentioned a conversation around the police 'knee on neck policy' and said the council was not against police officers. She said the Cannon Historic District was approved. She said ARPA funding for events was possible (like Bloomsday and Hoopfest). She said there was a Community Conversation on the regional homeless approach on 4/13/23 at the Central Library. She said it was challenging to bring people together to fund what 'we don't all agree on'. She said she was in a new leadership role with the Association of Cities and the group is going to have their annual meeting in our city and it will showcase Spokane.

Patrick discussed the possibility of the CA interviewing a CA facilitator – the CA decided to invite him to a meeting – Aaron Watts is his name. The May CA meeting will be at the Hive – in-person...possibly with Zoom hybrid, but not promised.

Eileen Kazama discussed the extensive work done by the strategic planning ad-hoc committee, with a lengthy report published in the Packet...more work to be done...fairly long discussion on this. It is a formal attempt to have the CA be more effective and cohesive.

Chris Hansen has been nominated to the DRB board, but not confirmed yet – frustrating delay.

Adjourned at 7:00 PM – one hour earlier than usual.