

Southgate Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 03/12/2026

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: South Hill Branch of Spokane Public Library and by Zoom

Attendees	Guests
Rita Conner	Officer Prim – Spokane Police Department
Kendall Eminger	Ginny Ramos – Legislative Assistant to Councilman Dillon
Andy Hoye	Amber Waldref - Spokane County Commissioner Dist. 2
Shelley O'Rourke	By Zoom
Susan Rudder	Frank Cejka

Officer Prim – SPD – Neighborhood Resource Officer

- ❖ The city's crime dashboard is operational at <https://communitycrimemap.com/?address=Spokane,WA&zoom=11>
Officer Prim would like feedback.
- ❖ Police are working with South Hill schools. They are requesting help with speeding at pick-up and drop-off times. The traffic unit is enforcing around schools when they have time.
- ❖ The city is putting in a hawk crossing light at Hammer Coffee on Regal. (Southgate expects a hawk light at 37th and Crestline in a couple of years.)
- ❖ There have been complaints of reckless motorcycle driving at random times on 37th by Ferris. It is a dirt bike, white and loud. Andy reports that there have been motorcycles racing on 42nd and Havana at 11 pm.
- ❖ Share traffic concerns with Officer Prim or call the Traffic Hotline.
- ❖ Q: Could Cop Shop volunteers help with traffic around schools?
A: Yes.
- ❖ Q: Are you aware that there is homeless activity (old clothes strewn about) in Harvard Park? SE Blvd. by Safeway has vacant wooded land nearby with some homeless camping.

❖ Q: How to balance the crime prevention that lighting offers vs light pollution?

A: Officer Prim offered a meeting on crime prevention, specific to the Southgate neighborhood.

❖ Officer Prim's contact information:

➤ Cell: 509.216.1890

➤ mprim@spokanepolice.org

❖ SPD's monthly report is available at this link:

<https://my.spokanecity.org/police/accountability/psc-briefings/>

Ginny Ramos – Legislative Assistant to Councilman Dillon

❖ Coffee with Council will be at Wake Up Call on Sprague from 3:30 to 5 pm. on Wednesday, April 22nd. There was a suggestion that Amber Waldref be invited. Let Ginny know about topics of interest for the event.

❖ Starting July 14, 2026, the Spokane City Council will change its regular legislative meetings from Monday evenings to Wednesdays at 6 p.m.. Agenda reviews and committee meetings are changed to Tuesdays at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. respectively.

❖ Councilman Dillon is currently championing a new Tree Protection Ordinance aimed at expanding protections to trees on private property, which are not covered under existing laws. This would involve voluntarily designating trees as Heritage Trees.

❖ Councilmen Dillon and Cathcart are working on a street racing ordinance.

❖ Spokane City Council approved a fast lane option for public testimony. Residents sign up to speak for two minutes on a single item or the entire agenda at the very start of the meeting and can then leave.

❖ There will be a district 2 meeting in August or September, to discuss the Safe and Healthy Spokane Tax, that Councilwoman Wilkerson brought up at the CA meeting.

Amber Waldref - Spokane County Commissioner Dist. 2

- ❖ Part of Southgate is in Amber's commissioner district.
- ❖ Amber spoke on the Safe and Healthy Spokane Task Force which is a community-led initiative to set priorities with a focus on treatment, prevention, diversion programs, and programs to ease people back into the community, and to better coordinate the system. The task force is looking for ways to do things better without spending more money. <https://safehealthyspokane.org/>
- ❖ The downtown jail is overcrowded and not safe and Geiger is falling into the ground.
- ❖ The county signed a new interlocal (county, city and valley) agreement on homelessness.
- ❖ Amber is working on simplifying the data presented by the Health District.
- ❖ It is a challenge to keep people suffering from homelessness and addiction off the street, out of emergency rooms and out of jail. It is hard to plan future funding for public health with recent cuts to Medicaid and SNAP, and other proposed federal changes. Currently funds from the opioid settlement are being used.
- ❖ The growth management plan is being worked on. The county is proposing a neighborhood zone with apartments, single family and a little bit of commercial. People want walkable communities.
- ❖ The county is starting to spend some funds on a plan to mitigate the PFAS contamination at the airport.
- ❖ County Commission legislative session meetings are Tuesdays at 2 pm and can be attended by zoom. Agendas and full briefings are published on Fridays for the following week.

