



North Hill Neighborhood Council Meetings Notes for April 16, 2015 at Willard School

Attended by Mike Flahaven, Sandy Gill, Theresa Fears, Daniel Fears, Ruth Snyder, Buzz Bellessa, Bonnie Stewart, Julie Shepard, Teresea Van Dyke, Jeannine Bolstad, Jeff Zabinski, Dale Hizak (sp?), Randy Marler.

Jeff began the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Teresea recorded the meeting notes.

Land Use / Amendment Zone Change

Guest Dwight Hume presented an update about the status of the residential property on the southeast corner of Wellesley & Maple owned by the Redding family. The city will probably support a request to change the SE quadrant use from residential to office because the other three intersection quadrants are considered "office." There is new policy language in the comp plan reflecting a trend that where three quadrants are the same use, the fourth quadrant may become the same use. **May 7** is the deadline for public comments to the planning commission. The neighborhood has four concerns with this development: (1) "bulk & scale:" any office construction should not be multiple stories and should be in scale with the surroundings, (2) lighting should be broadcast onto the site and not onto neighboring residential properties, (3) ingress and egress should not disrupt current traffic patterns, (4) a transition should be created between the property and the neighboring residences, for instance, using parking as a "buffer." The planning commission will rule on the property then send it to city council then the change will probably be made by the fall. No construction is pending at this time. Jeff agreed to create a first draft of a response that reflects the neighborhood's concerns.

Garland Business District (GBD)

Julie S. provided the update. The new Garland Business District website is launching tomorrow with an updated logo and comprehensive business listing: garlanddistrict.com.

Last year's "Greening Neighborhood" grant is being implemented on **May 1** when flowers will be planted around the trees from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. with a visit from Mayor Condon around 2:30. Volunteers are needed, as are tools: spades, hand shovels, watering cans and wheelbarrows. Meet in front of Integrity Insurance at 3913 N. Post at 1:30. The Fire Department may be a resource to water new plantings (625-7000). The GBD is applying to the city for another Neighborhood Greening grant. Deadline is **June 30** (for more information see this link:

<https://my.spokanecity.org/news/stories/2014/07/16/help-your-neighborhood-beautify-spokane>).

Greening grants provide funding for plants, trees and removing cement pavers from around trees, but not for soil, metal grates, in-ground lighting, etc. Metal grates may be funded by CDBG but are very expensive. Conduit may be installed under the GBD sidewalk in the future to provide lighting to trees. Three greening grant applications are allowed per neighborhood so other potential areas were discussed, such as the area West on Monroe on Garland and on the streets bordering the bluff. The



greening grants require that people commit to maintaining the new plantings. There is some interest to beautify the bluff on Glass Avenue east of Post Street as evidenced by a "Crowdswell" project but it's unknown who from that area would be interested in supporting a greening grant.

Community Assembly (CA)

Sandy G. provided the update. Upcoming volunteer opportunities are April 25, "Cleaning from the Core," when clean-up, graffiti-proof murals and graffiti abatement will take place downtown. The same week is "Spokane Gives." People can volunteer for projects, including "Cleaning from the Core," or register a project for which they need volunteers at <http://www.volunteerspokane.org/aam/general>.

There is concern about the effect of the North Monroe revitalization on the North Hill neighborhood. Monroe Street will be changed to one northbound lane, one southbound lane and a center turn lane, creating a problematic transition where Monroe Street north of the revitalization area will remain two northbound lanes and two southbound lanes. We should contact Council Member Karen Stratton about this issue.

The Community Assembly is still transitioning to a focus on "acting" rather than just "giving information." The CA wants to know what the neighborhoods need and want to ensure the neighborhoods know how to get actions done.

An update to the outdoor storage ordinance is in the works. There is a movement to add vehicle storage to the ordinance. Can the city limit the number of vehicles on private property or require that vehicles be covered? The CA's public safety committee is handling this issue and welcomes involvement from our neighborhood.

Blight, the condition of private properties being rundown and not cared for, is going to be dealt with on a property-by-property basis rather than by the city's designating an area as "blighted." Owners will be able to address their blight on a voluntary basis. This is going to be a policy rather than an ordinance.

