

Bemiss Neighborhood Council Minutes, January 8, 2015

The meeting came to order at 6:08 p.m

Attending: Brooke Plastino, Kathryn Alexander, Ann Donahue, Donna Fagan, Bruce Higgins, Jane Moody, and guests Dr. Mark Anderson and Linda McDermott.

Following introductions, the 11/13/14 and 12/11/14 minutes respectively were each approved by Kathryn Alexander, seconded by Bruce Higgins, and accepted by the Council.

Mark Anderson, Superintendent of Spokane's School Support Services and Linda McDermott, Chief Financial Officer for School District 81, reviewed the District's pending bond and levy measure, with ballots to be mailed for a 2/10/14 voting deadline. The bond, Phase 3 of a 5-phase plan, would cover tech and security upgrades and new construction to the year 2021 and include, among other projects, gym replacement and a new campus plan for Shaw Middle School. The bond would cost just under \$2 per \$1000 assessed property to raise \$145-million or, with carry-over and matching state funds, almost \$205-million, but would require voter participation of 40% of those in the last election with 60% approval for passage. The levy, to help operational costs, would renew rather than increase taxes at a cost of about \$4 per \$1000 assessed value, needing a simple majority.

Kathryn reviewed the allocation of funds from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Committee with \$800,000 in available grants, \$700,000 in neighborhood proposals, and \$35,000 awarded to Bemiss for a new bus shelter at Foothills and Pittsburg and sidewalk-curb upgrades near Bemiss Elementary (see also the 12/11/14 minutes.)

Also discussed were changes in CDBG guidelines and in Spokane's Community Housing and Human Services, which recently awarded \$800,000 to local non-profits for homeless or single-family housing.

Kathryn invited members to respond to Spokane's proposal to allow and regulate short-term housing rentals (under 30-days) in residential areas, noting that comments officially relayed via the Bemiss Council may carry more weight. (For proposals and input see the 11/6/14 Nextdoor Bemiss e-mails.)

Kathryn also noted that the Finch Arboretum retreat for the city-wide neighborhood Community Assembly (CA) has been changed to February 20th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. with everyone welcome.

Regarding a Bemiss logo, Bruce summarized his look into copyrights for computer-downloaded images, including various website requirements and the absence of "fair use" exemptions. He felt that, while gray areas remain on long-term use of an image for Bemiss, the likelihood of problems lay less with copyright and more with being tied to an ongoing contract from "free" downloads. He recommended a minor payment (\$15 or so) for a downloaded image as first suggested by Kathryn and Brooke. In weighing various logos, Bruce suggested the bulldog, offered by Brooke but distinct from other local bulldog logos, might be inserted within an outline of the Bemiss boundaries, which option was unanimously accepted.

The members then discussed and adjusted wording in the first three sections of the proposed by-laws with further sections and additional agenda items to be continued at the upcoming, February 12th meeting. (A former draft of the By-Laws can also be found within the 10/20/14 Nextdoor Bemiss e-mail.)

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

(Submitted: BKH)