



**Audubon-Downriver Neighborhood Council  
Membership Meeting  
Shadle Park Library, Event Room  
Thursday, February 20, 2025**

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

**Board members present:** Jeff Stevens (Chair); Fran Papenleur (Vice Chair); Gayle Swagerty (Membership); Andrea Kilgore (Secretary). Board members not present: Steve Cox (Treasurer & Traffic); Victor Frazier (WCCC & COPS NW liaison).

**Guests:** SPD Captain Tom Hendron; Jackson Deese, City Council Office; Pollyanne Birge (ONS Liaison); Chris Savage (Balboa/South Indian Trail NC).

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**Administrative Reports:**

**Chair:** Introductions and agenda approval.

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

**Treasurer:** Jeff reports current balance is \$4284.14 total; \$2284.14 in checking account and \$2000 in a 11-month CD maturing 4/14/2025. Received one donation and some outgoing expenses.

**Membership:** 25 present. Gayle reports 15 voting members present, quorum present.

**Chair Action:** Jeff presented a draft of decorum rules to be followed during membership meetings. Review and discussion followed regarding consequences of not following the rules. Chair may give two warnings and then ask someone to leave the meeting. Motion to approve the rules was seconded and approved by unanimous vote. Document will be added to ADNC bylaws as an addendum.



### **SPD Report:**

Cpt Hendron reported on survey of neighborhood councils conducted in January: #1 complaint was traffic (speeding, racing, etc); #2 unhoused population (camping, loitering, trash); #3 Nuisance or drug houses; #4 property crimes; #5 open-air drug use.

SPD data indicated declines in crime reporting. He encouraged citizens to continue reporting to Crime Check to accurately track patterns and hot spots, which helps catch the perpetrators. There has been a reduction in car thefts, however an increase in property crimes, particularly vacant homes or homes under renovation. He noted high crime incidents in North Hill neighborhoods. Shadle Center has invested in more security - WalMart has hired off-duty SPD officers, and they report major improvement because of their visibility. Captain Hendron announced a new NRO officer for the North Precinct, Tyler Heiman, who will start attending NC meetings. Goal is to hire 8 NROs.

### **City Council:**

Jackson Deese, Legislative Assistant to Zack Zappone, gave the report as council members are in Olympia to meet with the legislature.

- He touched on the SREC decision that might remove the City from the County emergency response system (911).
- A study has been approved to determine the level of carbon emissions from the City's Waste-to-Energy Plant.
- Council hosted several roundtable discussions regarding homelessness with stakeholders last fall, and are reviewing results. City transitioned to a scatter-site shelter system this winter. District 3 shelters include a Jewels Helping Hands operation located on Walton and Cedar, and one in development at Knox Presbyterian. Unsure if Morning Star Baptist has opened a shelter site. A resident asked about open shelter bed data updates. Provider agency is responsible for reporting open beds to the website.
- COPS RFP applications deadline has closed, and are under review. Jackson said several organizations applied.

### **Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS):**

Pollyanne Birge reported on Spring training offerings coming up: *Empowered Communications* by Toastmasters on March 15th, and a training on using event equipment for neighborhood events on April 19th. Fran is attending Clean-Up



Coordinator training on behalf of ADNC. Community Engagement Grant application training dates announced. NC representatives must attend to apply. ONS Director search has resulted in 20 applications! Three NC leaders will be on the interview panel.

### **Community Assembly:**

- Fran reported the February CA meeting featured SFD Chief O’Berg and SPD Chief Hall presented information on the SREC issue. A senior Planner presented on the Comprehensive Plan update, which addresses land use and development. *Plan Spokane* workshop for District 3 is March 27th 5:30pm at Shadle Library.
- Fran gave a general overview of CA and invited anyone to join standing committees. New standing committee Communications needs a representative from District 3. Citizens are encouraged to join City boards and commissions. Current openings are for a CA liaison to the Community Housing & Human Services Board, and the new Climate Resilience & Sustainability Board.

### **Traffic:**

Steve is not present. Jeff reports the application period for choosing locations for the mobile speed traffic indicators is now open. Each neighborhood council gets 3 locations. Locations must be on an arterial where there is a perceived speeding problem. Members were encouraged to provide suggestions for locations.

### **Asphalt Art program:**

Erin Mensing reports meeting with residents about possible locations for asphalt art and researched the program. Erin and Steve Cox looked at existing art in other neighborhoods. The location at Providence and Audubon intersection, northwest of Finch Elementary, was chosen, and nearby residents polled were supportive. The application has been submitted. Three artist design proposals will be reviewed, and a final one ultimately approved by the neighborhood council.

### **Ash Place Development:**

Jeff reports the proposed development has met all city requirements and planning staff are recommending approval. Next step is the public hearing scheduled March 13th 9:00 am at City Hall. Residents can testify at the hearing. Hearing officer can approve the project, approve with conditions, or deny it. Hearing officer may incorporate resident



feedback into the decision. Residents living near the proposed development are organizing their testimony.

#### **COPS NW:**

John Schwartz reports 5 new volunteers. They are looking for 4 more volunteers so they can be open 7 days a week for at least 4 hours a day. The RFP proposal for continued funding was submitted. The City is reviewing several RFPs, and will make a decision by March 1st.

#### **Open Forum:**

- Gayle Swagarty reports Shadle High School Plant Science horticulture program may be discontinued, as the school principal does not think there are jobs in horticulture. The program currently has a greenhouse and floral program. Students from the program partnered with ADNC and Master Gardeners to build and maintain the community garden. Gayle and other residents testified about how the program provided students with training and jobs in landscaping and other professions. The program also gives college credit to students. She is encouraging anyone who would like to support the program to sign a petition. They are seeking 500 signatures; 300+ have been received so far.
- A resident asked about Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Fran reported the \$400,000 funding for neighborhoods was reinstated. The Parks Department will partner with eligible NCs for park rehabilitation projects. Which neighborhoods are eligible to receive funding is based on census data for low income households. Unfortunately, the northwest quadrant does not qualify, which leaves any improvements to Shadle Park out of the program.
- Jeff announced that we will be sending out a questionnaire to all residents on the ADNC e-mail list in March and encouraged everyone to fill out the questionnaire.

**Next General Meeting:** Next membership meeting is Thursday, March 20, 6:30pm, Shadle Park Library, Event Room.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

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Meeting minutes recorded by ADNC Secretary Andrea Kilgore.