



**Audubon-Downriver Neighborhood Council  
Membership Meeting Minutes  
Zoom virtual meeting  
Jan 21, 2021**

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Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Jeff Stevens. Chris Wright (Vice Chair), Fran Papeleur (CA representative), Victor Frazier (WCCC/COPS NW liaison), and Andrea Kilgore (Secretary) present. Kirsten Angell (Parks coordinator) not present.

**Chair report:** Jeff explained Zoom virtual meeting format and ADNC membership rules.

**Secretary's Report:** No minutes since Feb 2020 due to COVID.

**Membership Report:** Position vacant.

**Social Media Report:** *Andrea Kilgore* present. No report tonight.

**Treasurer's Report:** Position vacant. Chris Wright is serving as interim treasurer. *\$5300 balance in December.*

**Board member nominations:** Election was delayed due to COVID. Board positions have 2-year limits. Jeff and Andrea can serve 1 more year in their positions. Chris has been serving as interim vice-chair and was nominated to remain in that position officially. We are searching for a Treasurer and Membership Chair. Anyone interested in running for election at the next meeting can declare tonight. New attendees tonight will be eligible to vote if they attend the next meeting.

**City Council Report:** *Candace Mumm, City Council District 3*, reports City will pick up 1 container of windstorm Clean Green debris for free. COVID update: Arena, hospitals and other locations will distribute COVID vaccine. Anyone over age 65 qualifies and other may qualify. Go to the Regional Public Health website, state health website for info, your doctor or insurance company for information. Spokane can move to Phase 2 if we meet 3 of 4 health indicators. The mask mandate will stay in place after immunization due to risk of infecting others. Candace reported on budget updates. Streets Dept has funding for fixing cracks and potholes, so report streets to the Pothole Hotline at 509-625-7733. Candace is focusing on walkability in our district. ADNC will help compile a list of neighborhood bike lanes, sidewalks and trails to make recommendations to the City. Council is working on a new police contract. The fire dispatch budget is fully funded this year and Council asking State Legislature to transfer 911 funds to the City from the County. Voters approved a new sales tax to fund affordable housing but it may be delayed because another funding source has been found. Candace states the County wastewater program owes almost \$5 million to the City which could be used for affordable housing. Candace shared highlights from the Council's 100-day plan, including a new youth shelter, an ordinance to transform "zombie houses", wifi in public parks and registration of short term rental housing (aka VRBO/AirBnB).

**Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) Report:** *Annie Deasy, ONS Liaison*, shared the water usage survey which will inform the City water management plan:

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/JM67YQ5](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JM67YQ5).

**Community Assembly/Community Development:** Fran reported on the Neighborhood Community Block Grant Program (NCDP), which was delayed due to COVID. District 3 recommends \$100,000 to Habitat for Humanity, which has 4 projects in West Central. District 2 recommends improvements for Family Promise Shelter parking lot, and two small capital improvements for Transitions. District 1, which has a larger allocation amount, may be able to fund all projects on the menu (although reducing Habitat amount to \$81K). CHHS Board has reviewed and opened the public comment period. The recommendations have not been presented to Community Assembly is open. Go to the Neighborhood Services website or contact Fran to learn more. She will keep the group informed as things progress.

**Parks Report:** 1) Kirsten Angell not present. Jeff reported on wind damage in the park. Most of the trees that fell and some “in danger” were removed. Parks Dept plans to replace trees that were lost, particularly Ponderosa Pines that are a signature tree in the park. 2) Jeff reports 2 dog waste bins and 2 bag dispensers will be installed on the river bluff along Riverview Drive. Bag dispensers will not be filled by the city and will depend on residents providing reusable plastic bags. A resident installed a 3<sup>rd</sup> bag dispenser already. Neighborhood Council will empty the waste bins on a regular basis. 3) Reminder that Downriver Golf Course has been damaged by winter recreation users in the past, so please stay on designated trails, pick up waste and stay off the putting greens. This will help prevent the city from banning public access on the course.

