

**Comstock Neighborhood Council
Meeting Notes for February 20, 2019
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**
- **Public Safety Report by the Neighborhood Resource Officer**
- **Updates from City Council**
- **Report by Code Enforcement Staff Liaison:**
- **Report by Library Staff:**
- **Traffic Calming**
- **Open Forum for Neighborhood Members**
- **Next Meeting –Wednesday March 20 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM, Sacajawea Cafeteria**

Welcome:

Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM by John Schram.

John welcomed the attendees.

MEETING NOTES:

**Neighborhood Resource Officer - Public Safety Report Lt. Dave Overhoff:
(doverhoff@spokanepolice.org)**

- 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
- Lt Overhoff thanked the neighbors for passing Proposition 1.
- NRO (Neighborhood Resource Officer) boundaries have been revised. Our neighborhood will also have contact with NRO Jacob Willard, (625-3310). Our primary NRO is still Tim Ottmar. (625-3383)
- For the month of January there were two residence crimes and 1 vehicle crime. There was a discussion about crime trends. There were 5 handouts related to Lt. Overhoff's report: They are named as follows and are attached and can be accessed on the Comstock Neighborhood Website.

2019-02-20 SPD NRO boundary map.pdf

(<http://comstock.spokaneneighborhoods.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/2019-02-20-SPD-NRO-boudary-map.pdf>)

2019-02-20 SPD SH-DT wkly bltn.pdf

(<http://comstock.spokaneneighborhoods.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/2019-02-20-SPD-SH-DT-wkly-bltn.pdf>)

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2019-02-20 SPD crime map.pdf

(<http://comstock.spokaneneighborhoods.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/2019-02-20-SPD-crime-map.pdf>)

2019-02-20 SPD South IBR counts p5-p6-p7.pdf

(<http://comstock.spokaneneighborhoods.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/2019-02-20-SPD-South-IBR-counts-p5-p6-p7.pdf>)

2019-02-20 SPD citywide IBR counts.pdf

(<http://comstock.spokaneneighborhoods.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/2019-02-20-SPD-citywide-IBR-counts.pdf>)

- Comstock, as usual, is relatively calm compared to other areas in the city; especially when compared to the South Hill neighborhoods closer to downtown.
- There was a brief discussion on how to deal with problem houses. As noted in previous monthly meetings, the more the neighbors report and the more there are incidences related to a particular property, the more police attention it will receive. Officer Overhoff shared a recent event in Brown's Addition where a group of apartment residents were finally evicted because of the high concentration of police incidences.

Updates from City Council

Lori Kinnear (lkinnear@spokanecity.org) and Breann Beggs (bbeggs@spokanecity.org) were present:

- It was noted that 1 in 5 car thefts are a result of cars running to be warmed up.
- As part of Public Safety the city received a state grant for a social worker to ride along with a police officer on patrol. Currently there are four of these teams. This allows for law enforcement to properly assess individuals that are encountered during a police intervention call. Assessment by the social worker will enable the placement of the encountered citizen and, instead of being arrested, a person may instead be placed in a mental health facility for assessment.
- In addition to this new configuration of teams additional holding beds have been added to house the citizens in need.
- The city council, and in particular, Lori Kinnear is still advocating for a statewide legislative program that will provide supervision for chronic thieves. It is hoped that with supervision the perpetrators would amend their habits. If this legislation were to pass, it would have a trial period to determine if it has any benefits.
- Traffic Calming discussion: There are two funds: one comes from the School Radar Fund; this fund generates from \$1 million to \$3 million.
- There was a discussion about clearing snow from sidewalks. The city targets certain areas first, such as designated school routes. Breann is advocating for the allocation of a certain portion of the traffic calming funds to address some of the sidewalk issues for home owners who either cannot afford sidewalk upgrades or to assist others that have funds, but still need help.
- The 29th Ave study from Grand to Freya is finished. This study was implemented in anticipation of the ensuing Garden District project. It was noted that this was an independent study. It is anticipated that the study will be "rolled out" in the next few weeks. Melissa Wittstruck noted that the work of Dana Dalrymple contributed significantly to this study.
- There was a brief discussion about the upcoming Grand Traffic Study from 28th to 33rd. This project will have an assigned project manager sometime around the end of March or the beginning of April. A question was posed if the study can be

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extended up to 37th or 38th. This will require the neighborhood to be vigilant in advocating for the need to extend the study. It will likely need to be addressed in future traffic calming venues. There was some mention of the Integrated Capital Management Group handling the study and related projects.

