



UDDA/UDPDA EAC Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 18, 2025, 11:32 AM – 1:03 PM via Zoom

Zoom meeting recording [link](#); CEO's PowerPoint presentation [link](#)

EAC Members Present: Neil Christopher Apeles, Lois Bollenback, Chuck Murphy (treasurer), Katy Sheehan (chair), Juliet Sinisterra (CEO), Thomas Tellefson

EAC Members Absent: Colleen Fuchs, Steve MacDonald, Greg Repetti (vice chair/secretary), Dennis Wagner

Presenters and Others: Inga Note (City of Spokane), Ken Van Voorhis (SPVV), Happy Avery (Spokane River Forum), Jeffrey Samson, Alden Jones, Amanda Beck, Colin Quinn Hurst, Kevin Picanco

Call to Order, Welcome, and Administration

- Sheehan called the meeting to order at 11:32 AM, shared an OPMA reminder, and asked for a **MOTION to approve the February 18 EAC minutes** (Murphy) and a second (Tellefson), which passed unanimously.
- The committee reviewed and made no changes to the March 5 UDPDA and UDDA draft board meeting minutes. Sinisterra noted that the suggested letter regarding DOGE impacts is on hold as more data is gathered and additional community conversations around scenario planning occur.
- The committee reviewed the **April 9 draft UDPDA and UDDA board meeting agendas** and suggested changing “Treasurer’s Report” to “Finance Report”, having Sheehan lead EAC Updates in place of Repetti as needed, and adding a UDPDA agenda item anticipating the motion at the May 7 meeting regarding purchasing the Avista 400-Block property.
- **Nominating Committee** – Sinisterra shared that the 2026 board application process (to fill two vacant seats) will be posted on the UD website by April 11. Representatives from Avista and Spokane Public Schools have expressed an interest in applying.

Finance and Grants Report

- Samson provided a **financial report as of February 28** and the First Treasurer’s Report for 2025, including new graphics summarizing the economic status of both organizations.
- He described plans for the **2025 Finance Work Plan**, including moving to cloud-based systems and updating financial policies and procedures to reflect more efficient and scalable workflow. He also indicated that staff will continue to work with the city to refinance the General Obligation Bond.
- Sinisterra provided a **grants update** noting that the CME childcare grant survey is underway and focus groups will convene in April. Also, the CERB grant contract for the U Incubation Village project has been executed, and vendors are engaged in launching their feasibility analyses.

U Vision 2044 Activation Updates

Sinisterra shared the following U Vision 2044 Updates:

- **Broadband** – Staff attend regular meetings, and as potential investments become more concrete, staff will be more involved.



- **400-Block** – Sinisterra noted a recent Mithun 1B contract amendment to gather supplementary construction cost data. She also meets with Verizon this afternoon. Tellefson shared that an expert he knows estimates new cell tower costs between \$250K-\$400K.
- There were no additional comments relating to Sinisterra’s **Scorecard** updates.

Presentation: [Pacific Avenue Greenway Designs](#)

Inga Note from the city presented on the proposed greenway designs (Howard St to the Ben Burr Trail). The potential designs reflect input from a November 2024 Open House and consist of two phases: Phase 1, Sherman St west to Howard St; and Phase 2, Sherman St east to Perry Street (the city does not yet have construction funding for this phase). Based on public feedback, the city’s consultant developed renderings showing shared-use pathways, sidewalks, bump outs, landscaping, new signals, etc. Sinisterra requested city staff circle back regarding the selection of tree species and overall maintenance plans.

Presentation: [Iron Bridge Kayak Put-in Design Study \(see slides 25-29\)](#)

Ken Van Voorhis from SPVV presented renderings of the proposed kayak put-in at Iron Bridge, an area referenced in the recent Transit Oriented Development Study. The Parks Department controls the suggested parcels; the project is included in its master plan. SPVV shared the concepts with numerous community stakeholders, and they were very well received. The committee asked if unloading gear on the Centennial Trail is an issue. Van Voorhis said they would work to calm/reroute to avoid conflicts.

Due to time constraints, Sheehan asked for public comment, hearing none, she thanked the presenters and adjourned the meeting at 1:03 PM.

_____ Date _____
Juliet Sinisterra, CEO for (absent) Greg Repetti, Secretary