

Comstock Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes for 16 March 2016

Welcome- the Comstock Neighborhood Council (NC) Meeting was called to order at 1800 at the Sacajawea Middle School Cafeteria by Elaine Thorne the Comstock NC chair.

Attendees were asked to be certain to register on Nextdoor.com to receive neighborhood updates.

Lieutenant McCabe, South Precinct Crimes Officer, was introduced. He then presented the COMSTAT report for the Southwestern District and read the statistics to the Comstock Neighborhood. <https://static.spokaneacity.org/documents/police/prevention/compstat/2016/03/compstat-report-2016-03-12.pdf>

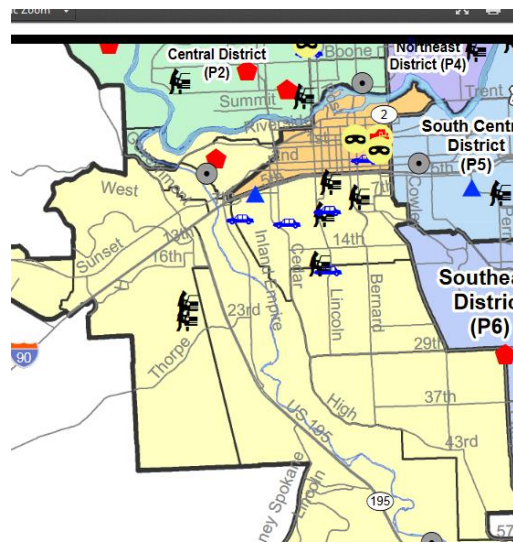
POLICE SUMMARY - Ending Saturday, March 12, 2016
SW - Southwest District (P7)



Preliminary UCR Counts

| Part 1 Crime Categories | 7 Day Comparison | | | 28 Day Comparison | | | YTD Comparison | | |
|---|------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|------------|----------------|
| | Current | Prior | Percent | Current | Prior | Percent | Current | Prior | Percent |
| Violent | | | | | | | | | |
| Criminal Homicide | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | |
| Rape * | 0 | 1 | | 2 | 1 | 100.00% | 3 | 2 | 50.00% |
| Robbery - Commercial | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | |
| Robbery - Person | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 1 | | 2 | 5 | -60.00% |
| Aggravated Assault - Non/DV | 0 | 0 | | 1 | 2 | -50.00% | 4 | 7 | -42.86% |
| Aggravated Assault - DV | 0 | 1 | | 1 | 0 | | 1 | 7 | -85.71% |
| Violent Total: | 0 | 2 | | 4 | 4 | 0.00% | 10 | 21 | -52.38% |
| Property | | | | | | | | | |
| Burglary Residence | 1 | 4 | -75.00% | 12 | 10 | 20.00% | 26 | 27 | -3.70% |
| Burglary Garage | 1 | 2 | -50.00% | 7 | 4 | 75.00% | 11 | 10 | 10.00% |
| Burglary Commercial | 2 | 2 | 0.00% | 7 | 3 | 133.33% | 12 | 12 | 0.00% |
| Larceny | 12 | 26 | -53.85% | 64 | 67 | -4.48% | 185 | 198 | -6.57% |
| Vehicle Theft | 5 | 0 | | 15 | 19 | -21.05% | 47 | 30 | 56.67% |
| Arson | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 2 | |
| Property Total: | 21 | 34 | -38.24% | 105 | 103 | 1.94% | 281 | 279 | 0.72% |
| Preliminary Part 1 Crime Totals: | 21 | 36 | -41.67% | 109 | 107 | 1.87% | 291 | 300 | -3.00% |
| Current 7 Day Period: | | 3/6/2016 - 3/12/2016 | | | Prior 7 Day Period: | | 2/28/2016 - 3/5/2016 | | |
| Current 28 Day Period: | | 2/14/2016 - 3/12/2016 | | | Prior 28 Day Period: | | 1/17/2016 - 2/13/2016 | | |
| Current YTD Period: | | 1/1/2016 - 3/12/2016 | | | Prior YTD Period: | | 1/1/2015 - 3/12/2015 | | |

Prepared by SPD Crime Analysis Office - Monday, March 14, 2016



the COMSTAT crimes map was projected and discussed.

