



**Audubon-Downriver Neighborhood Council
Membership Meeting
Shadle Park Library, Event Room
Thursday, November 21, 2024**

Meeting was called to order at 6:35pm by Chair Jeff Stevens. Welcome and Introductions were made.

Board members present: Jeff Stevens (Chair); Fran Papenleur (Treasurer); Gayle Swagerty (Membership); Andrea Kilgore (Secretary); Steve Cox (Vice Chair & Traffic).
Not present: Victor Frazier (WCCC & COPS NW liaison).
Guests: SPD Cpt Tom Hendren; Pollyanne Birge (ONS Liaison); Zack Zappone (City Council District 3 rep); Chris Savage (Balboa/South Indian Trail NC).

Administrative Reports:

Secretary: October membership meeting minutes provided earlier by email. Majority vote approved minutes.

Treasurer: Fran reports current balance is \$4299.32 total; \$2299.32 in checking account and \$2000 in a 12-month CD. \$290.24 donations received at the Clean-up Event. Pass-through reimbursement from the Community Engagement Grant fund of \$675 for Community Garden supplies, and \$175 for ADNC Zoom account renewal.

Membership: Gayle reports 46 total voting members. 17 people present, 12 voting members present, quorum is 14. Quorum not met.

Chair: *Board election nominations will be postponed until the January meeting due to lack of quorum today (unless more voting members arrive).*

Neighborhood Clean-Up Event Report:

- Hundreds of cars brought trash. Map shows households were evenly distributed across the neighborhood. LDS volunteers helped fill the dumpsters. Donations \$290.24. 12.12 tons of household waste and 1.71 tons of clean green. We plan to do the event again next year if funding is available.
- Riverview Bluff Clean-up event: 8 volunteers cleared weeds and removed noxious weeds.



Parks: Urban Forestry recently planted more trees at Downriver Golf Course to replace diseased trees.

SPD report: Cpt. Henderen reports increased garage burglaries and overnight theft. Last week was the worst of the entire year. Almost all garage burglaries were unsecured. Their recommendation is to always lock your property. Unlocked property attracts burglars to return to the neighborhood. Recommend adding motion lights and cameras which deter burglary. Report prowling behavior, like unknown cars circling the neighborhoods. They can link suspicious vehicles to burglaries via camera. Reports help solve crimes. January 5th is the date SPD reconfigures staffing and shift coverage. SPD reports changes to addressing homeless camps. The city will first send a homeless outreach team and police will follow up 2 days later. Tow companies are not towing abandoned RV's. The city has to pay for towing. The city is looking for funds to address the priority locations associated with crime. Community Safety levy passed. The intention is to bring back Neighborhood Resource Officers. Cpt. Hendron reports patrol and investigator positions will be filled first. The plan is to locate 2 NROs per sector at COP shops.

City Council: CM Zack Zappone reports on updated homeless ordinances. They have been discussing pedestrian interference, Good Neighbor agreements, Sit-and-Lie ordinances, etc. City currently does not have resources to fully enforce the ordinances but will continue to discuss what the ordinances should address. Council is trying to maintain all funding for Traffic Calming and is looking at "bridge" funding to maintain COPS. Some neighborhoods have said COPS is not a priority because they are not operating. City currently funds COPS via direct contract. Plan is to announce an RFP for non-profits to bid on operating COPS-style functions. Zach learned about an organization called *Safe Streets* in Tacoma that operates without buildings. They are assessing whether or not it is necessary to reduce the number of facilities. City plans to operate scattered site shelters throughout the city. Closest to our neighborhood is North Hill. Private churches might operate shelters without city funding. Resident asked if *Transitions Home Yard Cottage* residents can park their vehicles on the street in front of his house. Response is that anyone can park on the street. If a vehicle is broken down, abandoned or someone is illegally camping, it can be reported to code enforcement.

Guest Speakers: Mary Bishop and Mari Bartoo Jacobson presented on *Sin-kwan-thl-ten* community garden, where community organizers converted a weedy



traffic island into a community garden. Students from Salish School and Shadle High School volunteer at the park. Anyone is welcome to participate. Several organizations contributed labor, funds, and supplies for the project. Goal is to support pollinators.

Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS): Pollyanne Birge reported on the recent 2nd Annual Neighborhood Summit, and said the Spokane Neighborhood Leadership Academy (SNLA) applications are due January 3rd. The annual CA Awards breakfast will be held Saturday, Dec 14, 9-11 am at the HIVE. Fran noted that ADNC submitted three Good Neighborhood nominations; two for individuals and one business: The Little Garden Cafe. LGC provides cupcakes to the clients of Family Promise for monthly birthday celebrations. Aging and Long Term Care of Eastern WA can help connect residents to volunteer snow removal. ONS is moving from NHHS to the Communications Department under the Mayor's office.

Community Assembly:

- Fran has stepped down from the CA Admin committee but will still attend, as she is on the City Council/Neighborhood Workgroup as District 3 representative. At the November CA meeting, Spencer Gardner, City Planning Director, presented an update on city transportation initiatives, including the "27 by 2027" off-arterial bike/pedestrian network plan, which will connect bike lanes to existing infrastructure.
- Two CA liaison positions are open on the new Transportation Commission and the Climate Resilience & Sustainability Committee. CA Liaison to CHHS Board will also be open in January, which is a voting position. Fran noted the apparent lack of volunteer capacity to fill these positions.

Traffic: Steve received complaints about the lack of crosswalks at 2 locations at Cochran and Dalton as well as Alberta and Dalton. These will be added to our list of priorities for future projects. At this point, ADNC has no projects on the books for the next 2 cycles as the ONS is working on other areas of the city. ADNC has had several projects completed over the last year with significant investment. The new "27 by 2027" initiative by the Planning Department would add more bike lanes to connect to existing arterials. Bike lanes on Belt Street are included as part of this long-term plan. The overall project is expected to cost \$6 million. The plan is to do the work incrementally at the same time as other street projects.



Asphalt Art program: Erin Mensing has volunteered to coordinate this project in our neighborhood. She identified a location near Finch Elementary (the intersection of Providence Ave & Audubon Street), and has approached nearby residents, of which 11 out of 12 were supportive. The location must be submitted for approval. Erin talked to Annie Deasy at ONS about funding for a street mural. The city connects the NCs with *Spokane Arts* to vet and hire a muralist. The program funding, which comes from red light cameras, is guaranteed through 2027. Some concerns about how long they last. Erin points out some art is better than no art, and other cities develop volunteer groups that maintain them over time.

Ash Place Development: no report.

COPS NW: John Schwartz, COPS NW volunteer, reported on budget issues. City budget currently does not fund COPS past 12/31/24, though they are looking at options to renew some funding for one year while an RFP is issued for the program. John emphasized that COPS NW provides a valuable service to the police department and residents, and they urgently need community support to renew funding. The CA recently passed an emergency resolution supporting COPS renewal.

Next General Meeting: No meeting in December. Next membership meeting is Thursday, January 16, 6:30pm, Shadle Park Library, Event Room.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Meeting minutes recorded by ADNC Secretary Andrea Kilgore.