



**Audubon-Downriver Neighborhood Council
Membership Meeting
Shadle Park Library, Event Room
Thursday, May 15, 2025**

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

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

Guests: SPD NRO Tyler Heiman; Jaime McIntyre (Spokane Fire Department); Annie Aldrich (Transitions Homeyard Cottages). Other guest speakers noted below.

Administrative Reports:

Chair: Introductions, decorum reminder and agenda approval.

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

Treasurer: Steve reports current balance is \$4362.62 total. Purchased \$2000 CD for 12 months at 4% interest.

Membership: Meeting attendance is 23, with 21 voting members present. Gayle reports a quorum is present.

SPD Report:

- NRO Tyler Heiman reports burglaries and vehicle prowling decreased by 50% due to special missions. Shadle Park homeless camping is being addressed. Jeff asked about illegal dumping and camping at Downriver Park. Tyler received one report about Downriver Park so far. Residents can continue to report illegal camping via 311 app or phone call. Fran reports graffiti via 311 app and asks if there is a correlation between graffiti and gang activity. Does increased graffiti correlate to increased gang activity? Tyler reports gang activity is sparse in Spokane. Graffiti is usually done by individuals rather than organized gang



activity. Tyler reports the Traffic Unit is operating now. Can submit complaints to the traffic unit hotline so they can identify hot spots.

Guest speaker: Jaime McIntyre, Community Risk Reduction Manager, Spokane Fire Department) focuses on community outreach and education.

- Jaime presented on the dangers of lithium ion batteries. Think of everything in your home (phones, laptops, tablets, electric toothbrushes, cameras, power tools, etc.) powered by lithium batteries. Mistreatment (dropped phone, etc), overheating or wear/tear can damage the battery. Battery fires burn hotter and faster. Insurance companies report fire damage is 3 times more expensive. The gases are more dangerous.
 - Only use the charger that is associated with the device. It was designed to use the correct charge for that device.
 - Buy USA made fire alarms and batteries. Imported batteries might not meet the same standards as USA batteries.
 - Do not overcharge batteries. Do not leave them on the charger too long.
 - Do not charge e-bikes or similar inside the house
 - Check for unusual bulging, odors, sounds from the device. That is an indication the battery needs replaced
 - Dispose of lithium batteries properly. The Fire Dept had a lithium battery take back event. Waste Energy Plant hazardous waste section also takes them..
 - *Battery Smart* Spokane <https://batterysmartspokane.com/>
 - Safe storage: keep away from heat. Don't charge phones on bed or couch. Storage devices are available.
 - If a fire starts, do not put water on it. Evacuate immediately to not breathe fumes.
- Wildfire season: A full time Wildland Planner works with City and community agencies on thinning projects.
- The Emergency Alert system will send shelter-in-place or evacuation notices based on the geolocation of your phone. You can sign up for *Alert Spokane* to get notified when you are away from the location
- Free smoke alarm installation program for low-income and senior homeowners. FEMA provided them. City provides a social worker to visit the home to talk about fire safety.



City Council:

- Council members not present. Chris Wright (City Council Policy Advisor) reports the mayor released four ordinances regarding homelessness. Intent was to consolidate rules about use of public space into one ordinance. Proposition 1 was overturned by the state supreme court. City Council proposed an ordinance that would have the same intent as Proposition 1. Public testimony scheduled June 2nd with a vote on June 16th.
- Mayor proposed a Scattered Site shelter model where small shelters that focus on rehabilitation throughout the city instead of large shelters downtown. Residents are concerned about shelters in their neighborhood. Ordinance will require Good Neighbor Agreement to address concerns and responsibilities of any future shelters, as existing shelters are grandfathered in (unless they relocate). Not required for small shelters [less than 20 beds]. Shelters that do not receive City funding are also not required for Good Neighbor Agreement.
- Chris reports Climate Commitment Act may eventually require the Waste-to-Energy Plant to purchase "carbon credits" at \$7-8 million per year. City is advocating for exemption due to the preference for waste energy over landfill, but politicians on the west side of the state prefer landfills to burning waste. Argument is that trucking waste to landfills would cause more carbon use than burning it. Anyone interested should contact their representatives at the legislature.
- Ordinance will be proposed regarding cryptocurrency scam kiosks.

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

- May 16 is the last date to request a disposal pass. Next availability will be September via neighborhood councils.
- Third annual Neighborhood Summit, scheduled for October 25, is asking for presenters. Applications due by July 10th.
- District 3 Town Hall with City Council will be September 15 at West Central Community Center.
- *Zine* about neighborhood engagement process and city resources available. It's a good way to learn how the city works.

Concerts & Events: Alex John reported on the upcoming events and asked for volunteers.



- Neighborhood Cleanup - May 24, 9:30am, river bluff tentative location.
- Summer Kickoff BBQ - June 28, 4-8 pm in Audubon Park with food, kid's activities and music.
- Concerts in Audubon Park on Thursday nights: July 10, 17, 24.

Clean-up Program: Jeff reports Dumpster Roll-off event will be October 11. Calling for suggested locations for a neighborhood clean-up event on May 24, including public spaces or private properties that need help.

Community Assembly:

- Fran reported two resolutions recently passed by the CA regarding extending the Latah Valley building moratorium, and concern about elimination of parking requirements for new builds. They have been forwarded to the City Council Urban Experience Committee.
- Community Development Block Grant program for neighborhood allocation (\$400K) received 12 applications from eligible neighborhood councils totaling over \$2 million. CHHS Board recommendations have been forwarded to City Council, and announcements will be made in June.
- CA Standing Committees are open to call residents. Many city boards and commissions have vacancies, too. Interested people can refer to Mayor's website.

Traffic: Steve reported Asphalt Art project painting is scheduled June 6-8. The intersection at Audubon and Providence will be blocked off for painting.

- Mobile speed locations in our neighborhood requested for 2025.
- *Safe Streets for All* policy draft is under review. Jon Snyder, Director of Transportation Commission, seeks resident feedback.

Ash Place Development: Dennis Flynn presented an update. A volunteer attorney in the neighborhood assisted with their appeal of the SEPA. The plat design was rejected by the hearing examiner due to SMC violations. The residents' appeal of the SEPA was denied. The developer can appeal the hearing examiner's decision, but for now the development is on hold. A dedicated group of residents are considering the creation of a conservation nonprofit to protect the spring, and contracting with a consultant to prepare a wildlife survey.



Parks: Jeff reports the rock scramble structure at Audubon Park will be installed in the child play area by the end of summer 2025. Project is funded by Roskelley Foundation, ADNC, Parks Foundation and Parks Department.

COPS NW: Ron Hardin and John Schwartz reported that COPS funding was significantly reduced, and thus COPS NW is projected to close by the end of July.

Open Forum:

- A resident reported parking issues at Garland and G Street. She is taking photos and submitting complaints. City installed No Parking signs but one car still parks there daily. Recommendation is to contact NRO Tyler Heiman or designated traffic officer Ryan Murphy.
- Attendees proposed starting a homeless outreach committee for ADNC to humanize the homeless in the area instead of taking a punitive approach.

Next membership meeting is Thursday, June 19, 6:30pm, Shadle Park Library, Event Room. June meeting entrance is at the side door due to the library closing at 6pm. No meetings in July or August.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Meeting minutes recorded by ADNC Secretary Andrea Kilgore.