



North Hill Neighborhood Council Meetings Notes for June 11, 2015 at Willard School

Attended by Jeff Zabinski, Sandy Gill, Melissa Wittstruck, Teresea Van Dyke, Julie Shepard Hall, Rex Olson, Rob & Jen Gaylord, Ruth Snyder, Bonnie Stewart, Mike Flahaven, Dale Plyer (spelling ?), Jeannine Bolstad, Ron Mahan, Holly Renga, Dave White, Doug Strosahl and Candace Mumm. Jeff Z. began the meeting at 6:30 p.m. People introduced themselves. Teresea recorded the notes.

Police Department Update – Officer Doug Strosahl

- There's been an uptick in vehicle prowling, garage burglary, and open-area thefts.
- Call Crime Check (456-2233) to report any kind of suspicious activity. Resources are steered to areas where reports are made.
- Graffiti can be reported to the Office of Neighborhood Services via mobile phone or via computer at <https://my.spokanecity.org/account/report/>.
- A graffiti abatement program can provide one-time assistance to property owners fighting graffiti.
- Semi tractor-trailers have been loading and unloading vehicles on West Garland Avenue and West Providence Avenue for the used car lot on the southwest corner of Division & Garland. This has obstructed traffic. There has been no traffic control and no flaggers or orange cones. It is suggested to contact the transporter and to call city hall.
- There are citizens patrolling in the area west of the Northtown Office Building at night, but they are not vigilantes.
- A homeless encampment was found last month on the east side of the bluff, near the church.

City Council – Councilwoman Candace Mumm

The city council will discuss changes to the neighborhood retail parking standards at the 6/15/15 council meeting. A proposal would reduce or eliminate parking requirements for the 72 small commercial areas within the city. Impacted North Hill areas include Wall Street south of Wellesley and the Ash/Rowan area. Public testimony is welcome. Find more information here:

<https://my.spokanecity.org/projects/neighborhood-retail-parking-standards-update/>

The YMCA's kids' camp is moving from downtown to Corbin Park. Free breakfast and lunch will be provided to kids, even those not attending the camp.

The council is reviewing the adult entertainment ordinance's relation to the business zoning code to determine whether the ordinance will apply to espresso stands. If it will, espresso stand business practices will need to change or the businesses will need to relocate.

In a few weeks the council will vote on creating the new Downriver/Audubon Neighborhood, which is splitting off from the Northwest Neighborhood.



Code Enforcement – Melissa Wittstruck

The cell phone tower slated for construction in the backyard of the residence on North Monroe Street may be built more aesthetically than originally planned.

Fire season may be declared before July 4. Residents who see potential dangers on property (like a big brush pile in a backyard) should file a complaint with code enforcement. If a notice of violation is issued then the city can take action to get rid of the problem.

Community Assembly (CA) – Sandy Gill

Red light camera revenue is allotted to each of the city districts for traffic calming. A resolution has provided the city council discretion to allocate surplus funds to specified neighborhood projects. For example, a neighborhood may have a project that requires more funds than it is allocated, such as with the Centennial Trail modifications planned at East Mission Avenue. Red-light revenue could be used for matching funds for a project. One benefit: a neighborhood could undertake larger, more expensive projects that could be completed in one year instead of two or three years and could reduce the overall cost by achieving economies of scale. North Hill supports the resolution, but would like to see that any projects approved by the council have public support.

Community Development (CBDG) – Sandy Gill

We have targeted CBDG funds for sidewalks, safe routes to schools, parks and arterials. This year a decision must be made in August as to our 2016 project, which could be (1) sidewalks, (2) a capital project designated by the city or (3) a special project. Very little sidewalk could be installed because of limited funds. One city-designated project involves Franklin Park but we don't know the details. Or, a neighborhood could direct its funds to another neighborhood one year with an agreement that the other neighborhood would direct its funds back to that neighborhood a following year. For example, North Hill could work with Emerson-Garfield (Monroe Street business area), Audubon or Northwest. One benefit is that the contributing neighborhood would have more time to explore projects while another neighborhood could fund and complete a project that is already in process. Cooperating neighborhoods could pursue projects that require more funding than what each is individually allotted. All or a portion of funds could go toward another neighborhood's project. Three workshops will be held next week at three different community centers. Interested residents are invited to attend.

<https://my.spokanecity.org/news/stories/2015/06/02/city-working-with-neighborhoods-on-community-development-projects/>. People interested in staying updated with developments should write "CD" next to their name on tonight's sign-in sheet. Our progress may be discussed at our August picnic.



Garland Business District (GBD) – Julie Shepard Hall

A small committee of business owners has been formed and distributed a request for consultants for revitalization work. Two proposals have been received. The committee will start interviewing businesses and property owners re: their input and may survey people at the street fair. The work is about three years out. The district needs to build up funds and may hold a fundraiser. As for Greening Grants the city may extend the June 30 deadline; it's been hard getting a commitment from people to care for new plantings. A business person wants to create a big red barn selling "chic" antiques on the former liquor store property on West Garland. The Gathering House at 733 West Garland is supporting Community Court by preparing 70 lunches for court defendants and welcomes donations such as fruit, bread or other lunch fare. The Gathering House is also looking for volunteers to help create a Farmer's Market. Contact Rob Bryceson at 747-2818. If you missed the recent *Inlander* article about the Gathering House, check it out here <http://www.inlander.com/spokane/begin-again/Content?oid=2443793>.

Miscellaneous

We are considering other meeting locations because of problems accessing Willard School on Thursday evenings. We do not pay the school district to use the space. A walkable location is desirable. Suggestions included the Gathering House, North Hill Christian Church, and the Lutheran Church on Wall Street. Send other suggestions to Jeff Z. (see "Contacts" page).

Sandy has hard copy of her dynamic presentation at the June 8 Town Hall meeting at the West Central Community Center for people to review.

The North Hill Neighborhood Plan was approved at last month's neighborhood meeting. The plan goes before the Planning Commission in approximately late June then will proceed to the City Council in July or August.

Mark your calendar for Concerts Under the Pines Audubon Park July 9, July 23 and August 6 starting at 6:00 p.m. Shadle Park is also holding a concert (date unknown).

The North Hill picnic starts at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, August 13. The picnic is a potluck so bring your favorite dish, a chair, and some neighbors for food and fun.

Jeff Z. adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.