



**.Audubon-Downriver Neighborhood Council
Membership Meeting
Shadle Park Library, Event Room
January 19, 2023**

Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Chair Chris Wright. **Board members** present: Fran Papeleur (Vice-Chair), Eric Swagerty (Membership), Jeff Stevens (Parks Coordinator), Andrea Kilgore (Secretary), and Steve Cox (Traffic Coordinator) present. Treasurer Victor Frazier not present. **Guests:** Edie Rice-Sauer (*Transitions*), Christopher Savage (Balboa/South Indian Trail Neighborhood Council), John Edmondson (*Growing Neighbors*), Mary Croston, Master Gardeners also present. Guest speakers noted below.

Chair: Introductions and orientation to neighborhood council.

Secretary: November minutes provided by email. Motion to approve passed.

Treasurer: Current balance is \$4279.14. Victor intends to file the Federal IRS and Secretary of State nonprofit status forms by end of month

Membership: Eric reports 20+ people in attendance (15 voting members), with a quorum present. 47% of 32 voting members present.

Guest speaker: Captain Thomas Hendren, Spokane Police Department - Northwest Precinct (Adam Sector), presented on reorganization of police department. Officers are assigned to districts instead of responding city-wide. Goal is to focus on community policing as a department, rather than delegating community policing to NROs. NROs have been reassigned to patrol positions to increase staffing levels. Changes are designed to increase officer availability and ability to engage community members more efficiently. Focus on building relationships with residents and address problems at neighborhood level. The officers assigned to Northwest Precinct have strong, personal connections to the neighborhood. Focus on establishing relationships with all residents, including perpetrators, to focus on problem-solving and building trust. This is a culture shift for some staff so supervision and training will increase. Will measure success based on crime rates matching reporting rates (community reports more when they trust police), community surveys and decreased traffic fatalities.

Question 1) how are individual officers evaluated for conduct? Captain Hendren reports there are several ways to report problems and body cameras are helpful tools. When they receive a complaint, supervisor reviews body cam footage.

Question 2) Resident asked about outreach to high schoolers. Captain Hendren reports connecting with Shadle Park staff about establishing relationship with the schools. No official police program in schools at this time.

Question 3) Who do we call in place of the NRO? Will continue to work with COPS. Meeting next week to discuss process for transferring info between COPS and SPD. Report Code Enforcement incidents to 311. Abandoned cars were backlogged. Traffic hotline is still valid. Traffic officer continues to monitor hotline, train traffic cops, etc.

Question 4) How do we report prowlers? Always call to report. They might not respond if addressing emergencies, but they need to know about and have the incident. They also need evidence (e.g., security cameras) to justify stopping a prowler. Report license plates and descriptions because crime analyst can connect tips to incidents. Even small pieces of information can greatly improve chances of solving crimes under investigation.

Question 5) What can be done about illegal substance use driving up crime rates? Contact state legislature representatives about changing laws that decreased penalties for drug possession. Fentanyl and meth are the two drugs most linked to death, crime and homelessness.

City Council: Council Member not present. Chris reports City Council passed budget. They are focused on housing and homelessness issues. Recent landlord/tenant stakeholder meeting was well attended and discussion lasted over 2 hours. Legislative priorities are to obtain housing relief. American Indian Community Center are searching for a permanent location, and City is considering a location near High Bridge Park.

Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS): Amber Groe, our new ONS liaison, gave District 3 report. She plans to attend quarterly and attend other ADNC events. New ONS director is Patrick Striker, recently Executive Director of COPS. The annual Point-in-Time count for homeless population is happening the end of January, and volunteers are needed. *Neighbors Drive 25* signs are still available. Amber brought a large supply of neighborhood council recruitment postcards to be distributed around the community.

Traffic: Steve reported on Cycle 10 traffic projects.

1) Crosswalks and luminaries will be installed at Alberta/Longfellow, crosswalk and island at NW Blvd/Lacrosse, and NW Blvd/I street.

2) Sidewalk Infill project will start May 2023 for 12-14 weeks. City engineer Rich Proszek is communicating with affected residents.

- 3) Traffic modifications at NW Blvd and Audubon Park: reduced to one lane in both directions with center turn lane, merge lane relocated, new bus stop at Audubon Park, and cross walk with RRFB. Advocating for bike lanes included.
- 4) Road removal at W Gordon and Alberta/Driscoll. Local residents said they would not be negatively impacted by the change. It was dangerous to cross there and this will decrease confusion for drivers.
- 5) Neighborhoods asked to nominate locations for new speed cameras. Must be high traffic locations within 300 ft of parks or hospitals. City would be allowed to reduce speed to 20 [but not necessary]. Suggested locations: NW Blvd and Walton - within 300 ft of Webster Park and bluff park with many speeding complaints. Audubon Park and Alice - many speeders in east bound lane on NW Blvd. Shadle Park on Belt. Requested membership feedback: Ranked NW/Walton #1, Audubon #2 and Shadle #3.
- 6) Mobile Speed Feedback Trailers proposed for NW Blvd at Royal Ct and Alberta at Upton to collect data on school zone traffic. Wellesley at Shadle Park to collect data on 20 mph zone that many residents want removed. It had not been enforced until recently and no one follows it. Resident suggests merger at Driscoll and Cochran.
- 7) Report all speeding concerns to Traffic Hotline 509-477-3222 to identify hot spots.
- 8) Chip Seal on Maple/Ash between NW Blvd to Rowan
- 9) Full roadway replacement on TJ Meenach to NW Blvd in conjunction with water filtration project.
- 10) report potholes to 311.

Social Media: Andrea reported progress toward purchasing website.

Community Assembly: Fran reported that the new year will build on strengthening relationships between neighborhood councils and municipal government. CA meetings will focus on topics important to neighborhoods, rather than hosting outside or regional presentations. She said that Council President Beggs intends to establish a Neighborhood Committee to strengthen communication between CA, City Council, and City Administration. Fran also announced annual CA Awards to outstanding neighborhood volunteers.

Parks: Jeff Stevens reports 198 trees removed at Downriver Golf Course due to pine bark beetle infestation. They will monitor the area for more infection. Trying to avoid spread. Will also remove trees in Audubon Park. Contact Urban Forestry if you see a dying or diseased Ponderosa Pine through City website. Funding secured for Roskelley Foundation rock scramble project at Audubon Park. Roskelley Foundation, ADNC and *Go Fund Me* contributed donations and Parks will pay for the remainder. Community Garden plot at Oak and Longfellow is being designed. Project is a partnership with ADNC, *Growing Neighbors*, and Master Gardener program.

Other: Edie Rice-Sauer, Executive Director of *Transitions*, is retiring in February. (Unfortunately, she left the meeting early so we were unable to congratulate her!) In addition to hosting a formal going-away party, her organization has started an endowment fund in her honor. Some ADNC board members have contributed personally, and may discuss a gift from the neighborhood council in the future. Special thanks to Phyllis Thayer for providing cookies for attendees.

Next General Meeting: February 16, 2023 at 6:30pm, Shadle Park Library, Event classroom. It will be an in-person/ Zoom hybrid meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50.

Meeting minutes recorded by ADNC Secretary Andrea Kilgore.