

Southgate Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 07/24/2025

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: South Hill Branch of Spokane Public Library

Attendees	Guests
Jay Bromme	Shelby Allison – Spokane Arts
Barb Brassard	Reinaldo Gil Zambrano - Artist
Rita Conner	
Allen Edwards	Lynden Smithson
Andy Hoyer	-running for Municipal Court Judge, Position #2
Paul Kropp	
Kris Neely	
Shelley O'Rourke	
Christa Seger	
Lewis Wirth	

Andy moved that the Asphalt Art agenda item be moved to after the report section. Rita was the second. **Approved.**

Lynden Smithson –Candidate for Spokane Municipal Court Judge, Position #2

❖ He believes there is a lack of accountability for this court. Numbers have not been released. What is the level of recidivism?

Q: Why are there no numbers?

A: It is up to the court to police themselves.

❖ Currently the appraisal of mental health and chemical dependency goes to the offender not to the court or prosecutor.

❖ He has lived in Spokane since 1995, graduated from Gonzaga Law School, worked as a city attorney under Mayor Woodward, was a prosecutor for 19 years and worked in mental health court for 2 years.

❖ See <https://lyndenforjudge.com/>

Asphalt Art

Andy moved that we ratify the design on the flier handed out. (It is the bird with the red hat with white flower on it in the midst of swirls of clouds?/waves?/wind?) Rita was the second. **Passed.**

Minutes – June minutes to be approved at next meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Andy

Checking - \$588.62

Reserve - \$3,000.01

Wordpress was just renewed for \$108 per year.

Engagement Grant – Andy

- ❖ Andy suggests spending \$500 for stickers to correct the meeting dates on signs and cards. Andy will help but won't do it himself. He is not sure what the cost will be. The city no longer has a printing department.
- ❖ 9/22 is the deadline for submitting invoices.
- ❖ Andy and Kris will sort out what information to print and consider adding the web site.
- ❖ They will approach Summer to see if she wants to keep the responsibility for the website or hand it off to Kris.
- ❖ They will also ask if Summer is updating the Facebook page and will continue to do that.
- ❖ Andy said that using zoom for the meeting was hard and Kris added that using zoom in the library was hard but zoom itself is easy.
- ❖ Andy made the motion to use Engagement Grant funds to pursue printing with the priority on yard signs and then cards, with drafts being presented at the September meeting, and to renew the Zoom Pro license for \$175. Shelley was the second. **Passed.**

❖

Community Assembly Report – Kris - July Draft Minutes Attached

- ❖ Dump Passes

- Kris has the \$25 clean up discount passes. Send an email to Kris at krisneely@pm.me with a request and your mailing address and he will send one out to you.
- Kris and Andy will put this information on the website and also look into whether the passes are available online.
- ❖ On 10/25/25 the 1-day Neighborhood Summitt will be held. There will be lunch and speakers of interest. It will be at the Fire Department Training Center on Green St. near Spokane Community College.
- ❖ CA website
 - There was a discussion of whether the CA needs its own website. Kris thinks that it does.
 - Paul points out that ONS has set up a calendar, list of councils and a CA page and asks what else is needed?
 - It is pointed out that the CA minutes have not been updated in 3 years.
- ❖ CA authorized a Communications Committee a year ago but it is struggling to get going. What would be its role?
- ❖ Urban Forestry – Katie gave a briefing on all projects. \$6 million for tree planting is still coming.
- ❖ A candidate for the Climate Stability Board liaison is still needed.
- ❖ Paul suggests a meeting with Heather Hamlin of ONS.

Land Use Committee

It was suggested that we discuss new development at our next meeting. If the Land Use Committee determines the need, then they may call an emergency meeting.

Next meeting – Thursday, September 11, 2025, at the South Hill Library at 6:30 pm and by zoom.