ONS – no representative

See ONS newsletter at

<https://my.spokanecity.org/neighborhoods/news/>

Minutes – Minutes for January approved.

Treasurer – Andy Hoye

Checking - \$588.62

Escrow - \$3,000.01

Community Assembly Report – Andy – February, March and April 2026 meeting notes attached

- ❖ Andy will go to the ONS training on using the equipment available to be checked out by neighborhoods.
- ❖ Spring disposal passes are available online, while funds available, at <https://tinyurl.com/DisposalPass>. Fall passes will be available in July.
- ❖ The city has WordPress websites for all the neighborhoods that are being rolled out. We should discuss this.
- ❖ Regarding the Comprehensive Plan, the city council will have the parking resolution request (regarding no required off-street parking) on the agenda at the March 16 Urban Experience Committee of the City Council at noon. The public can testify.

Clean-up

- ❖ Rita attended the required clean up training.
- ❖ Southgate chooses an extra curb side pickup. Our preferred date that we will request is 5/21 and our second choice is 5/7. Note that these are Thursdays, the day after our regular pickup so bins will be empty.

Other Business - We will have officer elections next month.

Next meeting – Thursday, April 9, 2026, at the South Hill Library at 6:30 pm and by zoom.

Community Assembly Meeting Notes

CA Meeting notes – February 5, 2026

25 neighborhoods present

Kitty Klitzke (CC): – Will discuss parking minimum regulations at noon on Monday Feb 9. CC may change meeting day to Wednesday. Traffic calming projects still being formulated for 2027 - DOWL contract extended (consultant.) There will be a sidewalk discussion on March 25 at the MAC. Neighborhoods can present at the Legislative meetings. HB2489 (allows camping) still marching through state legislature – CC voted 5-2 to support it against much public opposition. There is a consulting firm that is reviewing efficiency in the CC office. CC is trying to oppose HB 2416 which imposes very strict regulations on our waste-to-energy plant.

Amber Groe – ONS: 311 will still take suggestions for traffic calming. The final comments on the EIS of the Comp Plan are due by 5PM on February 18. ONS Cleanup training is Feb 20. Registration is due by Feb 12. There are four Engagement Grant Trainings planned (I will do that for Southgate.) BSN will host a training on April 18 how to use the Engagement Grant storage locker (near Yokes on Upriver Drive). The BSN Spring Learning Series is planned – (links on our webpage.)

Jeff Lambert and Karen Mobley spoke about the “Spokane Urban Nature” initiative – trying to preserve natural lands (like Hazell’s Creek.) – Parks department is supportive, and Conservation Futures. This is new – founded 1/6/26. Would like to talk to Neighborhoods. They have a Facebook page.

The CA approved many small changes to Committee Policies and Procedures. The Land Use Committee will meet monthly – need more reps to join. The CA will send a 2-page summary of CA concerns about the EIS to the Plan Commission and others. LUC will meet fourth Thursday at the WCCC at 5:30.

The CA voted to ask the CHHS Department to keep our \$400,000 setaside CDBG money for use in Neighborhood projects. (Only \$275,000 was asked for – our

request is that the remaining \$125,000 be added to the four Neighborhood requests and not rolled back into the general CDBG fund.

The PeTT committee is studying permeable pavers. We recognize that the new Transportation Commission will be making many decisions now. The CA has a liaison (Cliff Winger). PeTT meets 3rd Tuesday by Zoom only.

Safety Committee: 80% of the 53,464 calls in 2025 to the Fire Department were for EMT. Heather will be the ONS rep.

CA Meeting Notes – March 5 2026

25 Neighborhoods present

The West Hills rep asked if the many low-income and transitional housing developments in her neighborhood violate the scattered site ordinance.

Teenagers are knocking on doors asking to use the internet.

