

Comstock Neighborhood Council
Proposed Meeting Agenda for March 15, 2017
6:00 PM –7:30 PM, Sacajawea Cafeteria

Edit note: Underline indicates Agenda:

Welcome (5 minutes)

Please sign in using the roll sheet

Introductions

Approve minutes from February

Schedule updates (date and location changes)

MEETING NOTES:

Steve Smith introduced himself, John Schram and Terryl Black; and welcomed all neighbors to the meeting.

Initial discussion before agenda items were started:

- The cafeteria was uncomfortable for some of the neighbors. It is designed for young students not mature adults.
- A question was asked about changing the time of the meeting:

John Schram shared his insight: The meeting days/dates and times have been changed at various times in an effort to accommodate requests and to make it more convenient and accessible for neighbors to attend. The end result has basically been the same regarding attendance and participation.

In addition, it is very difficult to change times and days/dates because the building is booked in advance. If there is to be a change in venue then it will need to be discussed and implemented in the future as the current schedule is booked through next year.

- Upcoming date, time, location changes:

2017

April 19th Sacajawea Middle School Cafeteria (entrance on Lamonte)

May 24th (NOT May 17th) Sacajawea Middle School Cafeteria (entrance on Lamonte)

June 21st No meeting - Summer Parkways

July 19th Spokane Public Library south Hill Branch 3324 S Perry

August 16th Spokane Public Library south Hill Branch 3324 S Perry

September 20th Sacajawea Middle School Cafeteria (entrance on Lamonte)

October 18th Sacajawea Middle School Cafeteria (entrance on Lamonte)

November 15th Sacajawea Middle School Cafeteria (entrance on Lamonte)

December 20th Sacajawea Middle School Cafeteria (entrance on Lamonte)

2018

January 17th Sacajawea Middle School Cafeteria (entrance on Lamonte)

February 21st Sacajawea Middle School Cafeteria (entrance on Lamonte)

March 21st Sacajawea Middle School Cafeteria (entrance on Lamonte)

April 18th Sacajawea Middle School Cafeteria (entrance on Lamonte)

May 16th Sacajawea Middle School Cafeteria (entrance on Lamonte)

Public Safety Report (15 minutes)

Lt. Joe Walker

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MEETING NOTES:

- In general the Comstock Neighborhood is down and looking good especially compared to some other neighborhoods.
- There have been two house burglaries in the past month; One was in the 3000 block of High Drive and the other in the 1000 block of E 30th.
- There were a few car break ins.
- There have been reports of scam phone calls. Scammers pose as a utility such as Comcast and try to get personal information. Be aware of such fraudulent calls. If such a call is received, report to crime check.
- There have been some counterfeit \$20 dollar bills floating around. A question was asked about how to determine a counterfeit; they will feel different because of different paper and ink used and may have noticeable marks. It is mostly vendors who will be able to determine counterfeit bills.
- There is a web site www.offerup.com that is used by thieves to unload stolen goods. If something is stolen, this is a place to look.

Updates from City Council (15 minutes)

Lori Kinnear (lkinnear@spokanecity.org)

Breean Beggs (bbeggs@spokanecity.org)

MEETING NOTES:

- No council member to provide a report.

Updates from Office of Neighborhood Services (10 minutes)

Kevin Picano

Melissa Wittstruck (mwittstruck@spokanecity.org)

MEETING NOTES:

- No report.

Speed Radar Application (5 minutes)

Discuss/ propose potential locations for mobile speed feedback signs. Each neighborhood allotted two locations for a two-week period for 2017. More information here:

<https://my.spokanecity.org/neighborhoods/programs/speed-feedback/>

MEETING NOTES:

Suggested locations for speed radar and the votes they received: Everyone could vote on any number of the proposals.

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1. 37th between High and Bernard east bound: 21 votes
2. 29th and Manito Blvd east bound: 17 votes
3. High Drive west bound: 12 votes
4. High Drive east bound: 11 votes
5. Lincoln/30th along Comstock Park: 9 votes

Some Discussion points:

- These signs gather data for use in future decisions about the road being monitored.
- It was explained that the location of the speed radar equipment must meet specific requirements for space along the side of the road.

Community Assembly Budget Request (10 minutes)

Grant funds available for the development of engagement and enhancement opportunities.

