



AUDUBON
DOWNRIVER
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Audubon-Downriver Neighborhood Council
Membership Meeting
Shadle Park Library, Event Room
October 19, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Interim Chair Fran Papenleur. Welcome and Introductions were made.

Board members present: Eric Swagerty (Membership), Steve Cox (Traffic Coordinator), Jeff Stevens (Parks Coordinator), Victor Frazier (Treasurer), Andrea Kilgore (Secretary), and past Chair Chris Wright (handling Zoom) present.

Guests: Christopher Savage (Balboa/South Indian Trail Neighborhood Council), Maddie Sontag (Legislative Assistant to Senator Andy Billig). Mayor Nadine Woodward, City Communications Director Brian Coddington, Patrick Striker, ONS Director, Pollyanne Birge, ONS Liaison.

Administrative Reports:

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

Treasurer: Victor reports current balance is \$4095. Victor proposes investing ADNC funds in CD to grow revenue.

Membership: Eric reported 30 voting members total; 17 in attendance tonight. (10 needed for a quorum.). Several board positions will be up for vote in November.

Officers serve 2 one-year terms. Call for nominations for following positions:

- Chair: Jeff Stevens nominated
- Vice Chair: Steve Cox nominated
- Membership: open
- Secretary: Andrea termed out but is willing to serve again if unopposed
- Treasurer: Fran Papenleur nominated

Chair's Report - Community Assembly:

- City-proposed draft of a Neighborhood Council Ordinance which codifies neighborhood councils' officers term limits, official communication from NCs to City, and ONS support. Goal is to encourage new neighborhood leadership. District meetings have been held for public feedback.
- ADNC used Community Engagement Grant funds to purchase new sandwich boards and communication materials. Also paid for Zoom account.



Special Guest Speaker: Mayor Nadine Woodward. Speech largely covered the following issues: crime, public safety and homelessness:

- **Homelessness:** City of Spokane is joining other cities to petition Supreme Court to oppose *Martin vs. Boise* ruling that impacts homelessness policy. Resources are currently focused on low barrier emergency shelters instead of transitional programs. Regional Housing Authority is being developed.
- **Public Safety/Crime:** emphasis patrols on downtown around I-90 and Division. New ordinance for citing people using or possessing drugs in public spaces. Mayor reports Washington has highest rate of overdoses. SPD reorganized toward a community policing model and proactive policing. Recently created Violent Crimes Task Force has arrested 150+ dangerous offenders. Spokane needs 90-100 more police officers to meet national standard for city our size. Focus on funding and recruitment. New officers need at least one year of training before hitting the streets.
- **Budget:** currently looking at a large “structural gap.” Revenue not keeping up with expenses. Strategy is to find inefficiencies, cut vacant positions that have not been filled, and find gap funding. Proposed budget delivered October 2nd for Council review. Mayor’s final budget to be presented on November 2nd.
- ADNC residents’ primary concerns:
 - Illegal camping, parking, dumping, graffiti - is it possible to use boulders or fallen trees to block areas from parking to deter this activity?
 - Traffic calming budget: concerns it is being cut. Mayor states she wants to divert traffic calming funds away from street projects to hiring traffic patrol officers.

City Council Report: Council member not present.

Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS): Pollyanne Birge, ONS Liaison
(Earlier provided District 3 report by email.)

- Clean-Up event held September 22 with Solid Waste, ONS, and ADNC volunteers focused on Shadle Park and Downriver Drive. Included graffiti abatement. Another event will be scheduled in the spring.
- Information presented on the *Neighborhood Summit*, scheduled for November 4. It is a full-day event providing workshops to learn about neighborhood leadership, and has only a few slots left.



Public Safety

- **SPD:** Captain Hendren is on medical leave.
- **COPS NW:**
 - Shred Day in Sept raised over \$500 by donations
 - Interns {from Whitworth] finished their terms, so COPS need more volunteers! Apply on COPS website.
 - COPS can mediate neighbor disputes

West Central Community Center Liaison: Victor reports their Community Development Block Grant funds were cut this year; MLK Jr Center also lost CDBG funding. City has been out of compliance with HUD rules for several years. However, the Centers will receive COVID Relief funds, which WCCC plans to invest with the Innovia Foundation.

Traffic: Steve reports we had an unexpected road closure of NW Blvd impacting our neighborhood this summer. Received many resident complaints about lack of communication. He learned of communication gaps between Streets Dept, City engineering dept, etc. We were informed about some projects but not others. Impression is that Streets Dept needed to use remaining money in the budget so spent it on unplanned projects at the same time that other major projects were already scheduled. Pedestrian improvement project at Milton and Audubon has not happened yet. Two other traffic calming projects at Providence and Lacrosse are delayed until spring. Residents noticed some streets were torn up twice for different projects which could have been coordinated better. Maddie Sontag (Assistant to State Senator Andy Billig) reports her office is aware that schools benefiting from *Safe Streets to Schools* projects were impacted and they want to help coordinate.

Clean-Up: Jeff reports there will be a *Roll-Off* event for household trash and clean green at Glover Middle School parking lot on Saturday, October 21 at 9 am. A postcard with more information was mailed to all residents. Bring the mailer for admission or ID/utility bill verifying residence in neighborhood boundaries. He noted that ADNC can choose between dump passes, Roll-off event or Curbside Pick-up next year.

Next General Meeting: Thursday, November 16th, 6:30pm, Shadle Park Library, Event Room. It will be an in-person/Zoom hybrid meeting. ADNC Officer elections will be held.



Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

Meeting minutes recorded by ADNC Secretary Andrea Kilgore.