**Traffic:** 1) Jeff reports meeting with Councilperson Karen Stratton and Shauna Harshman, the city’s Manager of Neighborhood Connectivity Initiatives, to discuss concerns about increased traffic near the Albi construction site and new middle school. Residents are concerned about increased traffic on residential streets. Discussed potential traffic calming strategies. Traffic study recommended a roundabout at intersection of Wellesley and Assembly, Candace reports Bob Turner did a draft design for the roundabout several years ago, and she would like to look for funding sources to do it. Candace is concerned about walkable/bikeable design for middle school students. Crosswalks would need to be placed further away from the intersection if a roundabout will be there. Candace reports roundabout is cheaper than installing a light. Consider approaching the school district and applying for traffic calming funds now so it will be ready when the school opens. Candace reports new radar cameras at Maple and Francis are providing more funding for traffic projects. 2) Resident asked about 20 mph sign speed limit near parks. Jeff reports state law prohibits having the speed camera and the permanent 20 mph speed limit on NW Blvd near Audubon Park. We chose to keep the speed camera because people were ignoring the posted speed limit and the camera is more effective. Jeff asked City to remove the 20-mph zone on Wellesley because it is not close to the park and a HAWK light was installed for pedestrian crossing. Jeff reports improvements are planned for Belt St to make it more pedestrian friendly between Shadle Center, the park and library. Candace raised concerns about snowplows putting snow onto the sidewalk on Belt near Glover Middle School.

She recommends adding a parking strip or bike lane. The Shadle Plan recommended adding bike lanes. Candace offered to assist the ADNC with getting improvements on Belt. A resident suggested adding a pedestrian bridge over Belt to connect the park and school.

**West Central Community Center:** Victor reports the WCCC Board's three neighborhood council liaison positions are all filled. Steve Kounkel represents West Central, Heath Kaye's Emerson-Garfield, and Victor from our council. WCCC expanded the center's internet capabilities so neighborhood children can use it for attending school, and before and after school programs are available for them also. (WIC) Women Infant and Children's program has been busy with the COVID "baby boom," distributing lots of baby formula and counselling to parents with new babies.

**COPS NW:** Victor explained that C.O.P.S. stands for Community Oriented Policing Services and is a 501c3 non-profit. They are not a police organization, but all-volunteer with the exception of five paid employees made up of an executive director, an administrator, a program manager, and two Crime Victim Advocates. Tracy Ponto and Tamra Brannon are the Crime Victim Advocates providing counseling and resources to victims of crime. Victor reports COPS shops are mostly closed due to COVID, but Northwest is open on a limited basis with volunteers in the office at Shadle M-F 10am-1pm. They may expand hours as more volunteers are vaccinated. Victor reports Ellen Ebaugh, past COPS NW liaison for ADNC, passed away in December after 14 years of service with COPS. Victor is encouraging everyone to form a block watch on their street and to contact COPS NW at 625-3336. Police will do a background check on the Block Watch representative applicant.

**Open Forum:**

- 1) Women and Children's Free Restaurant received a \$12,000 donation from a local resident. ADNC has supported them in the past.
- 2) Candace reports neighborhood council attendance and participation appears to have increased in Zoom meetings. People are attending who did not attend before. Candace reports State Legislature is allowing participation in Zoom at hearings and they are surprised to hear from Eastern WA residents who usually do not drive to Olympia to participate in hearings. Jeff points out some regular members who always attend in person did not attend tonight. A hybrid meeting may be feasible when we return to in-person meetings.

**Poll:** *How did you hear about tonight's meeting?*

*30 % Email from ADNC*

*30% Facebook*

*10% ADNC website*

*20% Nextdoor*

*30% other*

**Next General Meeting:** *February 18, 2021 at 7pm.*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Meeting recorded by Andrea Kilgore.