The Neighborhood Retail Parking Standard is being developed and will apply to the 72 "neighborhood zones." The GBD is not a "neighborhood zone" but the Rowan Street business area and the Wall Street business area are likely neighborhood zones. A proposed exemption would allow businesses to decrease the amount of parking they are required to provide.

Neighborhood Planning

Sandy G. provided the update regarding the neighborhood profile. Changes to the profile were discussed. There is a link to the profile on the neighborhood website ("**North Hill Profile with Pictures and map 2015-1-30.v2b edited 3-15-15**"). Any additional suggested changes should be forwarded immediately to Sandy. With the changes offered, Sandy will forward the profile to the city's planning department.



Buzz provided the update for the 20-year neighborhood plan and distributed a summary of the potential projects considered most important by residents who attended the December 2014 open house hosted by the city and the consultants. The top five priorities are: (1) support Garland Business District efforts, (2) enhance pedestrian street lighting, (3) calm traffic, (4) re-define the South Bluff plan area and (5) initiate and maintain a crime awareness and prevention program. Neighborhood stakeholders will meet with the city one more time later this month to finalize the plan. Residents who want to review the plan signed up to receive a copy via mail or email and are urged to review it thoroughly, focusing on the “Matrix of Projects,” and to prepare to discuss it at the next neighborhood meeting (**May 14**). Anyone with extensive thoughts about the plan should, prior to the **May 14** meeting, email Buzz or Sandy with their concerns. The timeline for the implementation of the projects has not been determined. We need to determine if the city or the consultants have the lists of residents who attended the three neighborhood plan meetings so that the plan can be distributed to them for review.

Cell phone tower development

Concern was raised about the impending “monopine” cell phone tower slated to be erected in the backyard of the home at 4108 North Monroe Street. Earlier this year the city council issued a 6-month moratorium on cell phone tower development, but 4108 North Monroe was excluded from the moratorium because of the application date. It is not clear when the public comment period began and who received notice of the project but the comment period apparently ended April 3. Assistant City Planner Dave Compton has been involved with this process. The neighborhood council will contact Council Members Mumm and Stratton with these concerns.

Community Development (CBDG)

Buzz provided the update. The process to allocate funds has been broadened to include a third method. The two existing allocation methods are to (1) spend money on a project and (2) partner with another neighborhood and share resources to maximize a project. The third, new method is for the city to deem a project a “focal point,” which will include it in the CD area and allow a neighborhood to attach funds (for example, the North Monroe Revitalization project in the Emerson-Garfield neighborhood). The new allocation method won’t be in force for North Hill until 2016. We are currently working on our 2015 project, installing sidewalks on West Lacrosse Avenue.

Cleanup Event Recap

Mike F., coordinator extraordinaire, provided details about our successful spring 2015 cleanup. Fifteen people volunteered, clean green drop-offs filled three 30-yard dumpsters, 70 dump passes were issued (14 at the North Hill COPS shop), 19 people signed up for curbside trash pickup, eight tree vouchers were issued, 141 pounds of food and \$8.00 was collected for Second Harvest and \$6.88 was donated to COPS. The next cleanup is Saturday, **October 10**. Furniture pickup will probably be offered instead of the curbside pickup, which has excluded large furniture.



Traffic Calming

Mike F. provided the update. The city has broken ground on installation of the permanent radar speed signs for West Garland Avenue. The bumpout at Stevens Street will probably be installed next year. Our 2016 application is in the works. Mobile speed signs have been requested for North Maple Street near Ridgeview Elementary, a crosswalk at Heroy and on West Queen Avenue on the south side of Franklin Park.

There was a question as to how to involve the entire neighborhood in our activities when people from many areas don't attend neighborhood council meetings. Residents may look at the clean-up postcard and assume that they are not part of the neighborhood council and that therefore they don't need to attend the neighborhood meetings. More people showed up at the three 20-year plan meetings than show up to the monthly neighborhood meetings. The neighborhood will be looking at ways to communicate that all are welcome to participate.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.