Budget Committee – All need to sign up for training (I will do that.) Training on how to use the equipment closet is April 18 – need to RSVP before that.

NUSA use of EG funds - \$125 / \$175 – approved. But the nhood will need to file some kind of report. May 28-29 all virtual.

EG funds can be used for paying for rent of a meeting place IF there are no other free places in the neighborhood.

CC will meet on Wednesdays – starting in June. CC working on PFAS abatement near the airport. Spokane will have its own 911. SPD will not interfere or assist with ICE. Kratom cannot be sold within the City.

Another tax for “Safe and Healthy Spokane” was discussed by the CC. This closely follows the passage of two large levies. Homeless counts are down and transitional and permanent housing is up. Waste-to-Energy plant gets four-year extension to meet pollution requirement.

Free solar home lights available. Spring Disposal passes are available online <https://tinyurl.com/DisposalPass> while funds available. Fall passes will be available in July.

The City has Wordpress websites for all the neighborhoods that are being rolled out. We should discuss this.

Long presentation by the SRTC – determines priorities for spending tax dollars. One big project is the Latah Bridge (Sunset Highway) – not yet funded.

“Growing Neighbors” presentation by Johnny Edmundson – has to do with community gardens growingneighbors.org

Urban Forestry – workshop on March 28 from 10-12 at Finch Arboretum. HB2267 may provide state funding. Put food waste in green bins – there are biodegradable bags. OR Bokashi method.

The Transportation Commission – traffic calming updates and schedules were provided (I have printouts).

Some neighborhood-generated projects have been approved for CDBG funding – up to \$400,000 which was the set-aside for neighborhoods...final details to come.

There is a committee working on making sure that the neighborhoods are represented in the Draft Chapters of the Comprehensive Plan. CC will have the parking resolution request (regards no required off-street parking) on the agenda at the March 16 Urban Experience Committee of the City Council at noon – we can testify.

Community Assembly Meeting Notes – April 2, 2026

25 neighborhoods present

The Land Use Committee is working on reviewing the Transportation Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan update – there are concerns about water quality.

The permission to place docks on the Spokane River at Iron Bridge and the Ruby Hotel was discussed. Particular note was made that the relevant Neighborhoods

did not receive notice re Ruby River Hotel. The CA decided to ask for a pause in approval of that project until such notice was provided. The link to the project is here:

<https://my.spokanecity.org/projects/ruby-river-recreational-dock/>

The Iron Bridge Dock is earlier in its approval process.

PICCE.org is a collaborative organization of local higher education providers and many other community organizations to encourage and provide opportunity for students to engage in civic activities. They have a symposium scheduled from 3:30 – 6:00 PM at Gonzaga. The link is here:

<https://www.picce.org/student-symposium/>

The City Council will begin meeting on Wednesdays on July 15.

There will be a significant reduction in property taxes for lower income households, per SB6162, effective 6/11/2026. For example, for households with incomes less than \$56,000, a house valued at \$300,000 will now have a taxable value of \$60,000, resulting in a tax of \$225, rather than \$3,043. The tax benefit ends at \$74,000 or more of household income.

The District 2 Townhall meeting with the City Council is June 3 at the MLK Center. Southgate should decide if we wish to participate.

There is a townhall meeting coming up regarding building a new jail – to include Spokane County residents and elected officials.

April 13 is the deadline for requesting placement of mobile-feedback speed limit signs.

Nick Hamad of the Spokane Parks Board spoke at length about the large Parks Levy. Togetherspokane.org is the link. There will be changes and upgrades to every park, especially to the South Sports Complex. About \$8M per year will be available. Also, they will hire 8 new park rangers, to total 12.

Spencer Gardner, Spokane City Director of Planning spoke about the “Preferred Alternative” for the EIS and Comprehensive Plan. The link is planspokane.org.

The revision of traffic on Division to accommodate more bus traffic is planned for the next 5 years. The next hearing is April 14 at 2:00PM in the Council Chambers in City Hall.

The report from the CC/CA workgroup will be reviewed by the Administrative Committee.