There was a reduction in crime in the Comstock Neighborhood over the last week but compared to the last month there was an increase in property crime over the last month. Vehicle thefts had increased over the last year. When asked about vehicle theft Lt McCabe explained that thieves are filing down keys and are able to access older model cars. The filed keys are able to start the cars and they drive them away to commit other crimes, to get to another location because they do not have transportation, or to take the vehicles out of the area. Several vehicles have been recovered a short distance from where they were stolen. It is advised that owners of older cars use a club or other device to help deter vehicle theft. These do not always prevent the crime but can sometimes deter.

The NC was asked if there were any more questions and none were forthcoming.

There is a police forum on March 19th (Saturday) at Morning Star Baptist Church in an effort to involve the community discussion with Spokane Police. The public is invited to attend and there are question and answer sessions.

Guest Speaker Andrew Chanse, Executive Director at Spokane Public Library was introduced. Mr. Chanse then, presented a synopsis of the facilities and future Services plan for Spokane Public Library. The shift in technology from printed copy was discussed. Although in the past there seemed to be a trend to the desire for electronic vs printed material over time this trend has evened out. Patrons still want to access printed materials but have increased the push toward electronic materials.

Several questions were asked about more availability for electronic materials such as e-books but it was explained that there is a limited budget but there has been an improvement in the acquisition of these materials. The library is attempting to focus on the need for computer work stations and electronic data materials. There is an expressed need for more computer work stations as many students and persons that do not have access to computers at home seek out the stations at the library. However, space in the library is limited and demand is high, especially after school.

A library study found that the Spokane River acts as a dividing line for patrons and patrons living South of the River tend to utilize South Hill library while those living north of the Spokane River tend to patronize libraries to the north as Shadle area as a hub. The downtown library serves the city and acts as a hub for downtown and the entire city. Each library has unique needs. .

When looking at an expansion of South Hill library, the Perry Street location does not allow for adequate expansion. There is also a need for an increase in parking. The solution seems to be relocation. Mr Chanse was asked if the patronage would change if there was a relocation and where the library might be relocated. There were still unresolved solutions to the South Hill dilemma as there is not space to rebuild at the current site but no new site has been designated.

Several Comstock neighbors asked about extending the hours at the South Hill Library. It was also discussed about meeting space allocation as the Comstock Neighborhood would like to hold

its neighborhood council meetings at the South Hill Library but the library is closed at 6 PM on Wednesdays. Mr Chause will look into possible expansion of hours for a neighborhood meeting. His meeting spaces currently are entirely booked for Mondays and Tuesday evenings.

The Comstock Neighborhood thanked Mr Chause for his presentation and many neighbors want to keep posted about forthcoming changes.

Elaine Thorne, Comstock NC chair then presented the road construction plans for 2016- to include S Arthur from East 39th to 37 Avenue and the Comstock park area. Several residents from the Comstock Park have been notified that trees must be removed for the upcoming chip and seal project.

Arthur Street is to have a sidewalk project in 2016 per the Citizen's Transportation Advisory Board plan.

The Comstock Arterial and Comstock residential Traffic calming applications for 2016 were then presented. The Arterial project submitted was for a crosswalk at West 37th and Bernard with infill of sidewalk at property at the corner of 307 West 37th Ave and an ADA ramp at the crossing. There is already an ADA ramp on the east side of the proposed Crosswalk. The property at 307 W 37th Avenue has a gravel walkway that connects with sidewalk at the adjoining property. There should be no problem with sidewalk infill.

This project is supported as there is a bus stop on West 37th and Bernard on the east side of the street but no crosswalk to get to the other side of Bernard. Also this is along the bike plan route.

Slides were projected showing a before and after project picture and an explanation of the proposed traffic calming project for West 37th Avenue and Bernard.

Questions and answers about the Comstock Arterial Proposal- Will the home owner be affected? Should not affect the homeowner as there is already a gravel walkway along the property fence which pedestrians are using to get to the connected sidewalk on Bernard.

