

**Comstock Neighborhood Council  
Meeting Notes for February 21, 2018  
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. 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.

These minutes have been reviewed, accepted and approved by the CNC executive committee.

**MEETING AGENDA:**

- I. Welcome/Call to order
- II. Updates from City Council (15 minutes)
  - Lori Kinnear (lkinnear@spokanecity.org)
  - Breean Beggs (bbeggs@spokanecity.org)
- III. Public Safety Report (10 minutes)
  - Lt. Dave Overhoff (doverhoff@spokanepolice.org)
- IV. South Hill Bluff Property Update and Planning (20 minutes)
  - Leroy Eadie, Parks (625.6200)
  - Pat Keegan – Friends of the Bluff (<http://www.friendsofthebluff.org/contact>)
- V. Traffic Calming (15 minutes)
  - Jon Galow
- VI. Community Engagement Proposals and Voting (10 minutes)
  - John Schram
- VII. Nomination and Selection of New CNC Officers (5 minutes)
  - John Schram
- VIII. Code Enforcement Update
  - Melissa Wittstruck, City of Spokane
- IX. Community Assembly Updates
  - Terryl Black
- X. Clean and Green Updates
  - John Schram

Next Meeting – Wednesday, March 21, 2018, 6:00 – 7:30 PM, Sacajawea Middle School Cafeteria.

Comstock Neighborhood Web Page: <http://constock.spokaneneighborhoods.org>

Volunteer Positions Available

- Neighborhood Council Chair
- Neighborhood Council Co-Chair
- Safety Committee Chair

Contact

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- [comstockneighborhoodcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:comstockneighborhoodcouncil@gmail.com)

Edit note: Underline indicates Agenda

**MEETING NOTES:**

**Welcome/Call to order**

Meeting call to order at 6:04 PM by pinch hitter John Schram.

**Public Safety Report:**

Report given by Officer Lt. Dave Overhoff

- Four handouts were distributed. One handout contained pictures and descriptions of some perpetrators of crime; this handout was returned to Officer Overhoff. The other three Comstock Crime report handouts showed two maps one depicting the types and location of crimes and the other showing the density of crimes in locations. The third handout was a chart show crimes by hour of the day.
- Officer Overhoff talked about the issue with certain houses being used for crime.
- The best to report crimes: use Crime Check at 509-456-2233 for non-emergency situations and use 911 for emergencies.
- Vehicle Prowling is the number 1 crime.
- It is difficult to contain certain crimes because many of the perpetrators are released on their Own Recognizance (OR) after a very short period of time.
- You can follow the police department on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Spokane-Police-Department/941370529276546>  
Or you can follow the department on their web site: <https://my.spokanecity.org/police/>
- Discussed nuisance property. A property is considered a nuisance after a number of complaints and then the owner does not respond or ignores citations. After a certain point then the nuisance property is monitored.

**South Hill Bluff Property Update and Planning:**

Report given by Leroy Eadie and Pat Keegan

- There is a proposal on the table to purchase the 50 acre Bracher Property which resides within the Bluff Park area.
- This opportunity to purchase the land is a positive result stemming from the errant road building through the Bluff Park last April. The Parks department entered into a settlement agreement with the Bracher family to purchase the land.
- The funds to purchase will come from an accumulated reserve in addition to a \$126,000 donation that was bequeathed to the parks department from a will.
- It was explained that the Bracher property is a critical part of the Bluff area. It essentially cuts the park area in half. Up until now the family has graciously allowed hikers to cross the property and utilize the open space for hiking along the trails that connects both sections of the park.
- There was a question about the cost versus the value. The Parks Department will be purchasing the property below market value.

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- It will be recommended by the Parks Department to use the property in coherence to the same standards used for land conservation purposes which is to keep it as open space with the trails.
- Unrelated to the purchase a tangent discussion continued about some farm property on the north end of the Bluff Park Area.
- Interested parties can comment on this proposal by contacting Pamela Clarke, Spokane City Clerk; [pclark@spokanecity.org](mailto:pclark@spokanecity.org).
- John Schram summarized the settlement of the litigation related to the road mishap.  
Avista (road fix costs) + \$20,000  
Swedberg Contracting \$75,000  
First Tee \$80,000

**Updates from City Council**

Both Breean Beggs (BB) and Lori Kinnear (LK) were present and spoke.

- BB discussed the results of the remediation regarding the errant Bluff road.
- LK mentioned that the council passed a Historic Preservation ordinance that enhances protection of historic buildings.
- LK: Talked about a pilot program for the supervision of property crime perpetrators. It passed the senate is now waiting for the house to pass it. If this passes then Spokane can take steps to help criminals with supervision and education to deter the repeating of property crimes.
- Budget was approved to include 10 new police officers.
- Discussion about the sidewalks at the new Washington Bank site on Grand between 31<sup>st</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> streets. The city and Washington Bank will fix the mistake regarding the sidewalk configuration on the corner of 31<sup>st</sup> and Grand.
- Discussion about police work and the need to increase the number of police.
- Discussion about strategies for handling crime and how to rehab criminals. A new concept is to develop a “triage” center for non-criminals. The triage is to assess the person and determine which social services would best aid the person rather than send them to jail or through the criminal justice system.
- There was a question about paving equipment owned by the city and a complaint about pothole repairs. There was a tangent discussion about the difficulty of handling pothole repairs. B.B. mentioned that citizens can call 311 to report potholes and the need to repair it.

**Traffic Calming**

Jon Galow .

- Two proposals were present: One was to continue the extension of the sidewalk along the east side of Bernard Street from its current location to High Drive. The other proposal was to fix the sidewalk ramp access on the corner of 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Grand Avenue which is related to the design flaw of the new Washington Bank building.
- Both proposals passed unanimously by voice vote.

**Community Assembly Updates**

John Schram

- The council has been allocated funds to help engage the community in participating in the council business and events. There are three ideas for use of the funds which the assembled members agreed were viable uses:

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- \* Purchase of door hangers with CNC information. These would be delivered by council volunteers walking door to door and getting some much needed exercise.
- \* \$100 for space rental at Summer Parkways.
- \* Remainder of the funds to be used to enhance signs for the Clean and Green event.
- \* These expenditures were voted on and passed unanimously by the neighbor attendees.

**Public Library – South Hill Relocation Need**

Andrew Chanse – Executive Director ([achanse@spokanelibrary.org](mailto:achanse@spokanelibrary.org) – 509-444-5305)

- The library administration is seeking input to determine the best way to address the change in library usage and consequently the need to update the library building to accommodate these new uses.
- The building requires an increase in size from 15K square feet to 30K square feet.
- One proposal was to relocate the library to 27<sup>th</sup> and S. Ray. This is being considered because of the size of the land area and the low cost for acquisition of land.
- Other locations have been considered, but there are circumstances that make it unworkable. Such as the old Albertson location on the corner of 37<sup>th</sup> and Grand. The owners do not want to sell the land and instead want a lease. Another proposal to expand the current building is unworkable because of the size of the property.
- There was a discussion about the process to get community feedback; it seems that thus far there has been limited attendance to planned meetings inviting community members to attend and provide ideas.