

Comstock Neighborhood Council
Meeting Notes for March 21, 2018
6:00 PM –7:30 PM, Sacajawea Cafeteria

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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)
 - Tim Ottmar (standing in for Lt Dave Overhoff)
- IV. Traffic Calming (15 minutes)
 - Jon Galow
- V. Office of Neighborhood Services/Code Enforcement Update
 - Melissa Wittstruck, City of Spokane
- VI. Community Assembly Updates
 - Terryl Black
- VII. Clean and Green Updates
 - John Schram

Next Meeting – Wednesday, April 18, 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

- comstockneighborhoodcouncil@gmail.com

Edit note: Underline indicates Agenda

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MEETING NOTES:

Welcome/Call to order

Meeting called to order at 5:59 PM by pinch hitter John Schram.

Public Safety Report:

Report given by Officer Tim Ottmar (Neighborhood Resource Officer).

- Overall Comstock is one of the safer neighborhoods in Spokane.
- Fraud is an issue. Criminals are inventive in the efforts to defraud people. It is imperative to be aware of different types of fraud via the telephone, internet, and on the streets.
- Vehicle prowling is the trend. Don't leave cars unlocked or anything of value in the vehicle.
- With the spring upon us and working outside, do not leave your garage door open and unattended. Many crimes are opportunistic; if there something is in the open it can be easily be taken.
- Question was posed about locations of crimes comparing side roads to busy arterial roads. Officer Ottmar indicated that criminals prefer not to be seen so side roads and private areas are preferred targets.
- Question about increase of officers: Yes the city council is increasing the police force above its current staffing numbers. Also, Officer Ottmar explained the process of recruiting, training, etc. It is about an 18 month process.
- Question about using technology for crime prevention. Officer Ottmar recommends getting state of the art technology installed. He uses the technology and he can monitor activity at his house via his smart phone.
- A resident at the junction of Hatch and 57th mentioned the nuisance caused by people congregating in the parking area at the trail head of the bluff late night. She asked for guidance about how best to deal with the loud music and late night riff-raff activities that cause disturbances to the surrounding neighbors. It was suggested to call crime check to complain and to try to get the police to patrol the area. The more the neighbors complain, the more likely a cruiser will check in on it. Also Officer Ottmar explained that such noise nuisance complaints sometimes go unanswered because of the volume of crimes of a more serious nature in other parts of the city.

Updates from City Council

Lori Kinnear (LK) was present and spoke.

- The city council is working on a camping ordinance.
- Mentioned that there will be a horse patrol resource available and they are seeking ideas on how to best use this resource.
- Car theft crime statistic: 1 in 5 cars is victimized because of keys left in the car or the doors are unlocked. Always lock your car and do not leave anything of value in the car.
- The recent graffiti that has been seen is not gang related, but is instead called tagging.
- There will be forums related to street speed limits.
- It was noted that there are funds available from the public school funds to help with traffic calming issues.
- The kick off of the Spokane Matters 2.0 with a meeting schedule for 3/29 at the West Central Community Center.

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Traffic Calming

We discussed placement of the mobile speed control signs. The locations voted on and approved are as follows:

- 33rd Avenue between Tekoa and Division for the east bound traffic. The residents at 18 E. 33rd agreed to allow the sign to be placed in front of their residence.
- Manito/High Drive: East bound traffic.
- 37th and Sky View for east bound traffic.
- 35th between Grand and Perry. The residents of this street also requested a traffic counter.
- S. Perry between 29th and the South Hill Library. Suggested location at the Fire Station.

Community Assembly Updates

John Schram/Terryl Black

- Provided a summary of his Comstock Neighborhood report to the City Council during the General Assembly meeting.

Public Library

Dana (South Hill Library Staff member)

- The South Perry location will remain and will be remodeled. The new larger location will be located on East Sprague.
- The library will be hosting open houses/town hall meetings to get public input on the updating and improvement of the library facilities. A list of meeting dates can be found on the Library Facebook Page.

Office of Neighborhood services (code enforcement)

Melissa Wittstruck (mwittstruck@spokanecity.org)

- There has been reorganization within the administrative offices. Neighborhood Services is now within the umbrella of the Planning Services.
- The code enforcement offices are now under Building Services/Enforcement.
- There is a plan for development in the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood on the corner of 29th and Southeast. Comstock may want to monitor this development because it could directly impact the neighborhood.
- Graffiti reporting: call 311 to report it. The city is in the process of finding a new company to remove graffiti. The previous company was unreliable and ineffective.

General Meeting Discussions

- The summer parkway event will be June 21. There will be no neighborhood meeting in June because we will be attending this event.
- A review of the park purchase of the land along the bluff was given. The property has been purchased.
- Clean and Green: 28 tons of trash was collected during the curbside collection. 24 tons of yard waste was collected at the Saturday event at Sacajawea Middle school.
- 2018 tentative clean and green dates: Second Tuesday of October for curb side collection and the last Saturday of October for the yard waste event.
- Dave Wilson was present at the meeting and spoke briefly: He is running for State Representative of the 6th district.