**MINUTES PEACEFUL VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

**JULY 9 2014**

Meeting called to order at 7pm by Jan Loux Chair

**Attendance:** Daniel Bruce, Carol Bryan, Susan Burns, Raynell Cook, Mary Jo Faulhaber, Bill Forman, Charlie Greenwood, John Lawson, Karna Lawson, Jan Lenhart, John Lenhart, Jan Loux, Mary Molter, Barbara Morrissey, Paula Richards, Margaret Ruhl, **excused** Matt Phillipy, Jon Snyder. **Guests:** Officer Dion Mason, SPD; Katherine Miller, City of Spokane; Jan Quintrell, City of Spokane; Juliet Sinisterra Parks department; Jan Yoder, North Cedar

**Presentations**

1.Jan Quintrell and Katherine Miller: **Levy Proposal** to fund comprehensive street construction and maintenance. Levy will not increase taxes but will extend present levy from 16 years to 20 years. Existing debt will be refinanced to lower payments freeing up money to invest in new road construction and maintenance. New funds from the levy would be matched by funding from city utilities and state/federal sources. Extensive information in the form of handouts was provided. Focus will be on arterials. Proposed projects include repair of Clarke/Main Avenue from Sandifur Bridge east to Monroe in 2016, with roadway alignment improvements, retaining wall, ped and bike pathway installation, new water distribution main replacement and interpretive signage. Council members complained about the intersection at Main & Lincoln. Katherine Miller said this continues to be evaluated.

2. Juliet Sinistera: **Bond Proposal for Riverfront Park** to pay for long overdue maintenance as well as new features that could improve the park’s economic status. Infrastructure repairs include the irrigation system, upgraded playgrounds and bridge repairs. The US Pavilion would be converted into a multi-purpose event center. Riverfront Park is currently operating at a deficit that is not sustainable. An urban park is considered necessary to Spokane's economic development. More large events are taking place in the Park areas, ie HoopFest, Pig Out. Barbara pointed out that the Gorge is an amphitheater and sound from the bands can be heard at her house over mile away. She requested attention be paid to the acoustics of the new amphitheater area. For more information visit *riverfrontparkmasterplan.org*

**Reports**:

1. Officer Mason: crime level remains low for PV. Carol disagreed, saying she had reported drug transactions. Officer Mason said only events that require police action are included in the crime stats

2.City Council, no report

3. Community Assembly: meeting on Friday July 11, so no new report.

4. Trail Committee: Jan contacted a major property owner along Main about obtaining an easement across his properties for the trail. He was not interested in an easement, but agreeable to Parks purchasing his land. Parks said they did not have the money. There will be a trail meeting with Brandon at the Library on or about July 22. Jan will ask him to send an e mail so she can forward it to the NC. Brandon also plans to post signs announcing the meeting.

**Minutes of June 11 approved**

**Old business:** John Lenhart reported success in getting property owners to clean up their sidewalks. The members thanked John for his assiduous work on this long time problem!

**New Business:** Barbara reported ordinance proposals being developed that could affect the neighborhood.(1) a "Redevelopment Eligibility" Stakeholders’ Group assembled by the Office of Neighborhood Services has been working on a definition of Blight that could meet HUD requirements for funding redevelopment. Barbara read aloud the State of Washington RCW definition of Blight, which is far broader and more general than the HUD requirement. Long time residents recounted personal experiences with the loss of parts of the PV neighborhood both when the Maple Street Bridge was built and when a neighborhood located in the present People's Park was removed. Members asked Barbara if she would attend the next committee meeting at least to bring back information. Barbara said she would do this despite her objection to most Eminent Domain and taking processes, especially those she has observed that broke up a community. Other members cited the still unfinished freeway in East Spokane, and the New Haven, CT taking as examples of how this process did not produce the results for which it was intended. *This proposal could eventually become an ordinance.* To see a draft of the proposed ordinance visit https://beta.spokanecity.org/blog/2014/07/23/redevelopment-eligibility-blight/ (2)The Public Safety Committee, has been working on a "vehicle storage ordinance" and a method to identify landlords. This is still in the early stages. *It too could eventually become an ordinance.*  Both these proposals need to be vetted by the Community Assembly before going to the City Council. Carol said she would like to attend the Public Safety Committee to see what's up.

**Announcements:** There will be no Neighborhood Council meeting in August. The next meeting will be September 10.

Meeting adjourned at 9 pm.

respectfully submitted, Barbara Morrissey, secretary