

NORTH HILL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Minutes
January 9, 2025

Meeting called to Order – 6:30 pm

Introductions were made. Guests: Shelby Allison, Spokane Arts; Chris Bovey and County Commissioner Chis Jordan.

The meeting agenda was presented, and a motion was made by Laura Newman to add County Commissioner Chris Jordan to the Agenda. Motion was seconded by Kaitlyn. The motion passed.

The minutes from October, November and December had previously been sent via email to those on the MailChimp list. A motion was made by Dan Brown to accept the minutes as submitted. Laura Newman seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Spokane Police Report – There was a new bid for shifts and teams. Based on a 2-year crime analysis, there has been a good reduction in burglaries/thefts. They have seen reductions in the double—digits. However North Hill continues to be a problem, especially with garage burglaries and car prowling. They are working on a plan to reduce these incidents in our neighborhood.

Suggestions:

1. Call when you see suspicious activity.
2. Contact C.O.P.S. NW and give information, especially suspected higher traffic at possible drug houses, or thefts.
3. Lock your garage/ Don't leave your garage opener in your vehicle.
4. Get to know your neighbors.

Discussed what the neighbors felt were the top 5 issues they want the police department to work on.

1. Speeding traffic; 2. Alley traffic; 3. Porch pirates; 4. Homeless/camping at Clark Park; 5. Graffiti

Coffee with a Cop is January 21st @ 10:00 am at Pitotti Coffee. Neighbors are encouraged to join.

City Council Report - Kitty Klitzke, City Council Member There has been discussion regarding derelict properties. City Council reps are working on a plan to get property owners to maintain vacant properties/homes. They are currently ironing out the details. You can send comments/suggestions to Policy Advisor, Adam McDaniel, amcdaniel@spokanecity.org

There is an ordinance in the works regarding drug stores that sell drug paraphernalia to be required to also provide free Narcan.

Annie Deasy is working to have a new Hawk Light installed in our neighborhood at Rowan and Wall. This would allow safer crossing for students walking to Madison Elementary.

Guest Speaker Shelby Allison, from Spokane Arts shared about the upcoming asphalt art project that will be installed in the intersection near Nebraska and Whitehouse (next to Madison Elementary). Chris Bovey is the selected artist. They asked for suggestions for the art piece. There will also be an art crosswalk installed in the Garland District.

Guest Speaker Chris Jordan, Dist. 1 County Commissioner. Chris discussed the County working with the City for public safety. 24-hour staffing for a mental health unit. Funds will come from proceeds from a State lawsuit with the opioid manufacturers. There is approximately \$5-7 million to be allocated for access to treatment, crisis stabilization, and mental health. A portion of the funding will also be allocated to Maddie's Place for therapeutic services for new moms with children.

There is a proposed ordinance to for unneeded properties to be converted into affordable housing.

The County is currently working on the regional land-use comprehensive plan for 2026.

Office of Neighborhood Services No representation was present.

Traffic Calming/Cleanup Report Mike Flahaven. There is an upcoming meeting regarding the cleanup program. Mike will report on that meeting after he learns how the program is changing.

Building Stronger Neighborhoods Liaison, Dan Brown
Community Assembly Good Neighbor Awards were presented to:
Good Neighbor Award - **Mike Flahaven & Sandy Gill & Garland Theater**
Spirit of the Community Assembly - **Dan Brown**
Congratulations and thank you to our neighbors!

The Spokane Neighborhood Leadership Academy (SNLA) is hosted by Gonzaga University. It is a five-month program to equip new and emerging neighborhood council leaders with knowledge, skills, and resources to increase engagement and effectively address their priorities. It is free to attendees. The application deadline was January 3rd.

Community Assembly Report Liaison Dalin Tipton was unable to attend due to a conflict with CA meeting schedule.

Garland District The new Board of Directors will be voted on in February.

The board is working with Darya Pilram, from Economic Recovery Corps on developing a plan to get Garland appointed as a Creative District for the Washington Arts Commission.

There has been \$450,000 allocated from ARPA grant monies for the district. There was some discussion during the meeting about the possibility of Garland being designated as a Historic district to preserve some of its buildings, in light of all the new construction.

Old Business

Scot Webb discussed the CA grant application that needs to be submitted by May. There is about \$850 for the council to use for promotion. It was discussed that we should start working soon on another neighborhood picnic for this summer. It was agreed that using Ruth Park worked out well.

There was also a discussion about business cards with contact information being printed. The city reprographics department has been closed, so any printing would have to be paid for up front and then reimbursed.

All of the shopping bags that were previously ordered have been distributed.

Neighborhood Concerns/Issues (Open Forum)

There was some discussion about the completion of the pathway at Franklin Park.

It was suggested that we might have a representative from the Spokane Conservation District (SCD) attend one of our meetings and present on the CoolCanopy program. Their goal is to significantly improve the Tree Canopy Coverage in targeted areas of Spokane. For more information: <https://www.snapwa.org/coolcanopy>

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

The next meeting will be Thursday, February 13th, 6:30pm at Four Letter Word. 5602 N Wall St.