Comstock Residential Traffic Calming Application- ADA ramps for 33rd and South Manito Blvd near Hart Field and the Water Tower- There is currently no ADA ramp from the property below Hart Field complex and the adjacent property owner. This area is used to travel to Sacajawea Middle School and Hart Field. This corner of the 3303 S Manito Blvd lot is deteriorated and cracked as evidence by photos projected. The current conditions do not meet ADA requirements and the curb deterioration is hazardous to walkers. ADA ramps are also requested where the sidewalk of 3303 S Manito Blvd reaches the street of S Manito Blvd. This would allow wheelchairs access to crossing the street to the other side of S Manito.

It is also requested that directly across the street below the water tower there needs to be an ADA ramp on both sides of the alleyway. The area meets the corner property of 3227 S Manito Blvd which has sidewalk.. The sidewalk leads to S Manito Blvd and an ADA ramp is also requested on this corner to extend ADA access.

There were no questions about the residential traffic application request.

John Schram then was introduced and gave a presentation about the 2015 Clean and Green Statistics

| Event | Date (2015) | Cost | Tons |
|--------------------------|-------------|------------|-------|
| Passes | 6/13-6/28 | \$25.63 | 0.53 |
| Passes | 8/15-8/30 | \$25.00 | 0.34 |
| Curbside Pickup | October 16 | \$4,904.98 | 20.12 |
| Drop off Clean and Green | October 31 | \$3,427.91 | 46.64 |
| | | | |
| TOTAL | | \$8,383.52 | 46.64 |

| Donations and Earnings | | |
|----------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Pacific Steel for metal recycle | | \$46.00 |
| Donations from Clean and Green | | \$226.00 |
| | | \$272.00 |
| EXPENSES | | |
| minus volunteer Safety Vests | | \$9.00 |
| minus food/beverages | | \$20.00 |
| minus wood ladder purchase | | \$25.00 |
| minus fiberglass ladder purchase | | \$60.00 |
| | | \$114.00 |
| | | |
| | | \$272.00 |
| | | (\$114.00) |
| FUNDS | | \$158.00 |
| | | |

Photos of the Clean and Green event were projected and John Schram talked about the event and how it was organized and executed.

The dates for the 2016 Clean and Green are:
 Curbside Pickup Tuesday 10-11-2016
 Clean and Green Saturday 10-29-2016

John discussed the possibility of assisting neighbors this spring with tree removal- He has a new chain saw and if we had volunteers we could help neighbors that were not able to remove trees. He is not able to remove stumps but if there was a need and support he would be willing to assist neighbors with tree removal.

John Stolz had attended the Community Assembly retreat and he gave an update of the latest Community Assembly meeting where he attended as the Comstock CA Representative. Discussed a the last CA meeting were the goals of various Committees of the CA, PeTT committee report (we had this information included in this Comstock NC meeting presentation from CTAB), future of the Spokane Library (Mr, Chanse spoke with us at our meeting tonight!). There was also much admin business at the CA meeting which did not concern neighborhoods. . John also gave a brief explanation of what the Community Assembly does and how the neighborhood ties with the Community Assembly.

A listing of Comstock Neighborhood Council Officers was projected. Comstock requires a Land Use Chair representative. Elaine Thorne, the Comstock Chair will attend meetings until we can get a volunteer for this committee.

The residential free tree program was discussed with a link to the program provided on the agenda so individuals can register for the program. Several Comstock neighbors said they had registered but were sent a confusing email about whether they actually were listed for a tree. Elaine Thorne would look into this matter and contact Urban Forestry about these messages to clarify and get back with the neighbors who received messages. Tree species were online and the locations for each species pick up point was listed on the listing. Residents should receive vouchers in the mail for their tree by April 9th.

