

**Comstock Neighborhood Council
Meeting Notes for September 20, 2017
6:00 PM –7:30 PM, Sacajawea Cafeteria**

Disclaimer: These notes are subject to revision and corrections from all participants. The contents herein represent the notes and recollections of the Comstock Neighborhood Council's scribes and representatives, and may not have captured the true intent of all statements made by the participants. For clarification of any details of these notes please contact the Comstock Neighborhood Chairperson (comstockneighborhoodcouncil@gmail.com). For clarification of any statements attributed to the participants of this meeting please contact the individual for clarification before passing judgement on the words contained herein.

MEETING AGENDA:

- **Welcome (10 minutes)**
- **Updates from City Council (15 minutes)**
- **Public Safety Report (10 minutes)**
- **Guest Speaker, Spokane Public Library (5 minutes)**
- **Neighborhood Council Updates (20 minutes)**
- **Community Assembly Updates**
- **Clean and Green Updates**
- **Open Forum for Neighborhood Members**
- **Next Meeting –Wednesday October 18, 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM, Sacajawea Cafeteria**
- **Cubside Pickup - Tuesday October 10**
- **Clean and Green Disposal - Saturday, October 28th, 7:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.**
Volunteers needed – Contact John Schram at 509.328.5627

MEETING NOTES:

Meeting call to order at 6:05 PM

Steve Smith welcomed all the attendees.

Points Noted by Steve:

- Please sign in
- Introductions of council officers
- Expected meeting norms

Comments by Lori Kinnear (lkinnear@spokanecity.org)

- Mentioned the South Hill Coalition “connectivity and Livability Strategic Plan” brochure that was an available handout. <https://my.spokanecity.org/projects/south-hill-coalition/>
- The budget process for 2018 has begun.
 - They start Monday 9/25 to discuss the details of the budget.
 - The council will vote on the budget in December.
 - Lori has requested that there be 10 additional Police Officers implemented. Their assignments have yet to be determined.
- October there will be a new committee structure. They are changing the structure from 5 committees to 4. The committees are:
 - Public Safety and Community Health
 - Public Infrastructure, Environment and Sustainability
 - Finance and Administration
 - Urban Planning

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- Discussed the need to be proactive with brush clearing to alleviate ground fires during the dry season. A particular place of note is the land along the bluff.
- October 11 there will be an open house work shop related to “Historic Preservation.”
- Work is being done regarding a drone ordinance.

Comments by Lt. Dave Overhoff: (doverhoff@spokanepolice.org)

- The best way to contact him is via email. He will eventually get back to you. Phone messages are not as reliable.
- Mentioned the Neighborhood Resource Officers Dion Mason and ? Meyer.
- He shared a sample of the most recent crime map. The crime map can be viewed online at <http://communitycrimemap.com/?address=Spokane,WA&zoom=11>
- There has been an increase in elderly fraud
- There have been some incidences of arson. That person is now in custody.
- Manny Rojas is the Crime Stats Person who provides reports to the community officers.
- The force is expecting about 10 to 12 retirements; along with the proposal for 10 new officers it is possible there will be 20 to 25 new officers on the force in the near future. He discussed the difficulty in filling the positions because of the recent downward trend of applicants.
- There has been an influx of homeless people. It was stated that other cities are providing transportation for homeless and many of them are sent to Spokane.
- There has been a city wide problem of urban campers. There has been a significant increase of campers in the city parks and open areas. Most of the problem is within the central city area where the homeless can walk to services.
- There was a crime problem in the South Gate neighborhood that has been addressed by alerting residents regarding the need to be vigilant in locking and watching their property.
- Vehicle prowling is up.
- Credit Card Fraud is a problem.
- There has been a grant for a Community Court pilot program, which will start in January 2018. This program will handle misdemeanor crimes, small neighborhood complaints, disputes between neighbors. It may help speed up the resolution and conviction of some crimes.

