

NORTH HILL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
Minutes

**Meeting called to order – 6:30 pm Thursday, October 10th.**

**Introductions were made.**

**The agenda was presented** and a motion was made to make space for Mary to discuss her concerns about Madison elementary students crossing Wall Street. The motion was seconded and 5 mins were added to the agenda. The agenda was approved.

**The September minutes were approved** with a motion and a second. The vote was unanimous.

**Report from Mary** - Cross Walk Guard at Rowan and Wall for Madison Elementary. She proposes flashing lights at that intersection, similar to those all over the city. Captain Hendren suggested calling our city council person. Mike F. reached out to Annie with Traffic Calming. The next cycle of street projects starts in 2026 and currently, Rowan and Wall is not on the list. We might be able to make it happen outside of traffic calming. Captain Hendren says that a ticketing machine might be a great idea for the police to pursue. Mary plans to talk to the principal at Madison to get her in the loop. Motion passed for Scott to write a letter to the city on behalf of our neighborhood.

**Spokane Police Report – Captain Tom Hendren** Garage burglaries have been on the rise as well as an increase in vehicle prowling. Reminder- Don't leave an unattended car running in the mornings to warm it up. A neighbor brought up the RVcampers parked by the stop sign near Francis and Adams. The neighbor expressed concerns about drugs. A neighbor asked a question about resource officers and when we could expect them back. Captain Hendren says that is going to depend on the upcoming vote- He expressed his excitement for the new Police Chief and the experience and energy he brings.

**Spokane Prop 1 - Randy Marler**, speaking on behalf of the Firefighters Union, urged us to vote yes on Proposition 1. It would include a sales tax increase of \$1 for every \$1000 not including food. The fire department desperately needs these funds. In '89 and '99 there were bonds for fire funds but in '09 the bond failed and there have been no dedicated funds since then. They need funds for trucks and station needs. Randy shared that his primary truck is a 2004 model and it broke down and the 2005 backup is down too. He is on the 3rd and final truck and it had an issue last week. When firemen do better, insurance goes down. Randy reminded us that perfect is the enemy of good. It is not a blank check, it will go toward fire, police, municipal court, and the Office of Police Ombuds. There will be transparency as to where the money goes.

**City Council Report – Kitty Klitzke.** Kitty attended the budget meeting today and is seeing progress in reducing expenses. The city is still in a 24 million structural deficit. The city has

asked every department what a 10% reduction would look like. The draft budget will come out in early Nov. They moved to a biennial budget process to try and get back to balance. They are seeking more grants. Kitty expressed how important Prop 1 is and how passing it will keep Spokane's top priorities going. There is a vision to make every officer a NRO. Community members echo that we want someone who we recognize. Kitty is excited about the new police chief. City is hiring a consultant to look at our code and help make things more transparent. A neighbor asked about the Trent shelter and Kitty discussed how it is proposed to move more folks to scattered sites. Nicholette Ochletree is the person to connect with about housing and homelessness in the city,

**Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) Report – Gabrielle Ryan. PDF attached to email, with minutes.**

**Traffic Calming – Mike Flahaven.** Julie has 5 and Mike has 4 disposal passes left. 10/31 is the last day to use them.

**Building Stronger Neighborhoods (BSN) – Dan Brown.** Good Neighbor Award nominees can be submitted until Nov. 15th. The Inlander interviewed neighborhood chairs. Oct. 19th next Building Stronger Neighborhoods meeting and Dan is not able to attend. It is from 9-10:30 am if anyone would like to go to his place. Subcommittees - there are groups for everything in the city and they are a good way to get involved.

**Garland Business District Report – Jasmine Barnes.** The business district is hosting a Halloween Vendor Market. This will be mostly cost-free, with family and kid fun and vendors. Taking place Oct. 19th 12-6pm. There will be a free showing of Paranorman at 2pm at the garland that day. There will be a costume contest for kids and dogs. They are looking for snack and candy donations. If you have a donation, please take it to the theater or Kiss and Makeup before the event. In other news, two new murals will be going up in the art alley. There is a new mural behind the smoke shop on Wall, which is a memorial for a young man who died. The Business District says stay tuned for an Xmas event on Garland.

**Community Assembly (CA) Report - Dalin Tipton.** There are many committee seats vacant in agencies that have an impact on policy in the city. Please review these open seats on the city website if you have any interest. Forestry, CTAB, etc. These have a large impact and involvement can help legitimize the city's attitude toward Neighborhood Councils and their contributions. We have to show up to get recognized.

Safety committee – Reminds us that if we see something, we need to say something. Log suspicious or criminal events and record it. The squeaky wheel gets the grease. Times and dates and logs will really help.

Council President Updates– The city is rolling out a new homelessness survey. They are seeking roundtable involvement and feedback as we transition into the scattered site model.

They are very accommodating. There is a QR code that Dalin can email you if you are interested. His email is on our NC page. You can also email [nocheltree@spokanecity.org](mailto:nocheltree@spokanecity.org).

There were introductions to the new police and fire chiefs (Kevin Hall and Julie O'Berg). Their presence there spoke volumes and they stayed for a long time and engaged in substantive talk.

Mayor Brown was present at CA. Dalin spoke to the mayor and told her that NCs are left out of the development of new residential projects. He asked her to act on this to ensure that NCs are given proper notice during the planning and development process. His ask to the council: Can we get something in writing to her office to follow up on this? We have a partnership with Audubon DR who experienced our "millennium" with their Drumheller development.

Tool you can use to look up permits [aca.spokanepermits.org](http://aca.spokanepermits.org) - Donna Devit

If we have concerns about transitional housing and behavioral health facilities, the city is listening right now and it is a great time to get involved in the conversation. Dalin will bring information to the CA from us if we send him our thoughts on the matter. We can also email Dawn Kinder with questions about the placement of the shelters.

The mayor says internal city coordination is getting moving and we have room to act because we are less divided. However, City and County communication is not going well.

The Liaison Committee says there are liaison committee apts available. Please please involve your NCs. This is incredibly important. If we don't use 'em we lose 'em.

**Old Business**– Street Asphalt Art. Dan Brown will be getting the application finalized.

**New Business**– It has been brought up that Chris Bovey will create a new logo and provide a whole media kit for \$500. Some neighborhoods have done this. Our logo is a difficult shape for folks to use on facebook or flyers. This was not something that everyone felt was necessary. No decision was made on updating our logo.

Working to get new benches around Ruth Park - Scot is working on this and the application is due end of November.

**Neighborhood Concerns/Issues**– A neighbor who lives near the Cedar Shelter brought up concerns about the shelter and its impacts on the neighborhood. The neighbors were told that this would be a shelter for women in transition and that is not what is going on there now. A new manager is running the shelter who is not doing as good a job as the previous one. There are lots of men there now and it feels like a bait and switch in terms of what they were first told about the shelter. There is drug activity going on. This neighbor is working on getting a report containing a list of 911 calls that have been made specifically in regard to the Cedar shelter.

**Treasurer Report**– Bank account has 486.36