



AUDUBON
DOWNRIVER
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

**Audubon-Downriver Neighborhood Council
Membership Meeting
Shadle Park Library, Event Room
January 18, 2024**

Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Chair Jeff Stevens. Welcome and Introductions were made.

Board members present: Steve Cox (Vice Chair), Fran Papenleur (Treasurer), Gayle Swagerty (Membership), Andrea Kilgore (Secretary), and past Chair Chris Wright (handling Zoom) present. Not present: Victor Frazier (COPS NW/WCCC liaison).

Guests: City Council Member Kitty Klitzke; SPD Lt Rich Meyer; Pollyanne Birge, ONS Liaison; Christopher Savage (Balboa/South Indian Trail Neighborhood Council).

Administrative Reports:

Secretary: November minutes provided by email. No vote due to no quorum present.

Treasurer: Fran reports current balance is \$3927. Next month will pay fees for 501(c)3 renewal.

Membership: Gayle reported 30 voting members total; 9 in attendance tonight (10 needed for a quorum).

Guest speaker: Paul Chapin, Operations Director for Spokane Public Libraries, presented on upcoming library levy. SPL is a model for library systems nationwide. This levy is for operating expenses, not a bond for infrastructure. It is 18% of the budget and a straight renewal of the budget passed in 2016 and 2017. It equates to \$28 per year per person to sustain current level of service. Spokane libraries served 1.1 million visitors overall and Shadle Park Library is one of the busiest in the state.

Guest speaker: Adam Swinyard, Superintendent for Spokane Public Schools, presented on upcoming School Facility Bond and Replacement Levy. SPS is the 3rd largest school district in the state and employs over 5,000 employees; one of the largest employers in the region. Estimated 30,000 students. SPS consistently received high ratings from parents and students. Bond every 6 years pays for infrastructure improvements and modernization projects. Levy every 3 years pays for staff, programming and equipment. This year the bond and levy are on the ballot at the same time.



Public Safety - SPD: Lt. Rich Meyer, commander for North Precinct, reports increase in residential burglaries. Arrest is pending. Please keep watch and communicate with neighbors about anything suspicious.

City Council Report: Council member Kitty Klitzke reports warming centers are open and STA waives fare to warming centers. Please report drivers that refuse the free fare by calling 326-Ride to report the date and time of incident. Fire Dept requests that any outdoor fires be reported. There have been warming fires reported at vacant car wash building on NW Boulevard. Council is changing Open Forum by moving it at the end of the meeting, limited to 20 speakers and issues must be directly related to city business. Public can submit comments online about any pending legislation before it goes to vote.

Community Assembly:

- Fran reports many new faces at CA. In 2023, 3 resolutions were put forward by CA; details coming next month. Rebuilding relationship with City Council due to turnover of several CC members; CP Wilkerson invited to CA Admin Committee.
- In December, annual CA Awards were presented, including *Good Neighbor*. Two ADNC residents were nominated for helping neighbors in need; Max & Teri Goe, nominated by Scott Gordon, and Selene L'hereaux, owner of Fofolles, for donations to fire victims (nominated by Fran). Victor Frazier, longtime northwest neighborhood leader, received *Lifetime Achievement* award, however, Victor not present tonight to receive. *Jeanette Harras Award* given to Anne Luttrell, Emerson-Garfield, manager of the E-G Farmers Market.

Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS): Pollyanne Birge, ONS Liaison

- Distributed City Snow Plan/Map brochures, with reminder to park on odd side of the street during winter.
- *Aging & Long Term Care of Eastern WA* organization is coordinating volunteers to shovel snow for seniors. People can volunteer or ask for services.
- Amber Groe ONS staffer coordinates Clean Up Program. Recent survey regarding 3 types of Clean Up events available to neighborhoods. Survey deadline is Jan 29.
- Code Enforcement reports graffiti/trash complaints increased but staffing did not increase. Considering volunteer abatement projects where residents can borrow tools. Another option is to make a graffiti sanctioned wall for street artists. New



CA/Neighborhood Safety Committee will discuss ideas more at their next meeting, January 31st at the Hive.

Traffic: Steve reports he will follow-up with City about scheduled traffic calming projects that were postponed until 2024. Resident brought up code enforcement concerns about cars parked on the street with expired tabs, sometimes expired for years without moving. Reported one neighbor for non-working vehicles parked in alley. Her concern is that it may technically be on private property but is an eye sore for the neighborhood. Steve recommends calling COPS to file a report for non-registered vehicle and can call 311 to request Code Enforcement come out for inspection.

Parks: Jeff reports Downriver Disk Golf Course is being renamed due to confusion with Downriver Golf Course. A survey chose the name Whitewater Disk Golf Course. They asked ADNC to support the name change, after the fact. Board voted to support the name change but will raise the issue that neighborhood feedback should be requested in advance next time a major change for an amenity in our neighborhood is planned.

Planning: Jeff presented on townhouse project proposed on Ash Place, next to Drumheller Springs. Developer will build townhouses on 21 lots. An alley, access road, garages and off street parking is included in the plan. Developer applied for Building Opportunity Choices for All (BOCA), which is a City initiative to develop vacant lots. This is one of the few vacant lots in Audubon-Downriver neighborhood. No plans are final yet. The agency comment phase ended. A public hearing phase will be held before the Hearing Examiner decision in the spring of 2024. Some neighbors are opposed to multi-family homes in a single family home neighborhood. Some are concerned about the impact of basalt blasting on Drumheller Springs natural area. ADNC will invite City planner and developer to present at a future meeting. ADNC will prepare a resolution in support or against based on neighborhood feedback.

Open Forum: Avista launched My Avista Energy Discount rebate, which gives 15% off utility bill if you meet income criteria. Steve also recommends checking the county tax assessor website for information on property tax exemptions for qualifying elderly or disabled homeowners.

Next General Meeting: Thursday, February 15th, 6:30pm, Shadle Park Library, Event Room.



Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Meeting minutes recorded by ADNC Secretary Andrea Kilgore.