Elaine Thorne projected the proposed grant request that the Community Assembly had approved for each neighborhood to apply for a \$500 grant from funds designated by the City Council for the CA to support neighborhoods in establishing stronger neighborhoods. Funds could be used for community events, neighborhood education, or to increase neighborhood participation. The following was proposed:

2016 Community ASSEMBLY BUDGET COMMITTEE REQUEST



Application Due: Friday, April 30, 2016 at 5:00pm

Neighborhood Council: Comstock

Date application was approved by neighborhood council:

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTACT INFORMATION

Minutes Attached

Name: Elaine Thorne Phone: 509-321-7693

Address: 1107 East 39th Ave

Email: Elaine.thorne1967@gmail.com

Questions regarding how to complete the Budget Request should be directed to the Budget Committee member working with you. Please identify the project(s) your Neighborhood Council wishes to support with this request. Place a checkmark next to the project and identify the total amount of funds your Neighborhood wishes to request for that project(s). Remember, the maximum allocation for all projects combined is \$500.00 per Neighborhood Council.

Remember: No money can be used for food. All vendors need to be vetted through the City with three bids. Finally, all printing is done by the city, so use them for cost analysis.

Category - Education

- Temporary Signage - Clean Up Day, Neighborhood Meeting times, Events - \$
Mailings - Postage or postcards - \$
Printing - Brochures or flyers - \$ 60
Training - For residents - \$
Newsletters - \$
Other - Explain \$

Category- Capacity Building (Neighborhood Council membership & participation)

- Child Care - must be licensed and insured for activity - \$
Printing - Brochures or flyers - \$
Training - For Council members - \$
Newsletters - \$
Other - Explain \$

Category - Event (Community Building or Improvement)

- Temporary Signage - Clean Up Day, Neighborhood Meeting times, Events - \$
Space Rental - \$
Neighborhood Clean Up - examples dump passes or dumpster rental - \$
Special Event or Block Party Permit Fees - \$
Entertainment for a Special Event or Block Party (examples - movie rental for outdoor movie or band/performer) - \$ 200

Neighborhood: Date:

- Safety or Security For Special Event or Block Party - barricades, fencing rentals - \$
Equipment Rental - sound system, tents, bouncy castle - \$ 80 (Purchase 10/10 Pavilion)
Other - Explain \$

Category - Materials

- Craft supplies - \$
Office Supplies - \$
Other - Explain \$

The statement to accompany the proposal were the read to the neighborhood and discussion would follow:

Building a Stronger Comstock Neighborhood- Comstock has been disrupted for about 1 year

With construction projects of High Drive (May 2015 to October 2015) and the CSO 20 project which is still ongoing since summer 2015. The windstorm in November 2015 caused further disruptions and produced damages that many neighbors are now just repairing or recovering from. We wish to support a project that will again unit the Comstock Neighborhood in a fun and active manner. We also wish to showcase our neighborhood as despite adversities neighbors have provided assistance to one another.

In addition to a celebration, we want to plan for the future and to improve our neighborhood to make it a more welcoming, safe, and informed. Comstock neighborhood is the site for several major events that achieve these goals: Summer Parkways and the annual Spokane Symphony Concert.

These events are sponsored by individuals and other organizations in Spokane but held in Comstock Park and well attended by Comstock and other neighborhoods. Comstock Neighborhood Council has provided a booth for Summer Parkways with games and provides neighborhood information to attendees.

Summer Parkways unites the Comstock and Manito Neighborhoods in an evening celebration of outdoor activities and neighborhood involvement along a 4 mile circuit linking Comstock and Manito Park systems.

Organizations and small businesses can sponsor booths and activities that might include games, crafts, demonstrations, contests, or giveaways. Comstock Neighborhood Council provided an information booth and children's games with prizes in 2015. Our Pavilion was too worn and old to withstand the event and we wish to purchase another one for future Comstock events. This would be a local purchase and cheaper than renting a pavilion two or three times a year. Games and props were donated by an individual last year but we wish to purchase them this year. Games include children's archery, magnetic fishing, and a soccer goal kick challenge. Prizes are given to all children who participate. Adults receive information about the Comstock Neighborhood Council meetings, Clean and Green dates, and web page.

DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSAL

Elaine Thorne had suggested Comstock support the Spokane Symphony with a donation but withdrew this proposal. The annual concert is supported through donations and sponsors. Last year there was a need for more sponsors as the event faced going into the red and if there were not adequate sponsors might not be continued in the future. However there are other sources for donations and she withdrew this proposal.

