

Peaceful Valley Neighborhood Council and Steering Committee Minutes
September 11, 2013

Neighborhood Council Meeting called to Order at 6:30 pm by Jan Loux, Chair

Attendance Carol Bryan, Susan Burns, Raynell Cook, Mary Faulhaber, William Former, Justin Leedy, Jan Lenhart, John Lenhart, Jan Loux, Barbara Morrissey, Matt Phillipy Paula Richards
Guests: Matthew West, Lands Council; Garrett Jones, Spokane Parks Dept. Steve Spickard, Cannon Hill NC

Reports. Community Policing, no report; City Council no report. Community Assembly: Susan reported there is a retreat 10/12/13 from 9am to 2:30, "Reinventing our Neighborhoods". Community Minded Enterprises will have a workshop at the library on the Affordable Care Act. There will be a benefit auction for the Firefighter's Memorial. Scott Chesney from Planning made a presentation (he will attend the NC October Meeting to explain about participation in the Comp Plan process)

Matthew West reported on the joint effort of the Health Department and the Lands Council to educate the public about the danger of eating fish from the Spokane River and physical contact with sand/beaches on the river, because of the heavy metal toxins being flushed down. PCB's are turning out to be a problem, from ink and paint. Lead and arsenic pose a significant risk to young children. There are specific ways to clean fish from the river. Some species should not be eaten more than once a month. After recreating on the river it is wise to wash off, especially mud and sand because of lead. Exact details can be obtained from the Spokane Regional Health Department, (509) 324-1574.

Garrett Jones updated us on projects the Steering Committee approved for Riverwalk and the Playground under the bridge. Parks is seeking input from the neighborhood on new equipment for the playground. Matthew has catalogs for people to look at and pick recommendations. Parks needs neighborhood input by the next NC meeting in October.

Minutes from July were approved with spelling corrections.

Old Business. (1) Glover Field and CSO updates. The exact site for the CSO tank still has to be decided, but first choice seems to be a tall tank placed against the Main Street Slope on the south side of Glover Field. Parking lot on top, accessed from Main. Will not be located on the riverbank or where the tribal artifacts were found in the completed archeological assessment. Many steps remain before construction starts, including SEPA hearings and conversations with the tribes who used this area for fishing. At the open house earlier this month Kim Hatt, who lives on Water, raised the issue about odor. Barbara supported her concern, since where there is a smell something undesirable is going on. We were told by Waste Management that filters will solve the problem. Jan said the City really wants this project to turn out well and encouraged us to let the City know what we want. Jan has Comment Forms which will be distributed via the email list or can be picked up from her. Comments should be returned to Marlene Feist at mfeist@spokanecity.org

(2) Community Gardens. Kathy Thamm of Community Minded Enterprises told Susan there is still about \$8k in the account. Susan is waiting for an e mail from Kathy about how to access this money to use for repairs and a fence. The gardens are thriving, so is the pilfering. There will be a potluck (bring a desert or a salad) supper at Mary F's house on Wed. Sept. 18 to celebrate. Susan plans to attend the free food forest workshop at the MAC.

(3) Raccoons continue to be more than a nuisance. Our hands are tied in getting them removed. Only professional trappers, who are costly, are legally allowed to trap. They do not relocate, only euthanize. Please don't leave food out, clean up fruit, and watch entrances, especially your back door!! Raynell reported an invasion of them the other day in her house. The adults are getting aggressive around the kits. They are ingenious with latches on cat doors.

New Business (1) The issue of Main-Clarke being blocked by Spokefest was tabled until a later meeting. (2) Main from Cedar to Monroe will be completely closed to replace a sewer. There will be no bus service. Jan was asked to contact STA to ask for alternate services for PV. According to a letter mailed to residents by Dept of Engineering services it will begin Oct. 13 and last about three weeks. (3) Illegal Dumping at the Community Center. John reported on efforts he has been making to halt the practice. Dumpsters claim they are making "donations" of old couches and mattresses. Mark Reilly, center director, says any donations must be cleared by him in advance. There are now signs explaining that the fine for illegal dumping is \$513. If you observe the dumping get the license of the vehicle and call Code Enforcement, (509) 625-6083. Please also contact Mark with the information. John also recommended calling Code Enforcement about owners of vacant property who are allowing sidewalks to be blocked with vegetation, or, in the winter, snow. (3) Jan requested input about Officers wearing their guns at the NC meeting. Members concluded that the best solution for this is for those who are uncomfortable with this to come to the meetings after the officer has made his presentation.

STEERING COMMITTEE; JAN HAS FINISHED THE NEEDS AND PRIORITIES TALLEY. MOST OF THE OCTOBER MEETING WILL BE ON THIS. October 9, 2013, 6:30 pm. Dump passes were passed out. Some arrangements were made for a neighbor who does not have a truck and is physically incapacitated to receive assistance from other neighbors.

Both meetings adjourned. Respectfully submitted, Barbara Morrissey, secretary.