

Southgate Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 04/09/2026

Time: 6:30 p.m.

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

Attendees	Guests
Frank Cejka	Officer Prim – Spokane Police Department
Kendall Eminger	Councilman Paul Dillon
Andy Hoye	
Shelley O'Rourke	Problems with zoom login tonight

Officer Prim – SPD – Neighborhood Resource Officer

- ❖ The city's crime dashboard is operational at <https://communitycrimemap.com/?address=Spokane,WA&zoom=11>
 - Select district 2 and then Southgate neighborhood to see reported offenses.
 - We had 1 vehicle prowling (theft) and 10 shoplifting.
 - Suspicious activity should be reported.
- ❖ The Traffic Unit is working the area of Freya and Ray. Report specific problem intersections to the Traffic Hotline.
- ❖ 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/>

Councilman Paul Dillon – Spokane City Council

- ❖ Discussions are coming up regarding the comprehensive plan and residential street parking.
- ❖ Working on an ordinance to control street racing and reckless driving.
 - The Traffic Unit issued 46 citations over 3 days along 57th between Regal and Hatch, and along Perry and Crestline.

- ❖ The Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board (CRSB) is applying for state grants for moving to electric maintenance equipment.
- ❖ Working on an ordinance on habitability regarding heat in rental units. The current legislation only covers cold.
- ❖ Working on an ordinance to make it easier to license, register and locate food trucks.
- ❖ Working on an ordinance to protect and increase the tree canopy by preserving Heritage Trees and replacing trees in new development.
- ❖ The Waste to Energy Plant received state approval to continue operating for now. This is good news as it saves the city money and buys time for the city to figure out how to meet the state emission standards.
- ❖ The council is pleased to announce the groundbreaking of the new Spokane County P.A.T.H. (Prevention, Assessment, Treatment, and Healing) Crisis Relief and Sobering Center. This project was supported by federal and state leaders, local municipalities, community providers, and regional stakeholders. By creating a centralized, integrated, and accessible system of care, an alternative to emergency rooms and incarceration is provided.
- ❖ Homeless numbers are decreasing, due to the scatter site model, outreach by police and CHAS, fear of enforcement and the navigation center that gets people to services. Unfortunately, it is not open at night.
- ❖ East Central has a problem with old RV's: are they lived in or abandoned? If they are on WAS.dot land then the city can do something. The city is working with the state to see if some of the extra land not being used for freeway construction can be used for development.
- ❖ Coffee with Council
 - Held monthly in different neighborhoods. It is suggested that we put forward suggestions for Southgate, pick a date and Southgate will get some press. We could consider Ferrante's, Twigs, or Hazel's Creek.

- District 2, May 27, 9:30 – 11 AM, Hidden Bagel, 1001 – W 25th Ave
- ❖ District 2 Townhall – June 3 at Martin Luther King Center

ONS – no representative – ONS is short staffed

See ONS newsletter at

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

Minutes – Minutes for March approved.

Treasurer – Andy Hoye

Checking - \$668.62

Escrow - \$3,000.26

Andy deposited a few cents to keep the escrow account from going dormant.

Community Engagement Grant – Andy

- ❖ The grant is \$850. What do we do to increase attendance? How do we connect with residents of the apartment complexes?
- ❖ We will renew the Zoom Pro License.
- ❖ Application due mid-June.
- ❖ The grant will cover the registration fee of \$125 to attend the NUSA (Neighborhoods USA) conference. Andy will put this on the website to see if anyone is interested.
- ❖ Hamblen Presbyterian has a neighborhood get together. Perhaps Southgate could partner with them and provide some funding for food for that event and have a presence there. Andy will call them.

Community Assembly Report – Andy –April 2, 2026 and May 7 meeting notes attached

- ❖ 2026 Mobile Speed Feedback Trailer applications are due. We discuss and settle on Regal south of Ferris and north of 52nd and on Crestline between 37th and 57th. Andy will submit this.
- ❖ The new parks levy funds will improve the South Sports Complex.

- ❖ CDBG funds of \$400,000 is available. The CA must partner with a 501(c)(3).

Other Business

- ❖ The Cop Shop receives \$0 from the city and has been running on donations from banks and applying for grants. It is located above the Two Seven Public House.
- ❖ Andy is currently looking after Southgate's website. ONS has a WordPress designed website for each neighborhood. Andy and Kendall like the Southgate site better so we will stick with that.

Next meeting – Thursday, May 14, 2026, at the South Hill Library at 6:30 pm and by zoom.

Community Assembly Meeting Notes

CA 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.

CA Meeting notes – May 7, 2026

21 Neighborhoods present

West Hills representative very unhappy about so many homeless shelters and transitional housing units in his neighborhood.

Lincoln Heights has a weed-pulling party on May 30 at Upper Lincoln Park at 8AM. Hardcopy disposal passes will be distributed starting in July. Because we do not meet in July or August, please go to our website (southgatespokane.org) and leave a Comment with your address – we will mail you one after July 15. Saves \$30.

Safe and Healthy Task Force representatives spoke about their hope for jurisdiction-wide collaboration to solve the homeless crisis. Their website is safehealthspokane.org. There is a 40-page report prepared by the Leifman Group that discusses the problem. Interim and low-cost housing are major problems as is a 24/7 funded intake center. Public input is welcomed. This is a well-funded effort that will require massive collaboration.

Districts 1 and 3 representatives have formed Transportation Impact Fee workgroups within the CA.

The CA wrote a letter asking for more neighborhood recognition and input in the new City Comprehensive Plan. It was noted that the current Plan does not really address Climate Sustainability.

Neighborhoods USA will offer an online program starting at 6AM on May 28 and 29. A room in the Catalyst Building has been secured.

SNLA Graduation is May 16 from 9:00AM – 1:00PM at the Northeast Community Center.

There is an article in the current Inlander discussing the Preferred Alternative, current version, of the Comprehensive Plan. See Planspokane.org. The City Council will vote on May 18. There will still be time to comment, but the final version needs to be completed by year-end.