

Bemiss Community Council Minutes

Thursday, 7/14/16

Attendees: Kathryn Alexander, Bruce Higgins, Anna Silva, Charles Hansen (Whitman Neighborhood Council), Jon Nolan, Peggy Slider, RN (Spokane Regional Health District), Anna Everano (Assistant to Councilman Fagan) and Marlene Maurer

Excused: Mike Rapp & Donna Fagan

Guests: Community Resource Officer Keith Cler, Neva-Wood
Meeting called to order 6:05 and adjourned 8:19 p.m.

Community Resource Officer Updates/Q&A - Officer Cler:

1. Safety reminders: Lock cars & remove valuables, secure window air conditioners so they cannot be pushed in, shut garage door while mowing, etc.
2. Largest number of activities north of Bemiss (Number of instances of cars being broken into at fitness centers, commercial areas, etc.)
3. Question regarding quick release of individuals after arrests. State of Washington has given lower priority to property crimes and non-violent crimes due to crowding of facilities.
4. Question regarding observation of high traffic in and out of houses –what to do? Recall that it is not against the law to have large number of visitors to property. Can keep activity logs - record time, license plates, who showing up, etc. Police are very limited in what they can do. SICU division (drug enforcement) can be called but is extremely busy.
5. Discussion of nuisance properties and relation to new code definition which was passed in June by Spokane City Council. New code definition will be better for enforcement by expanding length of violation period and types of violations. Lengthy process to have property declared a chronic nuisance property. Recall, police respond to incidents and then is passed on to city attorney. Safe Streets is a separate civil process that can be pursued. Bemiss area does not have a particularly high number of problem houses compared to other areas.
6. Noise ordinance is very complex and difficult to enforce – officer has to view occurrence. Can report to Crime Check. It is helpful if multiple calls.

Corrections to Bemiss Community Council meeting of June 9th:

1. CA Report: Mark Davis joined Budget Committee not Finance Committee
2. Other Business: Correction to two typos:
 - a.a Night Out *Against*...
 - b.three days *prior*...

Motion to approve corrected minutes: presented by Anna Silva, seconded by Jon Nolan and approved by all attendees.

CA Report:

City of Spokane Comprehensive Plan (Comp plan)

Three requests for change have been made:

- i. Southgate has Queen Bee radio station which is working well
- ii. Avista – change designation to give property to Riverside Community
- iii. North Indian Trail – had plan for 235 single family which didn't happen and now developer wants to add 735 multi-family dwellings. Significant community concern expressed.

Comp plan understanding is important.

Picnic: The Community Assembly is having potluck picnic 8/14 (2-4 p.m.) at Manito Park – all Neighborhood Council & CA members invited.

Community Development Block Grant Committee (CACD) – for next round. No results to projects submitted in the last two years. Covered bus stop on Foothills and Pittsburg requested two years ago. Requesting display area for newsletters in this and bus stop at Hays Park. Hays Park was last years project – expecting a 2017 start. Next year allotment is being reduced, there was a \$60K reduction shared by all neighborhoods. Bemiss will now be receiving \$41,400. This is funding from community block grants. some of this funding to go towards \$20K Hays Park sidewalk project to complete the Hays Park plan. All Council members encouraged to think of Ideas for this years project...

Mayor's Housing Quality Task Force overview:

1. Meeting 6/24 at City Hall attended by Kathryn Alexander and Bruce Higgins.
What to do with housing needs and substandard housing...four buzz groups...
 - a. What is Housing Quality
 - b. What is Housing Affordability – 30% in Spokane should be goal
 - c. What are the barriers to quality and/or affordable housing?
 - d. What are the solutions to quality and/or affordable housing?
2. Overview report attached to minutes
3. Community involvement is welcome
4. Note: This is separate process to current discussions/review of possible Infill Project (placing small housing on vacant lots/properties to provide housing).

Hays Park Concert Update:

1. Signs up in the park – placement was limited due to park rules. Signs can be used next year.
2. Concert information included in Bemiss Newsletter which was just distributed
3. Bemiss T-shirts will be on sale

Councilman Fagan Report:

Anna Everano – nothing to report in Councilman Fagan's absence

Finance Report: Current funds of \$641.59. Vendor owes group \$90 for T-shirt sales.

Spokane Regional Health District Update:

1. Housing Survey Update – very few have been returned. Members will try to submit.
2. Whitman Neighborhood has created a coalition that is proposing revamp to Rochester Park. Plans include universal access design park. Group is seeking grant funding.
3. Park Plans will be presented to community at Night Out Against Crime celebration on 8/2 at Rochester Park. Whitman has asked Bemiss to co-sponsor event. Public is welcome

Submitted by: Marlene Maurer