



**Audubon-Downriver Neighborhood Council
Membership Meeting
Shadle Park Library, Event Room
Thursday, April 17, 2025**

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

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

Guests: SPD Captain Tom Hendren; Kitty Klitze, City Council Member District 3; Chris Savage (Balboa/South Indian Trail NC), Jill Olson (WCCC board); Johnny Edmonson (*Growing Neighbors*). Other guest speakers noted below.

Administrative Reports:

Chair: Introductions, decorum reminder and agenda approval.

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

Treasurer: Steve reports current balance is \$4362.53 total; CD matured and was rolled back into savings. Earned \$87.19 interest. Steve will shop for a new CD.

Membership: Meeting attendance is 32, with 20 voting members present. Gayle reports a quorum is present.

Social Media: Tessa Vlaar has volunteered to be social media coordinator for ADNC website, Facebook and any other social media opportunities.

SPD Report:

- Cpt. Hendren reports the State Supreme Court struck down Proposition 1. This impacts the ability to cite for illegal camping. Police can still enforce existing rules against camping in parks or along the river. Shadle Park and Shadle Center are considered hotspots for camping/loitering activity. Currently the police are stepping back from Shadle Park to allow homeless outreach workers time to



connect people to services. This model worked in other parks that saw a decrease in illegal camping and loitering.

- NRO Tyler Heiman has filed regarding several nuisance houses already. The process can take a long time due to following due process before taking property owner's rights away.
- Fran said that NCs have a \$1K Beautification Project fund to address waste management issues at identified residences. If the NRO or COPS identifies houses that need waste cleanup, the council might be able to apply for the City to bring a dumpster.

City Council:

- Council member Kitty Klitzke reports the City is working with SPD on addressing illegal camping and code enforcement issues through different means than Proposition 1. They are identifying gaps in the system and ways to fill them. This includes working with the County to add more detox beds, increased addiction response, towing RV and abandoned vehicles. Identifying more resources to solve issues and balance the budget.
- New ordinance requires regular assessment of city utility costs on a regular basis. City did not increase utility rates for many years. City was drawing from the General Fund to cover deficits instead of raising rates. This resulted in a major price hike last year. Plan to increase rates slowly over time.
- The City Comprehensive Plan will look at strategies to provide different types of housing. Mary Winkes is the Community Assembly liaison to the Plan Commission. Residents can read the Comp Plan (Neighborhoods-Chapter 11) and send feedback to the Planning department. Public comments are appreciated.

Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS):

Pollyanne Birge not present; she is presenting at the Lilac *City Live* event, which is celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Neighborhood Council system. Fran reported that Heather Hamlin has been hired at the new Office of Neighborhood Services Director. Heather was formerly Executive Director of *Women Helping Women* Fund.

Community Assembly:

- Fran reported at the April CA meeting, guest Katrina Johnson announced an initiative about fentanyl awareness called Gabriel's Challenge. Starting May 13th,



community meetings will be held at the Pavilion every Tuesday, 6:30 pm, and run through Father's Day.

- Fran noted two new CA Liaisons: Lindsey Shaw (Logan NC) for the Park Board, and Sarah Bauer (North Hill) for the Community Housing and Human Services (CHHS) Board.
- The Communications Committee has recommended the Zoom platform for hybrid meetings, however, a tech facilitator is needed. Please contact her if you are interested.

Traffic:

Steve reported on *Safe Streets for All* which is the new name for Traffic Calming:

- New flashing beacon crossing will be installed on NW Blvd and F Street.
- Speed "humps" will be installed this year in another neighborhood.
- Chip seal on Wellesley between Maple to Division scheduled for this summer.
- Driscoll Boulevard between Providence and Gordon will have lane closures.
- Everyone should call 311 for potholes to be filled. Can also report on the 311 app.
- ADNC has submitted requests to these locations for mobile feedback signs: Wellesley Avenue at Assembly/Driscoll, and on Cochran Street between Courtland and Liberty.
- Marked crosswalks on Cochran Street between Alberta at Liberty are needed. Multiple residents report witnessing accidents and pedestrian safety concerns at this location.

Asphalt Art Program:

Erin Mensing is working with artist Danielle Davis and Shelby Allison from *Spokane Arts* to plan an asphalt art project at Audubon and Providence intersection. Her artist portfolio can be viewed at <https://spokanearts.org/artists/danielle-davis/>. Goal is to choose simple designs that can be maintained by neighborhood volunteers in the future. They presented 3 potential designs for meeting attendees to vote on. On the first vote, the group favored Poppies and Quail; second vote between poppies and quail. Poppies won the vote. When the permit is approved, Erin, Shelby and Danielle will form a painting crew. Intersection will be closed for 24 hours. Residents will be invited to attend the painting event.

Ash Place Development: Fran, Steve, Victor, Dennis Flynn and other concerned neighbors attended the hearing examiner's meeting on April 16th. Public testimony



continued on April 17th. Victor reports the City planner stated the City of Spokane supports the project. The residents had concerns about the size of the project with 20 townhouses on 3.1 acres. Very high density. The ADNC and neighbors requested in writing and testimony for a smaller number of units. Developer stated each home will have 2 parking spaces (1 car garage and 1 car driveway). Residents are concerned about emergency egress from the bluff if a wildland fire came from the south and up the hill. Also emergency response would be inhibited by evacuating residents and limited parking with vehicles on the street.

Parks: Jeff not present. Fran reported he recently met with Parks Dept and Roskelley Foundation regarding the Rock Scramble, and the City agreed to complete the project. Gayle reports Salish School volunteers worked on the community garden at Oak and Longfellow. The Master Gardeners' annual plant sale is April 24-25 at the County Extension building (222 N. Havana) and appointments are required.

Concerts and Events: Alex John, our new event coordinator, not present.

COPS NW: Victor reported that continued City funding for Spokane Community Oriented Policing Services has been reduced from \$380,000 per year to \$100,000 per year going forward. COPS has four paid staff and lay-offs are expected. Funding should last through June; hopefully reimbursements come through before then. *Shred Day* will be Friday April 25th 11am-2pm. COPS NW continues to need more volunteers.

West Central Community Center: Victor introduced new board member Jill Olson. The Annual *First Responders* Luncheon will be a drive-through event on May 13th. *Building Dreams* event scheduled for September 13.

Next membership meeting is Thursday, May 15, 6:30pm, Shadle Park Library, Event Room.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Meeting minutes recorded by ADNC Secretary Andrea Kilgore.