MEETING NOTES:

- Each neighborhood council is allocated a specific amount of funds (\$500) to spend as necessary to conduct the “business” of the neighborhood council.
- The discussion request was for neighbors to provide suggestions on how to best use the funds. Of course there are some stipulations attached to the use of these funds.
- One priority the council board would like to use the funds to get the word out to the neighborhood to attend and participate at the meetings. One such suggestions was to obtain “bookmarker” like item with a magnet so that it can be placed somewhere visible.
- One suggestion was to use some funds to have a fun family night at the park. Something such as a movie night so that all members of the family could attend. This idea received a favorable response.
- John Schram indicated that he would prefer for the neighbors to think of ways to use the funds. But if there are any excess funds he would like to use it to create new durable signs for the clean and green event.
- As a side discussion one neighbor suggested putting signs out a week in advance to help neighbors become aware of the planned event.

Traffic Calming Project Proposals Approval and Ranking (20 minutes)

Presentation/ updates from projects selected to move forward last month followed by ranking of projects and official vote to apply.

MEETING NOTES:

- 43rd Ave between Rocket Market and Perry Street – Presented by Pat Keegan with subject matter (engineering) support from Kevin Picano, and an accompaniment of concerned 43rd Ave. neighbors.

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Many questions were asked and responded to by Pat and Kevin. Also additional supporting comments were made about the need to slow traffic and make 43rd safe for the pedestrians that use the street especially the children. The neighbors present at the meeting voted to advance this traffic calming request as a top priority for the Comstock Neighborhood.

Some topics included:

- The required 60 percent of the neighbors were in agreement.
- Why did they need 3 circles; studies indicated that more than one is needed to have an impact.
- There was a question about Club Ct. The neighbors on this street support the 43rd idea for the most part. The city will monitor the surrounding streets once the project is completed to determine if the adjacent streets are impacted.
- The target speed is to keep traffic at 25 mph.
- There was a question about the difference between a round-about and a circle. Roundabouts are used at intersections of arterials.
- Other circles in the city? On is at 42nd and Altamont?
- A question about how to keep the circles looking appealing. Pat indicated that there is a contingency of neighbors who express a willingness to keep any plants watered and looking nice.

NOTE: A cut and paste of the flyer distributed at the 3/15 meeting is at the end of these meeting notes.

- 29th to 33rd traffic calming study and actions to address the traffic in the area in consideration of the number of drive ways along the business corridor in and around the post office. Application will include proposal for crosswalk and reduction of lanes.

There was one comment about the need to address the island in the middle of the road near the post office. It seems to be more of a hazard than a help for the traffic in the area.

This traffic calming issue will be addressed by Steve Smith and Jon Galow. It was voted as the second priority by the Comstock neighbors present at the meeting.

- Cross walk at the intersection of Bernard and 37th for crossing Bernard. This was an item in previous traffic calming requests. It was previously turned down, but it still is relevant for allowing elementary school students to cross Bernard to attend Jefferson Elementary School. It was agreed that this will be presented as Comstock's third priority.

Open Forum for Neighborhood Members

A chance to voice a concern or opinion on matters affecting our neighborhood. Please keep presentations to under 3 minutes.

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MEETING NOTES:

- Discussion regarding the meeting time and place of neighborhood council meetings. Some feel the time and set-up is inconvenient/ uncomfortable. Steve and John discussed the logistics in setting these times, dates, locations and need to book far event. Reminded that any voting member can call for an amendment to by-laws vote during meetings. No vote called at this time.

Community Assembly Updates

Terryl Black, CA Rep

MEETING NOTES:

- Spokane Conservations District: sccd.org 509-535-7274. Garth Davis is available to meet you at your house and talk about the health of your trees and make suggestions. There is also at tree sale that is taking place. The pre-order phase is completed, but there may be some surplus trees available for purchase. <http://treesale.sccd.org/>
- Spokane Police Chief Meidl is having a conversation with the citizens on March 21 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the North East Community Center.
- A copy of the Community Assembly meeting notes is attached at the end of these neighborhood notes.

Clean and Green Updates

John Schram, Clean and Green Rep

MEETING NOTES:

- There was a discussion regarding the need to prioritize Comstock's clean and green activities because there may be a budget issue going forward. In the past Comstock has been able to get funds allocated to all the activities because other neighborhoods were not utilizing the clean and green funds. But last year the budget was within 1% of the allocated funds. 2016's Comstock clean and green cost was \$11,000, but each neighborhood is allocated \$6,500; as mentioned, because there was a surplus of funds not used by other neighborhoods, the costs were covered by the city budget.
- There are two components to clean and green, which is the curb side pick-up and the Saturday Clean and Green yard waste deposit at Sacajawea Middle School. The Neighborhood council may have to decide which of these two components to have available.
- It was decided by the neighbors present at the 3/15 meeting that if funds are limited, then the Saturday Clean and Green deposit event is the priority. John will make some inquiries about the availability of funds to determine if we can actually have both.
- Some suggestions about what do if there is no curbside is to provide neighbors with dump passes instead.
- John reported that 29 tons of trash was picked up at the curbside and that 32 tons was collected at the Saturday even. Tonnage & \$\$ - 29 tons of curbside \$6,462, 32 tons clean/green \$3,723 + \$144 in dump passes, \$750 postcard mailing cost. 2016 total = \$11,079, 2015 = \$8,400, 2014 = \$8,000.