Elaine explained that we needed a pavilion or canopy for the Clean and Green for shelter and an organization area. We also needed a pavilion for Summer Parkways as the one she had last year was old and was damaged in the wind. Comstock Neighborhood could also have a booth at the Labor Day symphony event and local community street fairs. This idea met approval of the attendees.

John Schram requested a need for new signs for the Clean and Green be procured. The current signs are weather beaten and old. This event is important to the Comstock Community and is an annual event. Everyone agreed this was necessary and approved.

When amounts were discussed it was suggested we ask for a high range to cover what was needed and if our estimate was over the required amount then that grant would not be used. If we requested too little we might not be able to do the project as planned.

It was suggested that \$120 to \$150 be allocated for a pavilion/canopy. It was also suggested that between \$150 and \$170 be allocated for signs for clean and green project. If the expense was too great we could draw from other funds.

The cost of printing had been borne by volunteers but Comstock needed to have a way to print materials for events and fairs. Also there has been a greater need to educate and involve the community in decisions and events. We want to work on the corridor from 29th and Grand to 38th and Grand for example. We also need flyers to distribute at events that list our meeting dates and other Comstock news. Estimate the \$60 should cover the costs for one year.

Elaine Thorne presented the idea of purchase of Red Safety Flags to replace flags at the South Manito Blvd and 29th Ave crosswalk. Also if our crosswalk was approved at West 37th and Bernard that perhaps flags could be posted there. Cost online site was about \$6 per flag and suggested we purchase 10 flags. Discussion that we should label the flags when we get them so that they would be returned if misplaced or misappropriated by pedestrians. We could do that if desired. Flags would be needed at the new crosswalk if that traffic calming proposal is approved. Estimated \$60 for safety Flags.

Discussion of games and prizes for Summer Parkways and other events. Last year the games and prizes were purchased on sale for Summer Parkways. Some of the plastic games only lasted the event but were well used for the price. Parents and children appreciated the games and prizes and several thanked the Comstock Neighborhood during the event and one group rode back after the event to thank the neighborhood for the good time. Prizes were from the dollar store and were bracelets, squirt guns, coins, stickers, and other small items. Several families participated in games like the soccer ball kicking challenge, kids archery, and magnetic fish. We would like to sponsor these games and others again this year and need some replacement parts and more prizes. . Suggested \$100 for this event and use other prizes for other fairs and events that Comstock Neighborhood would have a booth/tent. All approved.

It was suggested that we could ask for the maximum amount or more money if available. Priority should be Clean and Green event needs-

John Schram suggested the budget request be reworded prior to submission- Elaine Thorne would do that and submit the Comstock Neighborhood Request if approved by the neighborhood.

We had overestimated our cost request by \$40 when the motion to approve the amounts set were tallied—We had to readjust the totals to fit the \$500 limit.

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Neighborhood Clean Up Signs | \$120 |
| Printing Documents/brochures | \$60 |
| Clean and Green Signs | \$100 |
| Safety Flags | \$60 |
| Event Canopy/Pavilion | \$120 |
| Games and Prizes events | \$100 |
| TOTAL REQUESTED | \$560 |

Motion to approve the Comstock Neighborhood Budget request was made by Phil Svabdo and seconded by John Stolz. All were in favor of the requested amounts listed below:

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Neighborhood Clean Up Signs | \$120 |
| Printing Documents/brochures | \$40 |
| Clean and Green Signs | \$100 |
| Safety Flags | \$60 |
| Event Canopy/Pavilion | \$120 |
| Games and Prizes events | \$60 |
| TOTAL REQUESTED | \$500 |

Bids will be collected for the requested items as submitted. Elaine Thorne will rewrite the proposal to reflect the amounts approved and with better wording to justify the needs/

Elaine Thorne presented an overview of the Creating a Stronger Comstock Neighborhood Committee which met on March 8th at 1330 at the South Hill Library. Traffic Calming applications were discussed. A committee to study the traffic and walkability of the corridor from 29th and Grand Blvd to 38th and Grand Blvd was formed. Jon Galow, prior Comstock Neighborhood Council Chair is chairing a group for this study and Whitney Welch, Comstock PeTT Committee Chair is also working with this group.

There were no open forum discussions.

The Comstock Neighborhood Council Meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45PM.