Community Assembly Draft Minutes

Prepared by: Office of Neighborhood Services

July 10, 2025, in-person at The Hive

Meeting called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Kelly Cruz

Present: Fran Papenleur—Audubon-Downriver, Christopher Savage—Balboa South Indian Trail, Luke Tolley—Bemiss, Steven Seim – Browne’s Addition, Micayla Leyden—Chief Garry Park, Sandy WichtComstock, Debby Ryan—East Central, Linda Carroll—Emerson-Garfield, Tina Luerssen-Grandview-Thorpe, Laura Johnson—Hillyard, Stephanie Watson - Latah-Hangman, Carol Tomsic—Lincoln Heights, Mary Winkes—Manito-Cannon Hill, Tyler Tamoush- Minnehaha, Sara Bauer—North Hill, Terry Deno - North Indian Trail, Ann Haggett-Peaceful Valley, Lorna Walsh – Riverside, Bill Doley—Rockwood, Kris Neely— Southgate, Kathy Hagy—West Hills, and Charles Hansen—Whitman. **Not Present:** Cliff/Cannon, Five Mile Prairie, Logan, Nevada Heights, Northwest, Shiloh Hills, West Central.

City Staff Present: Amber Groe, [Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS)], Heather Hamlin, (ONS), Katie Kosanke (Urban Forestry), Council President Wilkerson (City Council President), Giacobbe Byrd (City Council Office)

Guests: Kelly Cruz (Facilitator), Paul Kropp (Liaison Committee), Sue Arnesen (West Hills), Elizabeth Goldsmith (Comstock), Andy Hoyer (Southgate), Scott Mills (Cliff-Cannon), Kris Hansen (Cliff-Cannon), Shawn Terjeson (Lincoln Heights, Comms Committee), Andy Hoyer (Southgate), Mel Neil (North Indian Trail), Joni Harris (Bemiss), Sara Dixit (Bemiss), and Rhett Redshaw (North Indian Trail).

ADMINISTRATIVE:

1. Introductions

1.1 Approve Meeting Recording: Debby Ryan moved; Lorna Walsh seconded. Motion passes. 20- approve, 0-abstain, 0-deny.

2. Amend/ Approve Proposed Agenda: Laura Johnson moved, Debby seconded, Motion passes. 19- approve, 1-abstain, 0-deny. • Motion: Amend proposed agenda to add 5 minutes for agenda item 9a: CDBG Letter (Andy Hoyer) and add 10 minutes for agenda item 9b.: Comprehensive Plan – Neighborhoods Chapter Collective Response (Mary Winkes).
3. Approve minutes: Tina Luerssen moved, Linda Carroll seconded, motion passes, 18-yes, 2-abstain, 0- no.
4. Admin Committee Action Items • Luke Tolley: Nothing to report currently- will discuss action items during committee reports section.

OPEN FORUM:

5. Updates/Announcements

- Sandy Wicht: Shared that Development & Volunteer Citizen Advisory Committee (DVCAC) would like to have a CA representative serve on the board again. DVCAC meets at 12:00 p.m., alternating months, on the Wednesday prior to the regular Park Board meeting. Meetings are held in-person in the Finch Arboretum Woodland Center Ponderosa Room, and virtually via WebEx. Paul Kropp and Sandy will connect about the request. More information to come. Sandy reminded neighborhood councils that if they would like to sign up to speak in front of City Council, they can contact her at sewicht@att.net.
- Fran Papenleur: Provided an update on the Ash Place Development. The project went before the hearing examiner in mid-April and the hearing examiner denied the plat. Fran mentioned that the neighborhood council is reviewing an additional proposed project in AudubonDownriver neighborhood that is anticipated to encroach on the Drumheller Springs wetlands.
- Tyler Tamoush: The Neighborhood Safety Committee resumed meeting in June. The meeting featured a presentation from Arielle Anderson (Community Housing and Human Services, Director). The presentation is included in the CA packet on page 40. The Rayce Rudeen Foundation also presented and the committee may partner

with them on future events. More information will be shared in the future. The Safety Committee will not be meeting in July- the committee is encouraging members to attend a related event, “Re-imagining Public Safety) hosted by the Spokane Human Rights Commission on Wednesday, July 30 at 5:30 pm at the Central Library. More information about the public event can be found [here](#).

