

North Hill Neighborhood Council Meeting Notes for September 11, 2014 at Willard School

Attended by:, Mike Flahaven, Jeff Zabinski, Julie Shepard Hall, Candace Mumm, Kristen Marie Speller, Dale Kraker, Lynda & Jim Parry, Melissa Wittstruck, Penny Lancaster, Bonnie Stewart, Julie Bunker, Teresea Vandyke, Milt Rowland, Sandy Gill, Kelly Patrick, Fire Station 13 personnel, SPD NCO Officer Doug Strosahl, Tim Burns

Jeff began the meeting at 6:30 pm (with some difficulty accessing the school). Mike recorded the meeting notes.

Neighborhood Conditions Officer, Doug Strosahl provided a crime update for the neighborhood. There has been a spike in vehicle thefts/ break-ins. He reminded us to keep garage doors closed, even when you're home. Report suspicious activity to crime check. There have been noise problems at the Drinkery in the Garland District – report noise problems to Doug at the NW COPS shop.

Fire District 13 personnel provided an overview of their services. They shared that the department's equipment is aging and in need of replacement. A question was asked about district 13's boundaries and they are roughly: Francis, Alberta, Standard and Cora. But boundaries will change depending on callouts.

Attorney, Milt Rowland spoke about the City's recent settlement with the Hollywood Erotic Boutique adult retail stores. The Wellesley store has closed and the Division store can remain open until July 15, 2017. The city can proceed with an injunction against the store if it is open for sales after 2 PM or it opens prior to 9 AM. It cannot change its advertising signs. If someone notices the store is open when it is supposed to be closed, they should call Crime Check and ask for an officer to document the violation. During the Crime Check call you should also ask the Crime Check Operator for an Incident Number so Code Enforcement can follow-up with violations. Any found secondary effects from the store such as litter should be documented to show when and where it is found. Turn the litter into Code Enforcement.

Sandy gave an update on Community Development (Buzz could not attend the meeting). There are changes to the CDBG program. Neighborhoods will need to apply for the block grant funds and the application for next year is due by Nov. 24th. Buzz recommended that we apply for funds to install new sidewalks along Lacrosse since we have begun installing sidewalks to Clark Park. These funds should complete this project. The neighborhood supported his plan to use 2015 CDBG funds to continue to construct sidewalks on Lacrosse Street. The application process is more complicated than in the past and this year will give us a chance to learn the new process.

Sandy gave an update on neighborhood planning. The next planning meeting is Sept 25th in the Willard multi-purpose room from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. She shared the preliminary report from the consultant.

Sandy gave a report for Community Assembly. It appears that all Spokane Greening grant applications will be approved.

Council Person Candace Mumm provided a City Council report. Karen Stratton will replace Steve Salvatori and she will be sworn in Friday, Sept 11th. The cross walk ordinance was passed by the council. Body cameras are in trial use by SPD. Amber Waldreff is working on a blight ordinance and abandoned properties registry that will hopefully deal with the resulting blight from vacant properties.

Mike gave a brief update about the traffic calming applications and the fall cleanup. One of our traffic calming projects has been selected (speed signs on Garland). Another one for pedestrian safety in the Garland District is being considered. We'll continue to offer dumpsters for clean green debris on Oct 11 and register people for curbside pick-up & dump passes.

Julie Sheppard Hall provided an update about Greening Spokane Grant Application to replace some of the trees and provide plantings around them. The application looks as if it may be approved. Julie discussed CDBG possibilities for the Garland Business District.

Tim Burns, City Ombudsman, discussed his annual report is available on line. Complaints against SPD officers have decreased while citizen contacts with his office have increased. Arrests are up. Body cameras are being tested.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.