

FIVE MILE PRAIRIE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
QUARTERLY MEETING JUNE 23, 2022

MINUTES

The meeting was held at the New Horizon Community Church. The meeting was called to order by Co-chair Kathy Miotke at 6:05PM. After welcoming all attendees and presenters, the Chair recognized Pastor Randy Hood and thanked him for our venue and setting up the meeting space.

Old Business: Approval of the Minutes from the March Quarterly Meeting.

Our first presentation is from the Kara Odegard, from the City of Spokane about the new water conservation measures that go into effect this coming July. Kara explained that the ordinance applies to outdoor water use by customers within the City's retail water service area. So if you are in the County but have City water, this applies to you as well. Kara explained that this ordinance exempts trees and vegetable gardens. Protection of our two main water resources, the Aquifer and the River, they are hydrologically connected (partners that depend on each other). There are places along the Spokane River that the Aquifer is putting water into the River, and other places where the River is giving to the Aquifer.

During the summer months we use 4 to 5 times winter baselines, almost all of the increase is due to landscaping. And up to 50% of that usage is waste, like sprinkler systems sprinkling the road and sidewalks or evaporating when we use it between the hours of 10AM and 6PM. When this happens our River flows are depleted, and the Aquifer cannot keep up with the River's needs. Add in the drought we had last season amid increase consumption, the River suffered. In fact, we have failed to maintain State determined minimum flows for four of the last ten years!

The Conservation Ordinance just asks that we conserve water during the summer months as much as possible, water before 10 AM and after 6PM and limit that to 4 times a week and if a drought is declared, limit that to twice a week. The City is providing two agencies to help you with this vital conservation effort. Water Wise that will come assess your needs, look at your faucets and provide rebates if you need "smart faucets or toilets etc. And Spokane Scapes, which uses a O scape approach to landscaping which cuts your water usage dramatically.

Karen Stratton, our City Council Representative. Came with copies of a letter that Marlene Feist, City Public Works, wrote regarding Strong Road. Representative Stratton said Strong Road should be on the 6 year plan for 2023 for the planning and design piece. She said that everyone who drives, bikes or walks that road should continue to call, e-mail, text Marlene Feist, the Mayor and the City Council Representatives for all districts. The letter from Ms Feist states that planning and design will happen in 2027 so its still on the 6 year plan it just did not make it to top of the priority list which is

determined by a “scoring mechanism”. That scoring mechanism was done several years ago, before we had 5 schools, over 2,000 students and 40% development. And the County who also uses the road has been building out on old vested plats and those were not scored either. So e-mail and call!

Traffic Calming Workshops for our district which includes North Indian Trail and South Indian Trail will be held on July 14<sup>th</sup> at the Shadle Library 5:30PM. Ms Stratton said there is extra funding for speed patrols up here so let her know where you would like them. Her e-mail is [kstratton@spokanecity.org](mailto:kstratton@spokanecity.org).

Next, Matt Buemer who lives along Austin Rd., spoke about the problems of maintaining the street now that development along it has produced more cars, more speeders and it is not paved. He has been working with the Street Department Supervisor trying to get clarification and help. The Austin Ravine Conservation Area was also discussed and it was noted that someone had done some cleanup recently and it looked so much better. That gentleman, Chris Law, was at the meeting and he told us a bit about DNR, who came in and thinned small trees and limbed big trees and Mr. Law has done an impressive cleanup effort.

Kathy talked about the Traffic Calming Grants that are available through the City. Of the 19 Grant Options proposed and voted on – all of them have been vetted through our Five Mile Bike and Pedestrian Plan. There was a vote to send these forward to the Traffic Calming Committee who will choose from our prioritizing and vetting, the ones that we hope to have completed this year. We also have a great chance of getting a street mural or two which is a painted crosswalk which slows traffic down.

Aaron Reece talked about the Community Engagement Grant, There is \$850. available for use in engaging more residents to become part of the Neighborhood Council. We are asking for Signage with QR codes that let people scan the code and find out about meetings or developments or street closures etc. And we are asking for a Zoom Account which would add access to residents that cannot meet live. A vote was taken and will now be sent on to the committee distributing the Grants. The votes were 9 yay’s and 0 nays.

Aaron also talked about his experience as the Five Mile participant in the Leadership Program through the City and Gonzaga University. Aaron said it was very worthwhile, especially the mentors and speakers. It is a 6 month program. One Saturday a month. It starts again in January with sign-up in October.