



NHNC Meeting Minutes – January 9, 2014, Willard Elementary School

Convened at 6:30 p.m. by Jeff Zabinski

Guests: Councilwoman Mumm, Officer Strosahl

Introductions:

Police Update – Doug Strosahl reporting.

NHNC area has been busy, especially north of Rowan – burglaries, stolen cars, garage break-ins, prowlings, and noise complaints. Some significant arrests have been made during the past 2 weeks and some stolen vehicles recovered. SPD is working with owners and landlords on issues. Kristen reported someone was in her garage. Had a bleeding hand so may have broken in elsewhere beforehand. South Indian Trail and Nine Mile have also been hit hard. People are contacting police, which is a good sign.

A “beware of this person, he’s a thief” flyer was passed around. It is being posted on poles around Clark Park. Doug reported that it seems to be a retaliation posting and that both the poster and postee are known to SPD. Communication between neighbors is encouraged, being a vigilante is not. You should always report problems and problem houses. There have been some problem house reports about one just north of the Milk Bottle.

Northwest area will have a new Captain (Walker) as of Monday. An area precinct building is being sought – 3000 – 6000 sq. ft., parking, affordable.

City Council Update – Candace Mumm reporting.

Jeff was recognized for his NHNC Chair efforts and Sandy for her CA work. Candace has now had her first Council meeting. There seems to be a lack of north side members on boards and commissions such as Bicycle and Planning. Planning Commission meets afternoons twice a month so the time commitment can be intense. The Mayor makes the nominations, but let Candace know if you’re interested in such activities. A suggestion was made for the Bicycle group.

Sales tax revenues are up. Pot store applications have been submitted for the NHNC area. The executive session next week will cover the adult store on Division and sewer & water work. Secondary impacts of adult stores are one way to regulate them, such as garbage on surrounding properties. There are lots of concerns about this store,

such as why has the issue been going on for so long. One report received by NHNC indicated a summary judgment may be forthcoming.

Q: what is the process for picking which streets get redone? A: we're in the last year of the 10 year repaving bond. It is a big question on if another will be requested, but it will take 20 years to pay off the first one though. There is an advisory board that recommends which streets, set up when Jim West was mayor. It is unclear how much weight traffic volumes are given for the selections. The board ends this year too. Regular capital plans for street improvements will kick back in. The planning cycle is 6 years. The current planning document is 843 pages, but public hearing input was missed so the effort is being re-addressed and will include other areas such as fire, parks, etc. A comment was made that lighting has become a bigger and bigger concern. Candace believes Avista owns the lights and the city owns the traffic equipment. It is unknown what the maintenance agreement is for lighting. Candace will try to find out. \$20 car tab fee repairs were mentioned. Candace reported that this amount is actually a very small percentage of the overall total.

\$22,500 is on account for the NHNC area planning effort. Some consultants have already been approved by the city for this. Suggestions for the effort were made – traffic studies, school area walkability studies, etc. Garland area sidewalks were mentioned. NHNC has voted to opt in to the Plan for Spokane effort.

Q: asked on the legal nature of the Police Guild and city ordinance positions on the ombudsman independent investigation positions. Importance of having the independent investigation authority was expressed by one member. There is a feeling that excessive time is being wasted with on-going talks and that the true details of each position's concerns are not being discussed.

Community Assembly – Sandy Gill reporting.

The next meeting is tomorrow so there are no packet notes available. Three items are on the agenda of possible NHNC concern. 1) Procedures for addressing graffiti. \$20,000 of Photo Red funds is available for abatement. Raising awareness city-wide is encouraged. Paint Day participation is encouraged. Suggestion was made that all the neighborhoods should be given the opportunity to provide input on any new procedure that gets proposed. Observation was made that most graffiti seems to be appearing on city property and Avista light poles. Concern was expressed over how to paint over graffiti on private property conveniently and effectively, especially when property owners are not available. Kristen reported someone has been covering up graffiti on their own. Kristen asked about the possibility of bringing up another clean-up event with her board. The idea was encouraged. 2) A lengthy report on neighborhood clean-ups has been generated. Covers what has worked and what hasn't. Curbside pick-up events have been successful but how to budget them effectively is a concern. A significant percentage of dump passes go unused. Passes are only good for 2 weeks. Question was asked if this could be extended. Furniture pick-ups are getting less and less effective. Appliance pick-ups are being hit by scrap dealers all over the area. Changing to a 2 year cycle has been suggested – location or curbside for the spring, no change for the fall. NHNC came in ~ \$800 below their allocation last year. Concern was expressed about

making any changes to the current NHNC clean-up event methods before 2015. Suggestion was made to target specific areas as a possibility. 3) A land use letter was sent to the Mayor and Council President requesting that a regular report be provided to the Council every spring on the status of the Comp Plan.

Land Use – Buzz Bellessa reporting.

Emerson-Garfield presentation on the Monroe Hill property is still pending. Buzz will be away during most of February.

Community Development – Buzz Bellessa reporting.

CDBG Board presentation on the past year's accomplishments and planning for up-coming activities is next week.

Clean-Up – Mike Flahaven reporting.

Final totals for 2013 were distributed. Meeting to schedule 2014 events will probably be in February. April 12th is first choice for spring, 26th second choice. October 18th and 11th respectively for fall.

Other Business:

Kristen reported the Business District is considering a change to 501(c)3 status. Other districts have already done this.

Buzz complimented the Secretary's minutes.

City calendars should be available at the next meeting. NHNC should have 1 or 2 pictures in it again this year.

Council President has asked for NHNC meeting time next month to talk about urban farming.

Adjournment: 8:15 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 13, 2014, 6:30 p.m., Willard Elementary

Minutes submitted by Daniel Fears, NHNC Secretary. Corrections and additions welcome.

NHNC Meeting Attendees – January 9, 2014

Jeff Zabinski – Chair

Mike Flahaven – Officer at Large

Daniel Fears – Secretary/Treasurer

Sandy Gill

Buzz Bellessa

Kelly Patrick

Teresa VanDyke

Ruth Snyder

Randy Marber

Kristen Speller

Officer Doug Strosahl

Councilwoman Candace Mumm