Comments by Code Enforcement Staff Liaison - Melissa Wittstruck:

mwittstruck@spokanecity.org, 509.625.6087 www.beautifyspokane.org

- There is a revamp of the Snow Removal Plan being developed in light of the snow removal issues that developed last winter and the recent survey results of the residents. (<https://my.spokanecity.org/streets/maintenance/snow-removal>)
- The official snow season is 11/15 through 5/15.
- Some of the changes to snow removal will be a more pro-active plowing schedule in all neighborhoods when snow accumulates regardless of amount.
- There will be a pro-active enforcement of snow removal near schools and hospitals.
- Discussed the parking ordinance (<https://my.spokanecity.org/parking/enforcement/>) and issues of cars parked on the street for more than 24 hours.
- Noted the complaint hotline of “311”
- Mentioned using the “Real Change” program to help the homeless rather than give money to panhandlers. <http://www.downtownspokane.org/real-change-spokane>
<https://my.spokanecity.org/news/releases/2017/09/12/mayor-announces-give-real-change/>

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- Discussed the abandoned/vacant house problem and people who are squatters. If you have a complaint utilize the complaint hotline 311

Comments by Susanne Miller – Youth Services Librarian at South Hill

smiller@spokanelibrary.org 509-44-5388:

- Discussed the available digital training and the various apps that are available: <http://www.spokanelibrary.org/digital/>
- Mentioned the apps of Libby for ebooks downloads, Hoopla for T.V/Movies streaming media, RB-digital App for audiobooks.
- There is a “library of things” that includes music instruments, science instruments and a variety of other useful “things” that are not normally part of a library. <http://www.spokanelibrary.org/library-of-things/>
- There is a program called “Books for Babies.” The library is distributing books for free to the very youngest patrons in our system.
- There is a program of STEM events for homeschool students.
- There are various workshops available. One in particular scheduled for November is about 3D printing. <https://www.spokanelibrary.org/labs/>

Comments by Pat Keenan – President of the Friends of the Bluff

- The reclamation project regarding the illegal road through the bluff area is progressing nicely. There were volunteers that hiked into the area to water the seedlings and there appears to be about 75 to 80 percent success rate of the seedlings surviving the dry summer.
- The FOB is still working on getting easier access to the trails and bluff via the 43rd Ave public access point behind Rocket Market.
- FOB spent time this summer clearing out about an acre of underbrush to help prevent fire hazards. There will be another work day on September 30.
- Avista will be working on replacing their power lines along the bluff lands. They will be using helicopters to bring in and erect the needed poles because of the remoteness, terrain and the desire to have less impact to the environment.
- Please check out the Friends of the Bluff web site for more details. <http://www.friendsofthebluff.org/>
- It was noted by Terry Black that the Hangman Valley Trail development committee is seeking input. This will be in the area of the Bluff so it would merit the attention of the FOB.

Updates and Comstock Neighborhood Council business:

Traffic calming:

- The project for placing traffic circles on 43rd between Hatch and Perry is now waiting the City Council approval.
- The cross walk at the corner of 37th and Bernard was not approved. It was deemed that there was not enough foot traffic to warrant it.
- \$40,000 has been allocated for a traffic study on the area around Grand and 29th Ave. There will be a meeting soon to discuss the details; other neighborhood councils have been included in the discussion.

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Comstock Logo and business cards:

- With the generous attention of Chris Bovey, the Comstock Neighborhood now has a logo.
- This logo has been reproduced for the use of business cards that contain the basic information about the neighborhood council.

Candidate Forum

- Scheduled for the 10/18 meeting.
- Invited the City Council, Judges and School board candidates. Thus far, five have confirmed.
- The other South Hill Neighborhood Councils were invited: Cliff Cannon and Lincoln Heights will participate. The other neighborhoods will provide some announcements in their communications.

General Assembly Grant

- Some money was received and supplies needed for conducting meetings and doing business were purchased.

Call for volunteers and open positions

- Any volunteers of any capacity are welcomed, wanted and needed.

