

**Comstock Neighborhood Council  
Meeting Notes for December 19, 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.

**MEETING AGENDA:**

- **Welcome**
- **Neighborhood Resource Officer**
- **Updates from City Council**
- **Report by Code Enforcement Staff Liaison:**
- **Report by Library Staff:**
- **Clean and Green Updates**
- **Traffic Calming**
- **Next Meeting –Wednesday January 16, 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM, Sacajawea Cafeteria**

**MEETING NOTES:**

***Updates and Comstock Neighborhood Council business:***

Meeting called to order at 6:03 PM by John Schram.

John welcomed the attendees.

**Neighborhood Resource Officer - Public Safety Report**

- There was no representative present.
- John Schram reiterated the usual cautionary items: Lock your cars, don't leave valuables in view in your car, don't leave your garage doors open, don't warm up your cars in the morning, lock your doors, and so forth

**Report by Library Staff – Dana Dalrymple [ddalrymple@spokanelibrary.org](mailto:ddalrymple@spokanelibrary.org) 509-444-5404**

- Thanked the neighbors for passing the library bond in the recent election.
- The utilization of the new funds is in the discussion stage and planned changes will occur in 2019.
- Spokane Matters 2.0 Report: (<https://my.spokanecity.org/spokanematters/>)
  - \* Dana's report was about District 2 projects (<https://my.spokanecity.org/spokanematters/district-2/>)
  - \* There are two identified projects: one is parking in the South Perry business district (<https://my.spokanecity.org/spokanematters/district-2/parking-in-perry/>) and the other is addressing the 29<sup>th</sup> Ave traffic issues between Grand and Ray/Freya. Please refer

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to the URL to review the documents related to the 29<sup>th</sup> Ave initial project surveys.  
The project documents include:

- Online Survey Report (PDF 577 KB)
  - On-Street Survey Report (PDF 790 KB)
  - Progress Update - October 2018 (PDF 79 KB)
  - Progress Update - August 2018 (PDF 75 KB)
  - Meeting #1 Notes (PDF 41 KB)
- \* Bob Turner noted that there has been data accumulated related to the highly traveled 29<sup>th</sup> Ave. Some of the difficulties with addressing this street are that it is the main east/west corridor on the South Hill and it needs to also accommodate commercial truck traffic.
- An overview of the purpose of Spokane Matters 2.0 can be found at:  
(<https://my.spokanecity.org/spokanematters/overview/>)

### **Updates from City Council**

Breean Beggs was present ([bbeggs@spokanecity.org](mailto:bbeggs@spokanecity.org))

- Provided an overview of the Spokane Matters 2.0 projects. NOTE: The projects for each District can be found by following the links listed in the prior notes related to Dana's report.
- A summary of the South Perry parking solution was given. Some of the actions taken include: Fix and minimally expand the parking lot in the park, behind the Lantern, stripe near driveways East of Perry, stripe parking spaces on Perry, better signage for finding parking lots. NOTE: Details of the project can be found following the URL provided in the notes about Spokane Matters.
- A comprehensive traffic study is being undertaken by an independent contractor to address the South Hill 29<sup>th</sup> Ave and Grand Avenue issues. Recent development/construction beyond the city limits has impacted traffic within the city limits. He also noted that there is a traffic study being done for the Regal corridor.
- The process of addressing traffic calming along Grand from 29<sup>th</sup> up to 39<sup>th</sup> is ongoing.
- Red light traffic funds have been flat and lower than usual. There was some issue with the lines not being noticeable; so they were painted and it appears that the cameras are working better.
- There have been funds gained from the School Radar project. These funds are used for education purposes and will be used to hire 4 new Traffic Speed Officers.
- There will be a levy vote in February related to Public Safety. The funds gained, if this levy were to pass, will be used for Fire Personnel, Police Personnel and the Criminal Justice system. This levy is needed in order for the city to continue a project that was started with federal funds. If the levy were not to pass, then the city would lose 48 medical responders, and the planned increase of the police force will be postponed. It was noted that having the additional medical and police personnel can reduce the insurance costs needed for home owners.
- Funding for schools has increased from the state which allowed the Spokane School District citizens to see a decrease in taxes related to school funding. Because of this saving, a new levy was passed to supplement the additional state funds and to upgrade the schools.
- Update on the homeless downtown. There was an issue with the large number of homeless concentrated in one area because of the size of the shelter being run by

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the Catholic Charities. A resolution was to limit the size of shelters and to distribute them throughout the downtown area. Another problem caused by a large concentrated area of homeless is the presence of people who prey upon the less fortunate.

- The “sit and lie” has been deemed unenforceable if there are not enough shelter places for the homeless so the city needed to create more space to get the people off the streets. The term used for some of the new places is “warming centers” where the individual can go, but unlike a shelter they cannot leave any of their belongings at the place. They arrive between 7 and 9 PM and leave around 7 AM in the morning.
- The budget to address the homeless issue is about \$2 million.

**Report by Code Enforcement Staff Liaison**

No representative was present – no report.

**Traffic Calming overview: (Attendees from the city street department - Rich Proszak, Bob Turner, Katie Meyers)**

Rich Proszak contact info: 509-625-6907; rproszak@spokanecity.org

- Rich provided an update on the design of two current approved projects for the Comstock Neighborhood. Cycle 7 - The traffic circles for 43<sup>rd</sup> Ave. is currently being designed with construction scheduled for 2019. Cycle 6 has the extension of the Bernard Street sidewalk on the west side corner of 37<sup>th</sup> to connect to a current sidewalk further south on Bernard.
- A suggested traffic calming issue is the excessive speed of vehicles on Hatch along the Manito Country Club. There was some general discussion about how to resolve this problem with signage and speed feedback signs. In the interim the city street department may be able to place temporary mobile speed feedback signs along that corridor. Another traffic calming suggestion was the need for a sidewalk extension on 30<sup>th</sup> Ave at the corner of Arthur. These will be a traffic calming proposals that will be submitted and voted on at the February meeting.
- After an exhaustive discussion about traffic calming application process and approval it was noted that the traffic calming proposals will be voted on at the February meeting in order to submit the applications for the March deadline.
- Katie Meyers reported that we are still waiting to learn about the decision regarding our 2018 Calming projects for the side walk extension along Bernard from 37<sup>th</sup> to High Drive and for the re-configuration of the side walk ramp on the corner of 32<sup>nd</sup> and Grand where the new bank was built.

**Clean and Green Report by John Schram**

- Ran out of time: no detailed report.

**Closing comments:**

- STA bus route discussion: The Comstock neighbors voted that the bus route needs to stay on Grand and not use High Drive.
- John Schram requested data from Bob Turner and Katie Meyers regarding the traffic findings of speeding along High Drive.

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