



**Audubon-Downriver Neighborhood Council
Membership Meeting Minutes
Finch Elementary and Zoom virtual meeting 7:00 pm
November 18, 2021**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Chris Wright. Board members present: Fran Papenleur (Vice Chair/CA representative), Andrea Kilgore (Secretary), Jeff Stevens (Past Chair, interim Parks Chair) present. Victor Frazier (Treasurer/WCCC/COPS NW liaison) not present. Kirsten Angell (Parks coordinator) resigned In October. Membership Chair vacant. Guest speakers noted below.

Chair report: October membership meeting minutes were sent with meeting invites. Approved the minutes.

Secretary report: October minutes approved.

Treasurer report: Victor reports the current balance is \$5,582. Received \$100 donation from Phyllis Thayer and \$100 donation from COPS.

Membership: 14 residents in attendance plus 1 anonymous zoom attendee. 11 voting members present. Quorum of voting members present.

Guest speaker: Johnnie Perkins, City administrator, accompanied by assistant Scotty Nicol, presented on the City Administrator role. City Administrator is responsible for administering all City programs. City Administrator does not set policy or budget. Policies and budgets are set by the Mayor and City Council, then the City Administrator operationalizes the policy within the budget. Mr. Perkins reported the following priorities: 1) Safety on roads for vehicles and pedestrians, working with emergency responders to keep people safe, 2) Customer Service and Customer Satisfaction with programs and contracts. He is working with 311 to improve customer service experience for residents. 3) Neighborhoods First approach includes addressing neighborhood concerns by working with neighborhood councils. Homelessness, economic development, graffiti, encampments are important issues right now. Removing graffiti and litter in neighborhoods improves the impression of the City. Mr. Perkins inherited a backlog of over 1,000 abandoned vehicles and RV's illegally parked on city streets. He initiated a 3-week "strike team" that eliminated half the vehicles, and will do another 3-week strike to remove all vehicles on the list by 2022. Also plans to improve 311 customer service experience through immediate referral to appropriate

departments and timely response in order to prevent more backlogs. A resident asked if the City is towing vehicles that people live in. Mr. Perkins replied that they are not towing cars if people live in the car. They get a citation and then the Homeless Outreach Team can be brought in. Jeff said that there is a noticeable improvement in response times to code enforcement issues along Downriver Drive and feels it is worthwhile to make referrals to 311 due to visible evidence that the the issues are addressed in a timely manner.

Fran noted that vacancies in the CHHS department have affected CCBG funding for the Neighborhood Community Development Program (NCDP). Mr. Perkins reported that they are close to hiring a new CHHS director. He states that a Strike Team was created to apply for grants before deadlines.

Guest Speaker: Shauna Harshman, City Council Manager of Neighborhood Connectivity Initiatives, presented on traffic calming/pedestrian safety project on NW Blvd to improve pedestrian access to the Northwest bluff overlook. City engineer presented 3 options and requested resident feedback. Jeff Stevens shared the pros and cons of each location: Providence, Garland or Lacrosse. Jeff originally suggested placing the crosswalk at Providence so people can walk directly to the viewing platforms and best views. This would connect the Totem Pole parklet to the viewing platforms. City engineer proposed Garland or Lacrosse. Garland has a handicap accessible sidewalk but would connect to dirt space. Lacrosse would connect Webster Park to the bluff parking lot. Pedestrians would have to walk on dirt paths to the viewpoints. Engineer said there were higher pedestrian counts and better sidewalks at Lacrosse, but told Shauna the pedestrian counts are not significantly higher than the other 2 locations. City wants to know our #1 preference and #2 preference in case there is a budget for 2 crosswalks. Residents report traffic calming is important along NW Blvd due to speeding 50+ mph. Residents noticed significant improvement after a pedestrian safety island was installed by Audubon Park. HAWK light is not in the budget but pedestrian island could be. Members eliminated the Garland option. Voted for Providence as #1 and Lacrosse as #2. Jeff reports another crosswalk is proposed at Alberta and Longfellow for crossing to Shadle Center. The city's Engineering department proposed bumpouts to slow traffic, pedestrian activated flashing beacon lights (smaller than a HAWK light) and handicap accessible sidewalks. The design would require removal of some resident lawns, though only within the City right-of-way. Design might include bike lanes but we could not tell from the drawing. Shauna will obtain more info.

City Council report: Legislative Assistant Kandace Watkins planned to report on behalf of Candace Mumm about pedestrian safety, however she left the meeting early. This would be Candace Mumm's last meeting due to the end of her term.

Community Assembly report: Chris attended the November meeting. Fran reports the CA will have a new Admin committee in December that will try to focus meeting topics on issues important to neighborhoods, not regional projects. The City Council funded a new Neighborhood Leadership program coordinated by Gonzaga University to encourage development of neighborhood leaders. Free monthly course will span 6 months, with lunch and childcare provided. This is a pilot program and the hope is that it will generate increased interest in resident participation in their neighborhood council. Deadline to apply is December 1st. Parks board position offered to CA has 2 applicants. The CA Budget Committee approved funding for “Spirit of CA” and “Good Neighbor” awards. Deadline for nominations is January 24.

Office of Neighborhood Services: Annie Deasy, ONS liaison, reminded everyone about snow season and parking on odd sides of the street. No garbage pick up on Thanksgiving. Garbage pick up will be late by one day for Thursday/Friday pickup. MPH yard signs available at COP shop.

Traffic: New liaison Steve Cox introduced. Ralph asked about traffic at the new school site on Assembly when construction workers leave at quitting time. Chris and Jeff report school has been responsive when concerns are reported. Steve reports traffic leaving VA at 5 pm might be part of the problem. ADNC anticipates the traffic situation at the 4 way stop will increase when the new school opens.

Parks: Jeff reports no updates due to the winter season.

West Central Community Center: Victor earlier had reported that the 24-hour library kiosk was damaged. Two young boys vandalized the screen with a rock. It is shut down indefinitely until repaired. The WCCC board has been meeting in person at the center since September.

COPS/Public Safety: John Schwartz, COPS NW volunteer, reports MPH yard signs are available for pickup, 1 per household. Dump passes that are good through the end of November are available. COPS will be closed Thanksgiving but open Friday/Saturday.

Next General Meeting: January 20, 2022 location TBA. We can continue to meet at Finch or can consider Shadle Library. Pros and cons of running Zoom meetings at Finch where there is no wifi. Library has wi-fi but closes earlier than our meeting time.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm by Chris Wright.

Meeting minutes recorded by ADNC Secretary Andrea Kilgore.