



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

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 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); Victor Frazier (WCCC liaison & COPS NW liaison).

Guests: Lt. Ben Maplethorpe; Chris Savage (Balboa/South Indian Trail Neighborhood Council); Pollyanne Birge (ONS). Other guest speakers noted below.

Administrative Reports:

Chair: Introductions, meeting decorum reminder and agenda approval.

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

Treasurer: Steve reports current balance is \$7563.18 total. Purchased \$2,000 CD for 12 months at 4% interest. No withdrawals this last month. Received sponsorships and donations from summer and fall events.

Membership: Meeting attendance is 40, with 27 voting members present. The quorum is 15. Gayle reports a quorum is present.

Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS): Pollyanne reported on the School Bond/Parks Levy approvals, leaf pick-up sweeping, and the Snow Readiness Plan (Nov 15-March 15th - park on odd side of the street). Spokane Leadership Academy is accepting applications. Tonight is the last meeting for ONS Liaison Pollyanne Birge. Amber Groe will replace her in 2026, and attend quarterly. ADNC board presented a thank-you card.

SPD Report: Lt. Ben Maplethorpe from Northwest Precinct

- Continue reporting incidents for tracking



- Traffic unit added more motorcycles patrols
- 2% drop in speeding across the city
- New ordinance regarding obstruction. 53 contacts in NW precinct. 37 were initiated by officers. 7 enforcement actions. The purpose is to connect to resources before taking enforcement action.
- Residents asked about shooting at Audubon Park this summer. They reported automatic or semiautomatic fired bullets went into their houses, and asked for protection and increased police presence. Lt responded that is not possible, as they need an active call for service to respond to a location. He recommended reporting incidents as they occur to identify hotspots. (It is an identified hot spot.) SPD cannot disclose info about open investigations. Asked about hiring more officers, as SPD is chronically understaffed, partly due to cost and partly due to lack of academy-trained officers prepared to do the job.

City Council: Council member Kitty Klitzke reports:

- Regarding addressing the new hot spot at Audubon Park, she said that the NW precinct is addressing hot spots in our area faster than other areas of the city.
- Parks Bond will add 24 new park rangers and maintenance staff which will provide more presence in the parks. Residents can submit a request to the Parks Board to add a night ranger at Audubon Park. (The City Council cannot make this decision.)
- Budget options to address deficit after personnel cuts: Parking tax about \$1. Parking lots would be 12% and parking buildings 6%. There would be exemptions for seniors and others. Limited utility tax of 0.5 cents. It would be less than \$1 per month. More cuts to libraries, which libraries do not feel they can sustain through 2026. Zappone and Klitzke prefer to cut Council administrative staff instead. They have received a lot of feedback that the council office is overstaffed and that library services should be a priority. Kitty noted that our libraries already provide more services with less funds than other libraries.

Guest Speaker: Drew Redman, Associate Transit Planner for Spokane Transit Authority (STA)

- Route consolidations would remove Peaceful Valley and increase SFCC service.
- Route 23 Maple/Ash would be rerouted to Belt Street between Garland and Rowan during part of the day to improve service to Shadle Shopping Center and Shadle Public Library. Morning/afternoon will stop on Ash/Maple for high school



students. It would become a transfer point for Route 33 Wellesley. Sheltered bus stops would be added. They are discussing how to accommodate the new bike lane.

- Route 20 SFCC will connect to Hillyard.
- Paratransit impact: service area would expand.
- Changes would occur September 2026. Public feedback welcome. Survey is open until mid December. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7XW6FSC>

Ash Place Development: Dennis Flynn is creating a subcommittee regarding Drumheller Springs Park. Residents learned through ecological studies that the wet lands and several endangered species would be impacted. The development was stopped last year due to concerns the group raised about the driveway and alley definitions. The City Council then changed the law so the development can move forward without changes. The developer is applying again without making changes the residents requested. The group is now focused on ecological conservation due to more developments proposed. Contact mowen@spokanecity.org to be added to the communication list. A public meeting will be held at West Central Community Center on Dec 2nd at 5:30pm. ConcernedCompanions.com is the website for the Drumheller Springs action group.

Community Assembly: Fran gave a brief report on the November CA meeting.

- Fran will continue as CA representative in 2026 but would like someone to serve as an alternate. CA meetings are held the first Thursday of the month, and will be Shadle Library next year. The Building Stronger Neighborhoods committee will host a "CA 101" seminar in February.
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds are finally being released for 2025 approved park projects in 15 neighborhoods. The RFP is now available for the next round; \$400K is set aside for neighborhood community development. Neighborhood councils must partner with a nonprofit this year. ADNC is not considered income-eligible for the funds but a project partnered with a nonprofit serving low-income populations could qualify.
- The annual *Good Neighbor* Award Ceremony will be Saturday December 13th, 9:00am at the Fire Training Center. [Erin Mensing](#) was nominated from ADNC for the [asphalt art project](#).



Board member Elections: Jeff called for nominations for the following positions:

- Chair: Steve Cox (unopposed)
- Vice-chair: Stacey Page and Victor Frazier (Stacey elected)
- Secretary: Andrea Kilgore (unopposed)
- Treasurer: John Jacobs (unopposed)

Voting Members voted by secret ballot. Membership Chair tallied the votes.

Concerts & Events: Coordinator Alex John is starting a committee to plan events in 2026. Anyone can join. First committee meeting TBA in January.

- Charity donation drive for *Transitions* this month. Donations can be dropped off at COPS NW or contact Alex for pick-up.
- Christmas Tree Lighting event planned at Audubon Park on December 7 at 4pm. Fire, hot cocoa. Other ideas and volunteers are welcome.

Parks & Open Spaces: Jeff announced a bluff clean-up this Saturday, November 22 at 9am-12pm along Riverview Avenue to remove noxious weeds and other debris.

Traffic: no report

COPS NW: John Schwartz gave a report on the financial status of COPS. They have funding into the early part of next year, however money is tight. Victor made a motion for the ADNC to match a \$350 donation from North Indian Trail NC. Jeff Stevens offered a friendly amendment to Victor's motion to raise our donation to \$500. Amendment was approved, and motion passed.

Open Forum:

Erin Mensing reported that the Audubon-Downriver sign at TJ Meenach is covered in red paint. Will be reported to Code Enforcement.

Next membership meeting: Thursday, January 22, 6:30pm, Shadle Park Library, Event Room. (No meeting in December.)

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Meeting minutes recorded by ADNC Secretary Andrea Kilgore.