



**Audubon-Downriver Neighborhood Council
Membership Meeting Minutes
Zoom virtual meeting 7:00 pm
Feb 18, 2021**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Jeff Stevens. Board members present: Chris Wright (Vice Chair), Fran Papenleur (CA representative), Kirsten Angell (Parks coordinator) and Andrea Kilgore (secretary). Victor Frazier (WCCC/COPS NW liaison) not present. Guest: Christopher Savage, Balboa/South Indian Trail Neighborhood Council. Guest speakers noted below.

Chair report: Jeff reviewed agenda and informed attendees that board elections would occur at this meeting.

Secretary report: Reviewed and approved meeting minutes for January meeting.

Treasurer report: Chris reports the current balance is \$5237.88.

Membership: Jeff updated the membership list. Member attendance will be tracked from January 2021 forward due to lack of meetings in 2020. We will update the email list as well.

Board election: Chris presented the slate of nominees: Jeff nominated as Chair, Chris nominated as Vice Chair and Treasurer. Andrea Kilgore nominated as Secretary. Chris called for any additional nominations. No nominations raised. Motion to close nominations for 2021 approved. Attendees were asked to vote Yay by raising hands. Slate of candidates approved by unanimous vote.

City Council report: Karen Stratton, City Council District 3 representative, reports concerns about eviction moratorium effect on tenants and landlords. Eviction moratorium helped people stay housed, but landlords lost rental income. Karen reports more funds are available and will be distributed soon. Landlords will be able to collect rent unpaid during moratorium. This is for rental housing only, not mortgages. Council will vote on Monday Feb 22. City provided additional resources for homeless people during cold weather, including extra space at shelters and transportation to shelters. City started a pilot program with Lyft to provide rides to shelters. City fire crews are doing wellness checks on people who are alone. Fort George Wright Drive name has been officially changed to Whistalks Drive. New signs have been installed. City will host a celebration with the Spokane tribe. City is working with STA on a contract to provide summer youth bus passes.

Community AssemblyCommunity Development: Fran reports that the 2020 Neighborhood CD Block Grant Program allocation for District 3 (\$100K) will go to Habitat-for-Humanity, which

has four houses pending in West Central. Transitions Edu-Care building will receive funds for new roof, and West Central Community Center will receive funds for heat pump and water heater replacement.

Clean-Up program: Jeff reports neighborhood councils are provided funds for clean-up projects every year. Usually ADNC provides dump passes for use at the Waste-to-Energy plant. Last year, dump passes were distributed differently due to COVID. Jeff will attend a meeting next week about the clean-up plan for 2021. ONS will host focus groups in every district in preparation for 2021 projects. ADNC could consider different clean-up options this year, such as curbside pickup.

Parks report: Kirsten reports Audubon Park will receive 2-3 new climbing structures donated by the Jesse Roskelley Foundation. Structures will be installed in an existing play area. Additional funds are needed to cover shipping and installation costs, and she recommended that ADNC consider a donation to the project. Audubon Park lost a number of trees this year due to weather and disease. Jeff and Kirsten met with Urban Forestry staff to discuss replanting options and will organize an event around the planting. Kirsten invites everyone to participate in a clean-up along the river bluff this spring. Volunteers would meet 1-2 times per year to pick up trash. E-mail Kirsten directly at kirstkrane@yahoo.com to sign up. Kirsten sought feedback on Facebook about creating a dog park in our neighborhood. Most people rejected Audubon Park as a location. Some residents suggested the Merkel area, but it is privately owned and will eventually be developed. Several suggested Shadle Park. ADNC wants to create a master plan for Shadle Park. The Shadle area master plan developed in 2017 recommended creation of a master plan specifically for Shadle Park, and City supports the idea. Kirsten asked if anyone is interested in a community garden. Edie Rice-Sauer said that Transitions Home Yard Cottages campus has beds available in their community garden area, and to e-mail her if interested. Jeff reports *Growing Neighbors* supports creation of community gardens in Shadle Park.

Traffic report: Jeff explained that the city's Traffic Calming program provides funds for neighborhood traffic projects from revenue generated by red light cameras. City is reorganizing the program for 2021 and will host meetings in March to collect feedback from neighborhood councils. Annie Deasy reports information-sharing session will be March 30th. Jeff will attend. Annie reports the new process will grant more opportunities for council projects because the previous application process made it difficult for projects to get approved by traffic engineers. New approach will allow councils to submit all identified issues without having to present solutions to the engineers for review. Traffic engineers will review the problems and present possible solutions. This should result in more approved projects. NOTE: Report potholes by calling Pothole Hotline 509-755-2489, and report speeding issues to the Traffic Hotline 509-624-4150. Leave a message with the location and your contact info.

West Central Community Center: Victor not present. Fran reports WCCC has a full board of 21 members, and Karen Stratton has joined as a non-voting member. COPS NW is open again to the public Mon-Sat 10am-1pm. Two upcoming events in April: Shred Day April 30th and Medication Take Back Day April 24th. Andrea will attach flyers with the meeting minutes.

Neighborhood Services report: Annie Deasy, ONS representative, announced Community Engagement Grant training next Thursday Feb 25, 6:30-7:30 pm. Training will be online afterward. This year, \$800 is available for each neighborhood council. Councils should provide 2 options for community engagement funding: one that is possible if no COVID restrictions are in place, and one alternative option as a backup plan. Fran will attend the meeting.

Transitions report: Edie Rice-Sauer, Transitions director, reports Fran is featured in a video on the Spokane Low Income Consortium website here: <http://www.slihc.org/yimby-network.html>. Edie is now Chairman of the Board for SLIHC and Ben Stuckart was hired as executive director. Edie appreciates the support our neighborhood provides for the Home Yard Cottages project. She reports tenants have been stable during COVID because they have reliable monthly income not affected by COVID. Only 4 tenants are in arrears due to income loss during COVID. Edie reports Early Learning Facility (ELF) funding from Dept of Commerce was used for renovations and a virtual tour will be available on www.help4women.org. A tutor was hired to help with remote learning during COVID. It has been a successful program, so they plan to continue with an after school program in future. Transitions paid \$28,000 for a slab of concrete and greenhouse. Transition owns a duplex at Fairview and Belt that was donated by nuns. Ameri-group volunteers live on one side and the other side recently became vacant. Edie reports the building is currently undergoing renovations. Transitions partnered with Hope House on the annual *Mardi-Bra* donation campaign. Bras, underwear, bus passes and deodorant for homeless women are requested. Truck will be at Grocery Outlet 10-2pm this Saturday 2/20 for donation drop-off.

Guest speaker: Melissa Huggins, Executive Director of *Spokane Arts*, presented information about the *In the Neighborhood* Poetry Project. Anyone can submit poetry about their neighborhood. Poems are organized by neighborhoods. Professional poets, community members and school kids submitted. Read poems at www.spokanepoetry.com and submit poems at <https://spokanearts.submittable.com/submit>

Guest speaker: Noelle Connolly, legislative assistant to Senator Andy Billig, asked attendees to email any comments or questions regarding the current legislative session to andy.billig@leg.wa.gov

Open Forum: Justin Croteau reports several people on Facebook expressed interest in renovating the volleyball courts at Audubon Park. Angie K also expressed interest. Kirsten will organize a volunteer group to develop a plan for the volleyball courts.

Next General Meeting: March 18, 2021 at 7pm via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 8 pm.

Meeting minutes record by ADNC Secretary Andrea Kilgore.
