



**Audubon-Downriver Neighborhood Council
Membership Meeting
Shadle Park Library, Event Room
Thursday, October 16, 2025**

Meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm by the Chair Jeff Stevens. Welcome and Introductions were made.

Board members present: Jeff Stevens (Chair), Fran Papenleur (Vice Chair); Gayle Swagerty (Membership); Steve Cox (Treasurer & Traffic); Andrea Kilgore (Secretary); Alex John (Events coordinator). Not present: Victor Frazier (WCCC & COPS NW liaison).

Guests: Mayor Lisa Brown; SPD NRO Tyler Heiman; Chris Savage (Balboa/South Indian Trail Neighborhood Council); Elizabeth Goldsmith (Comstock Neighborhood Council); Pollyanne Birge (ONS). Other guest speakers noted below.

Administrative Reports:

Chair: Introductions, meeting decorum reminder and agenda approval.

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

Treasurer: Steve reports current balance is \$7105.46 total. Purchased \$2000 CD for 12 months at 4% interest. Dumpster Roll-off event raised \$319 in donations.

Membership: Meeting attendance is 30, with 24 voting members present. The quorum is 15. Gayle reports a quorum is present.

Board member elections in November: Jeff called for nominations for open positions.

- Chair
- Vice-chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer



Committee membership: Anyone can join a committee under direction of the board. The committee chair reports to the board. Traffic, clean-up, parks, community events, etc.

SPD Report:

- NRO Tyler Heiman reports locking vehicles is a major deterrent to theft.
- Park rangers can issue trespasses or citations. They cannot arrest anyone.
- Jail has been on “red light status” which means no prisoners can be admitted. Officers are stuck outside the jail waiting to book someone for several hours.

Guest speaker: Mayor Brown reported on the City budget, public safety and housing.

- The 2025 budget is nearly balanced following restructuring.
- 2026 Budget impacted by expected \$11-13 million deficit caused by lower sales tax revenues, increased county jail costs and cost of living increases. County jail costs were raised \$1million unexpectedly. The city is renegotiating union contracts. 30-50 positions will be reduced. City land might be sold to raise additional revenue.
- Community Safety Sales tax passed. This increased police and fire staffing.
- H.O.M.E. approach to increasing housing inventory and reducing homelessness
 - Increased emergency shelters with increased collaboration with providers
 - Increased homeless outreach and connection to services. Each police precinct will have a homeless outreach team. Northwest Precinct will have its own outreach team. The goal is a real-time response to calls. Police Chief Hall came from Tucson which has a 24/7 treatment center. The city is exploring the idea.
- Traffic Safety - reinstated traffic unit, purchasing motorcycles.
- Together Spokane: SPS Bond and Parks Levy improvement projects include Park Boulevard, Audubon Park, Shadle Park.
- The city participated in 911 SREC where Fire calls were dispatched via county 911. SREC is dropping City from the county agreement unless SPD agrees to join SREC. SPD does not want to. The city is negotiating a plan for how 911 calls will be routed within city limits.
- What is being done about drug manufacturing/distribution that increases addiction and homelessness? Possibility of adding a US prosecutor that can enforce drug trafficking, manufacturing and disorderly conduct laws. Officers are given increased discretion to check for warrants and decide whether to arrest.



- If they decide not to arrest, they refer to the homeless outreach team. Individuals encountered several times could be trespassed from certain areas.

City Council: Council member Zack Zappone answered a residents question about red light cameras. Council wants to place 6 more cameras in the next year. They are studying locations.