- Luke Tolley: Called attention to event flyers that are included at the end of the July CA packet starting on page 70. Flyers include free summer pool parties and the Audubon-Downriver Concert Series.

AGENDA ITEMS:

6. City Council Update (Council President Wilkerson)

- Council President (CP) Wilkerson shared that the Mayor announced her HOME Starts Here Initiative. H.O.M.E. stands for healthcare, outreach, multi-disciplinary engagement, and economic security. That initiative sets benchmarks for the city- to help reduce the number of Spokane residents who are housing cost burdened, growing the median household income, adding new housing income at all levels, expanding home ownership rates, and increase the percentage of people who have access to healthcare. CP Wilkerson mentioned that the City cannot do all these things by itself and is committed to contributing to these goals.
- As a part of the HOME Initiative, CP Wilkerson mentioned the HEART (Housing Equity and Attainable Residences Trust) Fund. Since 2020, the City of Spokane has leveraged House Bill 1590, which authorized a 0.1% local sales and use tax for affordable housing and supportive services to expand access to housing options across Spokane. Mayor Brown’s new ordinance looks to align the program with state law to help achieve the City’s housing target of 22,359 new units by 2046 using these 1590 funds. HEART funds will be focused on partnering with developers to establish affordable housing. Discussion ensued related to affordable housing definitions and development.

o Paul Kropp: Is the housing action subcommittee going to be a part of the 1590 discussion moving forward?

o CP Wilkerson: The Housing Action Subcommittee is under City Council and the subcommittee is still in place. They are discussing options about participation.

- CP Wilkerson spoke briefly about the Spokane Parks Levy (Together Spokane).
- Mention of new court improvements in Under Hill Park in East Central Neighborhood and a new art installation at roundabout in Five Mile Prairie Neighborhood.
- Coming up in City Council is a vote on Monday, July 14 on the liaison position for the Climate Resiliency Board. Additionally, ORD 63701 which will centralize property use and maintenance standards into one chapter of City Code. This is to help people navigate property code requirements for private and public maintenance.

o Kris Hansen: Recommended that the language around overgrown vegetation be more specific.

- City Council hosted four interviews for district 2 city council candidates on Thursday, July 10. The person selected would fill former Council member Navarrete's position and fulfil the remainder of that term. A consistent message from the candidates was communication – we are not communicating what we are doing well. Neighborhoods and the city should see communication and storytelling about successes and achievements as an opportunity.
- City Council is working with the Spokane Police Department to address safety concerns at public City Council meetings and ensure that they are as safe as possible for everyone.

7. ONS Update (Heather Hamlin)

- Disposal Passes are redeemable at the Waste to Energy Facility starting on August 5. Please make sure that your neighborhood council clearly communicates where and when disposal passes will be distributed.

- Save the date for the 2025 Spokane Neighborhood Summit. The event will take place on Saturday, October 25 at the Hemmingsen Center (Gonzaga Campus) from 8 am - 1:30 pm. The event is FREE and open to any current or aspiring member of a Spokane neighborhood council. Registration will be open by next month's CA meeting so get ready to register and encourage your neighbors to register. We've got some terrific workshop proposals so far – workshop proposals are due tonight at 11:59 p.m.
- Updated neighborhood council WordPress templates will be available in September. Training will be hosted when websites are available to neighborhoods.
- Praise shared for ONS team quickly moving CA equipment to the Peaceful Valley Community Center.

8. Urban Forestry Liaison (Katie Kosanke, Spokane Parks Urban Forester)

- Urban Forestry works with trees on right of ways and on city property across Spokane. Katie mentioned that Urban Forestry is currently working on a program to remove dead trees in the right-of-way and increase tree canopy across the city.
- You can find a schedule of the dead tree removal and/or sign up for a free tree on this webpage.
- Urban Forestry partners with many different groups to accomplish their work, SpoCanopy and Downton Spokane Partnership.
- Spokane Conservation District has a tree canopy program called Cool Canopy which allows for trees to be planted on private property in specific areas of the city. Learn more here.
- Fuels reduction program – thinning out the small trees. Nick Jefferies, Wildland Resource Planner with the Spokane Fire Department and Urban Forestry have reduced 500 acres of tree fuel so far this year. To help reduce fire risk, the City and County are providing free assessments for residents. More information can be found here.