Community Assembly Update – Terryl Black

- There will be a Ghost Walk event in Browne's Addition. For more details see the web site at <http://friendsofcdapark.org/>
- There is a need to provide input to the planning of various city projects. Places to comment can be found at <https://my.spokanecity.org/>

Clean and Green Report

- Curbside pickup will be Tuesday, October 10. The following stipulations apply: City garbage trucks will pick up trash at CURBSIDE ONLY. Trash must be at curbside by 7 a.m. on Tuesday, October 10th. No alley pickups and no city assistance on hauling items. Residential waste only! No Clean & Green.

Household items must be in standard 32 gallon cans, automated carts, boxes, bags, or bundle. Any receptacles other than 32 gallon cans or automated carts will be disposed of and not replaced. Weight of any receptacle or item must not exceed 85 lbs. No Clean & Green. The City of Spokane reserves the right to refuse to haul anything improperly bagged or considered dangerous/hazardous. Other options are Craigslist.com or a charity.

Contact John Schram for any additional information at 509-328-5627.

- Clean and Green will be Saturday, October 28th, 7:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 - * VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – contact John Schram at 509-328-5627.
 - * WHERE: Sacajawea Middle School Parking lot – enter on 33rd Ave only – be prepared to help unload. Bags must be emptied and taken away. No loads larger than a pickup truck size.
 - * WHO: Comstock Neighborhood residents ONLY – Proof of residency required.

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- * Accepted: Leaves, grass clippings, sod less than 2" thick, pine needles, pinecones, brush, limbs less than 3" in diameter and less than 4 feet long.
- * NOT accepting: Animal waste, previously composted material, stumps, dirt, rocks, lumber.
- * Metal recycling dumpster on site as well
- * Hazardous waste accepted if clearly marked: Oil base paint only (latex should be dried and put to trash) unbroken CFL bulbs (no tubes), oil, batteries, antifreeze, pest & vegetation chemicals.

Additional Discussion:

- The status of the new bank building. It appears to be progressing as planned. The utilities have been installed (buried). There is no word on what business will inhabit the space allocated for the other corner lot, but there are several prospective candidates.
- Question about the status on the proposal to place sidewalks on the south side of 37th Ave across from Jefferson elementary down to the old Albertsons building.
- No news on the vacant Albertson's building.

Concluding Remarks:

- Steve Smith thanked everyone for attending the meeting and clarified that the next meeting is Wednesday October 18 at the Sacajawea Middle School Cafeteria.

Informational materials provided were:

- South Hill Coalition Connectivity and Livability Strategic Plan
- Comstock Neighborhood business cards
- Office of Neighborhood Services and Code Enforcement Brochures for "Illegal Dumping", "Junk Vehicles", "Fire Hazards", "Complaint Form"
- Library Information: Card with a list of services, flyer for "September/October Events @ the South Hill Library", "Homeschool Events"

Informational websites related to distributed materials and discussion points:

- Snow removal URL: <https://my.spokanecity.org/streets/maintenance/snow-removal/>
- Parking ordinance. <https://my.spokanecity.org/parking/enforcement/>
- Code enforcement URL: www.beatifyspokane.org
- Spokane's Real Change initiative for helping the homeless:
<http://www.downtownspokane.org/real-change-spokane> &
<https://my.spokanecity.org/news/releases/2017/09/12/mayor-announces-give-real-change/>
- Crime map link: <http://communitycrimemap.com/?address=Spokane,WA&zoom=11>
- Library digital training link: <http://www.spokanelibrary.org/digital/>
- Library Libby link for eBooks downloads, Hoopla for T.V/Movies streaming media, RB-digital App for audiobooks: <http://www.spokanelibrary.org/digital/>
- Library of things: <http://www.spokanelibrary.org/library-of-things/>
- Library workshops available: <https://www.spokanelibrary.org/labs/>
- Friends of the Bluff web site: <http://www.friendsofthebluff.org/>
- City information: <https://my.spokanecity.org/>
- South Hill Coalition Project: <https://my.spokanecity.org/projects/south-hill-coalition/>