- Speed cameras placed near schools can be turned on 24/7. Can set the limit to 30 mph outside of school hours that are 20mph. ADNC suggests cameras on Northwest Blvd.
- City passed an ordinance for connected bike corridors throughout the city. Audubon-Downriver residents are angry about the new bike lanes on Belt Street. ADNC was not consulted about the project. Zack reports the bike lane designers talked to the school, Shadle Center businesses, etc and did not realize ADNC was left out of communications. Zack reports it is a pilot project. Several different designs are being tried around the city. The design can change in the future.
- Zack addressed concerns about the jail being overcrowded or understaffed. The county sent out a press release saying there is not a problem. Zack and SPD both agree there is a capacity problem when it takes several hours to book someone into jail due to red light status refusing admissions. The county increased the cost for the City to use the jail without saying why. The county claims plenty of beds are available. The city's position is that lack of staffing prevents those beds from being used. Residents suggested invoicing County for the number of hours SPD wait to book someone when beds are open. Alternative is to divert low level offenders with treatment needs to treatment facilities. A task force is working on it.

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

- Neighborhood Summit is Oct 25th
- Neighborhood Leadership Academy deadline is Dec 15th
- Disposal passes must be used by Oct 31st



Clean-Up: Annual Roll-off event was successful, bringing in over \$300 in donations. 160 cars in 3 hours; 6 dumpsters and 1 clean green dumpster full. Participants represented all areas of the neighborhood.

Concerts & Events: Coordinator Alex John would love volunteers and a committee for the following events:

- Fall Fest event at Audubon Park Saturday, October 18, noon-6pm. Could be an annual event. Kettle corn, music, games, pumpkins, etc. Could make it bigger next year if it is successful.
- Halloween Trick or Treat parade at Kiernan and F Street on October 31.
- Charity drive/donation drive planned for November.
- Christmas tree lighting event at Audubon Park in December.

Community Assembly: Fran gave a brief report on October CA meeting and announced Good Neighbor Award nominations. The deadline is November 7.

Traffic: Steve reported on the following:

- 2025 Traffic Calming cycle. A crosswalk with flashing beacons is supposed to be installed at Northwest Blvd and F Street in 2026.
- 2026 and beyond: Steve is recommending improvement projects at locations, of which ADNC receives feedback:
 - Flett Middle School is very busy for school drop off and pick up, speeding problems. Developers want to build houses that require another ingress. Planners are trying to decide where the ingress will go. Traffic lights or roundabouts will be needed on Wellesley
 - Crossing on North Alberta and Driscoll at either Liberty or Dalton Avenues.
 - People complain about not being able to cross safely to Audubon Park or Finch Elementary.
 - Improve traffic signals and signage at Alberta and Northwest Blvd.
 - Reduce speed through traffic calming projects at W Euclid and NW Blvd. The city is testing speed humps in other areas that might be used here.
 - Clearly marked pedestrian crossing at TJ Meenach and Northwest Blvd for walking or biking to the river trails, school, Pettit Drive, residential areas. Residents report dodging traffic and getting hit by cars at this location.



- A Resident suggested a pedestrian overpass.
- Could the light be changed to red light when a pedestrian is crossing (no free right turn) because they were hit by a car turning right while they were crossing.

Steve is taking suggestions to the Transportation Commission.

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Parks: Jeff reports the names of the donors has been etched into one of the boulders installed as part of the rock scramble in Audubon Park. He has been talking to the City about having DNR thin trees on Downriver Bluff due to fire risk.

COPS NW: John Schwartz reports COPS is fully independent from the City now. They are fundraising to sustain programs. Neighborhood councils are starting to donate. They need more volunteers.

Open Forum:

- Stacey Page announced EWU is hosting a racial covenant removal workshop on Saturday, October 25, 2:30-3:30pm at North Spokane public library.
- A Resident brought up parking problems in front of Pioneer Center East on Garland and G Street. She asked the City for traffic enforcement and they said patrols are only sent downtown unless a hotspot is identified. She requests that everyone submit violations so they will enforce parking violations in our neighborhood. Jeff and Steve may meet with the facility's management.
- Dennis reports Drumheller Springs volunteers have organized a nonprofit. They are starting a committee that is open to anyone.

Next membership meeting is Thursday, November 20, 6:30pm, Shadle Park Library, Event Room. Enter via the side door due to the library closing at 6pm. No meeting in December.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Meeting minutes recorded by ADNC Secretary Andrea Kilgore.