- Discussion and update of the “sit and lie” ordinance. Since warming centers have been implemented, the ordinance can be enforced. However, the contract expires at the end of March and it is unclear if Mayor Condon will renew the contracts for the warming centers. It was stated that the council will support providing funds to keep the warming centers open.
- There was a protracted discussion about the homelessness in the city. Some highlights are as follows:
 - * Volunteers of America has received funds to extend and build new services.
 - * A discussion about the daytime activities of the homeless men. Women have more services available to them through other services such as the Domestic Violence programs.
 - * There is a definite need to provide services to all needy citizens.

Report by Library Staff – Dana Dalrymple ddalrymple@spokanelibrary.org 509-444-5404

- For upcoming Events refer to the Events Calendar:
<https://www.spokanelibrary.org/calendar/>
- It was noted that there will be a SPA free presentation by Diana Painter, who will be talking about Spokane's mid-20th century architectural survey and historic context. First Church of Christ, Scientist 310 E 14th Ave Tour the mid-century modern church at 6:00 Program at 6:30 on February 28, 2019.
- Details of Dana's report regarding planning and construction resulting from the voters' November proposition approval are as follows:

Future timeline for construction (tentative schedule, subject to change)

- Downtown: Design 2019, Construction begins mid-2020
- Shadle: Design 2019, Construction begins Summer 2020
- @Liberty Park (East Side): Design 2019, Construction begins Summer 2020
- @Libby Center: Design 2019, Construction begins Summer 2020
- @Hillyard/Shaw Middle School: Design 2019, Construction begins Summer 2020
- South Hill: Design 2020, Construction begins Fall 2021
- Indian Trail: Design Fall 2020, Construction begins Fall 2021

@ symbol indicates location, names of all locations to be determined.

Why will it be so long before construction starts?

We are on time and on schedule.

At the time of the bond passing, we had completed about 10% of the ideation for the projects. We want to make sure we're being thoughtful about planning and design and taking into account community input so that we can create the best libraries for Spokane with the best value for

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taxpayers. In a project of this size, the planning process typically takes many, many months.

**Report by Code Enforcement Staff Liaison: Melissa Wittstruck:
wittstruck@spokanecity.org, 509.625.6087**

- Traffic Calming Trainings have been concluded.
- Jon Galow mentioned the deteriorating road conditions on 14th Ave around Monroe Street and also the road condition of Bernard around the 30s. Melissa indicated that she will look into this issue.
- Melissa mentioned the upcoming North Bank Plan that is beginning to take place. <https://my.spokanecity.org/projects/north-bank-plan/> This is an exciting opportunity for citizens to get involved in the development of the downtown river front area.
- Visit www.northbankplan.org for further details. The hand out provided at the meeting can be found at the URL: <https://static.spokanecity.org/documents/projects/north-bank-plan/north-bank-handout-2019-02-19.pdf>

Community Assembly Updates Terryl Black, CA Rep

- The Community Assembly is seeking volunteers to attend the Neighborhood USA conference in Palm Springs, CA. The deadline to apply as a representative is Friday 2/22.
- The Community Development block grants have been revised into a district model. There are three identified districts. This group decides how the federal grant money will distributed among the Community Neighborhood development projects. With this new configuration the Comstock Neighborhood could have a representative that can have a voice in the distribution of funds.

Topic: the new “South Bluff Neighbors” Magazine

- It was noted that the Comstock Neighborhood information was in this month’s edition.

Traffic Calming overview:

The discussion and vote resulted in the following.

- Hatch near Manito Country Club: Feedback speed signs/lights. (Loreen McFaul, resident and lead of Hatch project, will submit this application)
- 30th/Arthur Sidewalk infill. (Jon Galow will submit this application)

The neighborhood residents voted to make the Hatch Road issue between 57th and 43rd the first priority. The second priority was to request an infill sidewalk on the south side of 30th Ave near the corner with Arthur Street.

The council agreed to pursue the following traffic calming issue through the school allocated funds.

- 29th and Lincoln student crossing, traffic safety, and speed issues.
- 29th and Manito – Cross Walk study and implementation of blinking lights. .
- It was suggested to extend the Grand Ave calming study beyond the current parameters and extend it up to 37th Ave. The study has already been defined and assigned. It was suggested that if there is a pressing need to identify the needs of the corridor from 33rd to 37th that it may be addressed through the school district funds.

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Temporary Speed feedback sign placement requests:

- * South side of 29th near Comstock Park
- * South side of 29th near Lamonte
- * West side of Perry near Fire Station
- * Comstock Park on north side of 33rd
- * High Drive at Manito Blvd Bluff side
- * Hatch near MCC east side
- * Hatch near MCC west side

Open Forum for Neighborhood Members

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