- Keep an eye out for upcoming workshops at the Finch Arboretum. Workshops include topics such as: tree identification and bark beetles. Katie mentioned that the Willow Tree at the Arboretum will be repurposed into a park-based playground. Local youth were engaged in conversations about how to repurpose the tree. Program funding and strategy are currently being worked on.

- Lorna: Mention of number of dead trees downtown. Is there a plan to address dead trees downtown.

- o Katie: We are working on possible collaborative programs to support tree health downtown. Mentioned that 40 out of 53 trees reported last year were replaced via partnership between the City and the property owner.

- Kathy Hagy: Question about the impacts of fire and camping near the northwest corner at Finch Arboretum. Katie will look into this.

- o Move to extend discussion by 5 minutes, first extension. Christopher Savage motioned; Linda seconded. Motion passes: 22- approve, 0- deny, 0- abstain.

- Katie Kosanke: City staff inform residents via mail about trees in the right of way that need to be taken out and they provide a replacement tree free of charge.

- Shawn Terjeson: Do you recommend fuel reduction and thinning to private owners?

- o Katie: Nick Jefferies has worked with private property using targeted funds and outreach.

- o Move to extend discussion by 5 minutes, second and final extension. Luke Tolley motioned; Tyler Tamoush seconded. Motion passes: 22- approve, 0- deny, 0- abstain.

- CP Wilkerson: Mention that sometimes a permit is required to work on a tree on your property. Trees in right of way do need a permit. If you have questions about whether you need a permit, you can contact Katie at: 509-363-5496 or kkosanke@spokanecity.org.

9. Policies & Procedures (P&P) Committee (Paul Kropp)

- Paul: Provided an overview of the information found on pages 15-16 of the CA agenda packet, prepared by the P&P Committee.
- Paul requested that CA members take the information provided on pages 15-16 back to their neighborhood council for consideration before participating in a vote at the August CA meeting.
- Discussion ensued about subcommittee P&Ps and best practices for voting.
- Motion to send information on page 15- 16 to neighborhood councils for review before the August CA meeting.
 - o Luke made a motion and Laura seconded. Motion passes with 20-approve, 0-deny, 1- abstain.

9a. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Letter (Andy Hoyer)

- Andy Hoyer: Mayor Brown is working in tandem with the US Conference of Mayors, to call on our congressional delegates to save CDBG funding in the 2026 budget. The US Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) will be meeting on Monday, July 14 to mark up the fiscal year 2026 HUD appropriations bill. This is when the subcommittee will consider the President's proposal to provide zero funding for CDBG.
- Andy and Luke Tolley drafted a letter (shared on screen at the meeting) in support of CDBG funding for Spokane and asked CA to vote to approve to send it to Mayor Brown along with various state and federal representatives. The City of Spokane receives \$2,780,400 in CDBG funding each year.
 - o Motion that the CA shall send an email letter as soon as possible to Senators Murray and Cantwell and Representative Baumgartner to urge them to preserve funding for Community Development Block Grants in fiscal year 2026. Text of that letter shall be finalized by the Chair of the Admin Committee (Luke Tolley) and the Chair of the CA/CD Standing Committee (Andy Hoyer).

o Bill Doley made a motion and Laura seconded. Motion passes with 20-approve, 0-deny, 2-abstain.

- CA members expressed praise for Andy and Luke for their quick and effective work on drafting the letter.
- Heather Hamlin provided copies of Mayor Brown's letter, with support of the bipartisan US Conference of Mayors, sent to congressional delegates to advocate to save CDBG funding in the 2026 budget.