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- *Update, this was presented to the City Council including concerns on 5/20, with commitment made to investigate further funding.

Next Meeting – April 19, 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM, Sacajawea Cafeteria

Comstock Neighborhood Web Page

<http://comstock.spokaneneighborhoods.org>

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Help Us Make 43rd Avenue Safer and More Livable

Vote this Proposal as the Neighborhood's #1 Priority

The Problem: 43rd Avenue between the Rocket Market and Perry is a residential street with no stop signs, no sidewalks and heavy cut through traffic, making it one of the busiest residential streets on the South Hill.

- Many drivers seem to think they are still on an arterial and drive far in excess of 25 MPH
- Several families with small children live on the street
- A number of accidents have happened over the years as cars have collided with parked cars, trees and shrubbery. A dog on a leash was even run over and killed.

The Solution: Concerned neighbors met with the City's Traffic Calming Program Manager and two City traffic engineers. They suggested that we propose traffic circles to be installed at the intersections with Ivory, Arthur and Garfield. These are designed to divert some of the traffic to arterials and to reduce vehicle speed. An example of a traffic circle is shown at right.



This Traffic Calming Proposal is a Likely Winner!

It's about time a Comstock Neighborhood Council traffic calming proposal got funded. This one has a very good chance for a number of reasons:

- The City only selects traffic calming proposals where a real traffic volume or traffic speed problem exists. The City will do an official traffic count as part of the selection process, but neighbors have collected data that show 43rd handles about 6 times as much traffic as adjacent streets. Photos taken over the winter support this, showing how the heavy traffic cleared a path through the ice down to the pavement more quickly than nearby streets. The accidents mentioned above are further evidence of a problem.
- We've done our homework. One of us attended Traffic Calming training. We've met with key City staff who have been supportive and provided a preliminary drawing and a list of owner names. We've organized!
- Neighbors are highly motivated and supportive. In order to submit an application by the April 4th deadline we must have 51% of the property owners within 400 feet to sign a petition. A group of 8 volunteers has spent more than a month collecting signatures and we have over 60 so far, well in excess of the 51% requirement. More than 90% of neighbors that heard what we are proposing signed the petition.
- The South Hill Coalition should be an enthusiastic and influential supporter because they conducted an extensive involvement process and published an elaborate and detailed "Connectivity and Livability Strategic Plan" that listed 43rd Avenue as a high priority greenway that should become a low-speed, low-volume, and friendly to pedestrians and bicycles.
- We will submit a quality proposal. A neighbor that has written hundreds of proposals will be leading our proposal writing effort.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE 43RD AVENUE TRAFFIC CALMING PROPOSAL!

THE CHILDREN OF 43RD AVENUE HOPE YOU WILL MAKE IT THE #1 PRIORITY SUBMITTAL

Contact person: Pat Keegan, 1122 E 43rd Ave, 720-331-0018, pkeegan610@gmail.com

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March 2, 2017

Notes from Community Assembly Meeting

Community Assembly: Core Purpose is to empower neighborhood council's participation in government.

Committees that need members. Would like a member from each neighborhood council:

1. Building Stronger Neighborhoods - mission is to provide training and resources to neighborhoods to increase participation.
2. Land Use Committee - Works with the City Planning and Office of Neighborhood Services.
3. Pedestrian, Transportation and Traffic Committee - Focuses on Spokane's transportation related problems and opportunities
March 28 6:00pm West Central Community Center
Meeting will host Council Member Breean Beggs for an extended workshop on establishing an all-city program to repair and infill the city's unsafe, broken, and missing sidewalks.
4. Public Safety - Works to bring awareness and solutions regarding neighborhood safety issues.
5. Budget - recommends policies and procedures concerning the budget controlled by the Community Assembly.

March 21 6:00-8:00 pm North East Community Center

A Conversation with Spokane Chief Craig Meidl - an opportunity to ask questions regarding crime/safety in your neighborhood

Central City Line - Will run from Brownes Additions to Spokane Community College
See: Spokanetransit.com
Neighborhoods need

Spokane Conservation District - sccd.org 509-535-7274

Garth Davis: He will come to your house or neighborhood meeting to talk about tree conservation in the city. Will help determine the health of a tree or make suggestions on types of trees to plant.

Go online to see the Tree and shrub seedling sale. Sale extended to March 17

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