

Comstock Neighborhood Council
Meeting Notes for May 16, 2018
6:00 PM –7:30 PM, Sacajawea Cafeteria

Comstock Neighborhood Council was called to order at 6:00pm with the announcement that the Rocket Market had \$3 microbrew beers every Wednesday and that everyone was welcome to attend after the meeting. We had a substitute neighborhood resource officer whose first name was Seth, and he was in place of Dave Overhoff, our normal resource officer. Gave crime update statistics from the previous month. The statistics were some increased and some decreased, and he did not know whether or not those were a trend or doing anything specific due to his not being familiar with the neighborhood in depth, as Lieutenant Overhoff was.

Councilmen Beggs and Kinnear were not in attendance, but we heard from Neighborhood Services with Melissa Wittstruck. We had an additional speed sign request for Hatch Street. She was still looking for an opening for that, but the neighborhood resource officer suggested that they (COPS) have a mobile speed sign, as well. So I will reach out to the folks in Manito Place who had requested those and suggested they follow up with the main cop shop to reserve that time. We also had several updates from Melissa regarding the hiring of a new liaison to the neighborhood, so had to replace Rod Minarak, who had led the neighborhood services for many years. In addition, all of the liaisons currently would be rotated around possibly via a random drawing at two other neighborhoods so that they could become familiar with those, as well. So we may hear from different offices of neighborhood services folks in the future.

Update from the library, there's a reading program going on this summer, and sign-up has commenced, in addition to a canned food drive for forgiveness of library debts. Dana gave those updates.

The Friends of Bluff were not in attendance, and we are still waiting to hear about when the Bracher property will be completely purchased and the ink dry on the contract in order to turn that into Spokane Park's property.

Update from John Schram regarding the Washington Trust property: The ADA corner at 32nd and Grand has been redone, and the ADA corner at 33rd and Grand will be redone shortly at Washington Trust's expense.

First presenter up for the evening was Spokane Transit, Ryan Brodwater was the primary presenter and had a secondary presenter as well, who was an engineer with the Spokane Transit Authority. Ryan is the capital projects manager and delivered a presentation regarding several different changes in the Spokane Transit routes. Routes being decommissioned, changed in structure, and the main upgrade of the system due to a bond that was passed recently. Has to do with a new station out at Moran Prairie across the street from the Moran Prairie Elementary School and just to the west, right next to the Ben Burr Trail and trailhead. This used to be an old Moran Prairie electric line, and the little triangle of spaces has been purchased to service residents in the area getting on the bus. They'll go over to Regal Street, down to 29th, and then down Grand and Bernard Stevens to downtown, and then continue up on the Monroe Street corridor north. There was another discussion of an express line that would go directly from the new Moran station, and along High Drive in order to get down to the downtown substation. It was brought up that the High Drive from Grand to 29th had a no-trucks sign, and the investigation as to whether the large city buses were part of that prohibition on that part of the street. Many other suggestions were received and comments made during the presentation, regarding that new structure.

Second presenter up was Scraps, which is ultimately the official relationship with the city of Spokane for animal control. They outlined the procedures and processes that they have, that they are a non-profit and looking at donations and licensing as primary sources of funding. They are the licensing and primarily the intake for any abandoned animals, in addition to the enforcement arm for any of the regulatory guidelines from the city. The specific that was brought up from last meeting, regarding Comstock Park and off-leash animals, in addition to the defecation. The resource officer explained that there are 10 officers that serve the entire county. I believe there

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are a couple of positions that are available now, and that by calling Scraps they can be summoned to problem areas. In addition, there has been a recent rule that the law is regarding animals being left in vehicles. It is expressly prohibited now, and especially with the warm temperatures, those are being enforced.

Finishing off the presentation was resources to use as far as phone numbers, and getting officers out to patrol the different neighborhoods and the parks and in addition, it was brought up that parks had offered to put up additional signage. John Schram will reach out to Al Vordubuggen, who is the parks relationship manager, and will see if any additional signage is needed in Comstock Park. It was mentioned that there are already three existing signs that say that animals must be on leash.

The third and final presenter for the evening was Logan Camporeale. He was speaking regarding covenants, neighborhood covenants that were put into place during the 1940s through the 1960s that had racist language prohibiting any race other than white from being in the -- living in the neighborhood. Logan took us on a journey through the history of the city, racist covenants, and where we are today. Bottom line is that the -- although the racist covenants still exist, they have been invalidated by not only Supreme Court Rulings, but also by Washington state, and Housing and Urban Development laws. But, they still exist in every property transaction where they are still valid. The effort has been made towards getting the city to agree to a \$25 filing fee, to get them removed on an individual basis, and further exploration of what it would take for an entire neighborhood to take off the racist covenants would be -- is the second effort. It appears from the reading of the covenants that the covenants have the ability to be null and voided by the neighborhood, as long as a majority agree. So, that may be the best option. Logan and the Centers for Peace and Justice here in Spokane will be available to help residents work through that and hope to have some sort of a template for those, not only in Comstock neighborhood, but around the city as well.

Several quick updates at the end, talking about Summer Parkways on the 21st of June. There will not be a 20th of June Comstock Neighborhood Council meeting, in lieu of that event, we will have a tent out on the corner of Division and Manito Boulevard, doing kids games and interacting with the neighbors. We asked for volunteers.

We also talked about the July meeting, which we have not committed to a space for yet, and a motion was entertained and forwarded on and approved, to eliminate the July meeting from our schedule.

Finally, as an anchor, the Rocket Market was mentioned again, for its three dollar microbrew pints, for all residents to enjoy after the meeting.