9b. Comprehensive Plan – Neighborhoods Chapter Collective Response (Mary Winkes)

- Last month, Kevin Freibott provided the neighborhoods chapter of the comp plan. He invited people to send in suggestions. Kevin reported to Mary that a few comments have been submitted.
- Discussion ensued about submitting a collective response about the Neighborhoods chapter to the City Planning Department. The target date to present a collective response would be October.

o Motion to form an ad hoc committee to review the Comprehensive Plan Update, especially the Neighborhood Chapter and make recommendations via a collective response.

o Sara Bauer made a motion and Laura seconded. Motion passes with 21-approve, 0- deny, 0-abstain. • Volunteers for the committee include:

o Linda Carroll (Emerson-Garfield), Bill Doley (Rockwood), Stephanie Watson (Latah Hangman), Mary Winkes (Manito-Cannon Hill), Laura Johnson (Hillyard). Interim ad hoc subcommittee chair to set the first meeting is Mary Winkes.

10. CA Committee Updates (Committee Chairs)

- Luke Tolley (Admin Committee): In the process of confirming volunteers to administer the digital portion of the hybrid meeting. Logistics are still being worked out. Work is also being done on CA P&Ps. Admin Committee is discussing topics such as a CA website

possibilities, minute taking procedures, tracker for actions, etc. o Bill Doley: expressed support for a CA website.

o Mary Winkes: Asked to include a have a bi-monthly report from the neighborhoods 3.0 meeting.

- Laura Johnson (Budget Committee): 25 neighborhoods applied for Community Engagement Grants (CEG). Four neighborhoods did not apply for the CEG leaving \$2,973.61 in remaining funds for CA to allocate. Note: this number will change based on how neighborhoods spend their allocated grant funds. The CA Inventory closet has been moved to the Peaceful Valley Committee Center (214 N Cedar St.). No impacts to the check out request form or current inventory requests.
- Tina Luerksen (Building Stronger Neighborhoods [BSN]): Spokane Neighborhood Summit is Saturday, October 25 at the Gonzaga University. So far, 14 proposals have been received and we can host 9-10 workshops in total. BSN members will be choosing workshops next week.
- Andy Hoyer (CA/CD): Discussion about who the CA will be sending their CDBG advocacy letter to. List expanded beyond Mayor Brown and state reps. Suggestions included federal leadership as well. Andy and Luke will send letter once complete.
- Sara Bauer (CHHS Liaison): Announced that CHHS will be presenting information about the annual Point in Time Count to City Council on Monday, July 14 at noon at the Urban Experience Committee. Can attend in-person in City Council Chambers or view online on Channel 5.
- Paul Kropp: Provided updates about the Climate Resilience & Sustainability Board CA Liaison position. Position information can be found on the CA website here. Sandy Wicht and Paul will connect outside of the meeting to discuss the earlier mentioned Development & Volunteer Citizen Advisory Committee (DVCAC). Paul queried the CA members about advertising more than one open CA board position at a time. Several CA members mentioned support for advertising multiple vacancies. Lorna volunteered to make a half-sheet advertisement for the DVCAC position. She will bring copies to the August CA meeting.

- o Move to extend discussion by 5 minutes, first extension. Fran Papenleur motioned; Laura seconded. Motion passes: 21- approve, 0- deny, 0- abstain.

- Motion to ask the Liaison Committee to begin the process of recruiting CA reps for the Climate Resilience & Sustainability Board and any vacant Parks Board committees as soon as practical.

- o Mary made a motion and Terry Deno seconded. Motion passes with 20-approve, 0- deny, 0-abstain.

- Move to extend discussion by 5 minutes, second and final extension. Kathy Hagy motioned; Carol Tomsic seconded. Motion passes: 20- approve, 0- deny, 0- abstain.

11. Actionable Items Review/ Future Considerations/Survey

- Luke Tolley will:

- o Reach out to the CA Communications Committee about CA website possibilities.

- o Move the vote to record the CA meeting to the front of the following agendas.

- o Note that CP Wilkerson will not be at August CA meeting and plan accordingly for the August agenda.

- o Add CA Workgroup to every other month CA agenda for a brief update.

- o Work with Andy to send CDBG letter.

Motion to adjourn the meeting. No formal vote to end the meeting was taken. Meeting adjourned at 7:31PM.

Next meeting will be held Thursday August 7.