

**Comstock Neighborhood Council
Meeting Notes for February 19, 2020
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 – Police Report
- City Council Members' Report:
- Neighborhood Services Report
- Library Report
- Community Assembly Report
- Clean and Green Report
- Next Meeting –Wednesday March 18; 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM, Sacajawea Cafeteria

Welcome

John Schram welcomed the attendees and called the meeting to order at 6 PM. Each neighbor introduced themselves and John introduced Terryl Black as the co-chair and Phil Svoboda as the scribe.

Public Safety – Neighborhood Resource Officer Report – Detective Ty Snyder (509-385-1283 tsnyder@spokanepolice.org)

- Ty provided a crime report for this month. The summary is: As of last week violent crime is down 12.29% and property crime is up 5.76% year to date city wide. Crime in the entire P7 district, which includes West Hills, Grandview/Thorpe, Latah/Hangman, Browne's Addition, Peaceful Valley, Cliff/Cannon, Manito and Comstock neighborhoods, is down for violent crime 15% and property crime is up 23.81% year to date. The heat map of Comstock shows the criminal activity concentration over the last month. The area near 29th/Grand is seeing the most activity. The entire report is attached as a PDF titled "Police report February 2020.PDF"
- A neighbor asked about an incident in which the police did not use a video recording of what was thought to be a criminal activity and the social media discussion indicated that the police did not want the recording. Ty explained that the police do accept recordings, but it depends if it is evidence to show a crime.
- Question: What is causing the increase in property crime? A: It appears that there is an increase in drug usage, which, in turn, causes criminal activity to pay for the drug usage.
- A neighbor expressed concern about the parking area near 57th and Hatch that overlooks the Bluff. There is an inordinate amount of noise and disturbance coming from the parking area that intrudes on the lives of the residents near that area along

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Hatch and 57th. Ty will check with his Captain about addressing this nuisance problem.

- A disjointed discussion ensued regarding various crimes and solutions and some commentary related to such topics.

**City Council Members' Report: - Betsy Wilkerson (509.625.6258
bwilkerson@spokanecity.org) & Lori Kinnear (509.625.6261
lkinneer@spokanecity.org)**

- Lori Kinnear discussed the process of selecting our new council member. There were 32 applicants of which each council member picked their top 7. From those top seven of each council member came the top 7 of the entire group. Those top 7 were interviewed and Betsy Wilkerson was the best of all the candidates.
- Betsy shared her personal story and that she is essentially a person of service. She shared her vision and philosophy of how to conduct council business.
- Lori Kinnear discussed the issue of disrespectful behavior at the council meetings. She is advocating for the Comstock Neighborhood Council to write a letter to the council to insist that they enforce the rules of decorum in order to cease the disrespectful behavior.
- High Drive – Olmstead Parkway Speed Limit: At the end of March there will be a 20 MPH speed limit along the “park” section of the road.
- 5G Network discussion: It was stated by a neighbor that the 5G network signals will have a definite impact on the health of the residents that are in direct contact with the new radio of waves because they are similar to “microwaves” which are different than the current network waves.
- It was noted by John Schram that the current construction practices that Verizon is employing are not following the prior agreement between the utility company and the city government when they built their previous wireless network infrastructure.

**Neighborhood and Planning Services Report - Melissa Wittstruck:
wittstruck@spokanecity.org, 509.625.6087**

- 2020 Census: it is important to have an accurate count because it impacts the services, funding and representation in government. There are still jobs available to help with the census. Information about the Census will be mailed to residents around mid-March. Also it is important to note that there will be some scam operators trying to exploit the unsuspecting citizens by falsely representing the official census effort. For more information check out the website: <https://www.spokanecensus.org/>
- The Grand Blvd. Study community meeting is scheduled for Thursday 2/27 (2 PM to 8 PM) at St. Mark's Lutheran Church on 24th and Grand. You can check the website for the progress of the study at: <https://my.spokanecity.org/projects/grand-boulevard-transportation-and-land-use-study/>. Also the attached file titled “Grand Blvd Study meeting 02-27.PDF” is a flyer for the meeting.
- The Comprehensive Plan Amendment Process: A training session for interested neighborhoods was held on January 30, 2019. March 2nd is the date that amendment applications are due.
- There will be South University meeting on 2/20.
- Saturday 2/22 from 10 am to 2 pm there will be an East Central 5th Avenue Initiative Community Forum about “5th Avenue Then, Now and Next” at the MLK Center at

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East Central (500 S. Stone Street). Information can be found at

<https://my.spokanecity.org/news/stories/2020/02/18/5th-avenue-then-now-and-next/>

- There was a discussion about zoning practices and the city's efforts to increase residential density as part of the solution to alleviate the housing crunch.

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

- The planned Mother's Day tour has found the homes needed.
- The Downtown Library will be closed for remodeling for two years starting February 29th. The Northwest Room is already closed and will be unavailable. A much smaller, temporary location will open on the 2nd floor of the STA Plaza starting March 2nd.
- There will be a Volunteer Fair at the South Hill Library on Monday, March 30th, from 2 to 6 pm. The attached PDF titled "library volunteer fair 2020.PDF"
- Other documents distributed at the meeting are: "Library bond project update.PDF", "Library February 2020 events.PDF", and "Library March 2020 events.PDF."

Community Assembly Report

No report

Clean and Green Report

- The plan is to continue the October Clean and Green event and in lieu of the curbside pickup, there will be dump passes available upon request and available at the monthly meetings.

Discussion Topics:

- It was noted by John Schram that representatives of Comstock Neighborhood Council will be participating in the March 16th City Council, (being held at Eastside\MLK Community Center), meeting to give a state of the neighborhood report.
- Discussion of mobile speed radar placement prioritized High Drive between 29th and Manito due to this summer's change to 20 mph; 33rd Avenue between Lincoln and Howard at the south end of Comstock Park; Grand Ave south of 37th; and Hatch Rd near the Manito Country Club. Submissions will be made to the City of Spokane as well as to C.O.P.S SE
- Traffic Calming implementation list discussion: One project that has been our list for several years is the completion of the sidewalk along the east side of Bernard between 37th and High Drive; this is also a "school travel zone" so it is also eligible for school funds. Our list is open; we will be considering all suggestions and there was interest in requesting "greenway" implementation. We will be voting on traffic calming suggestions and then submitting the choices to the city for consideration.
- Discussion of the yearly Community Assembly Community Engagement grant concluded with a majority vote to request funds for 1) \$100 towards booth space at Summer Parkways and 2) creation of double sided Comstock logo fabric flags that will be installed on Grand Ave light posts south of 29th Ave and with any remaining funds 3) one box of Comstock double sided business cards with Comstock logo on one side as well as meeting and neighborhood contact information on the opposite side and with any remaining funds 4) as many as possible of the Comstock logo door hangers with meeting information on the opposite side. Reallocation funds will prioritize 1) Flags and with any funds remaining, 2) business cards (if not satisfactorily provided for prior) and 3) door hangers up to the full reallocated amount.

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- AnnElise Anderson of the United States Tennis Association Pacific Northwest district spoke briefly about a family event, “Rally + Eats” that the tennis association will be hosting in Comstock Park on July 9 from 6 to 8:30 PM. Their web site is: <https://www.usta.com/en/home/about-usta/who-we-are/pacificnw/about-usta-pnw.html>

An excerpt (with minor edits from this scribe) from a recent email from Kelliann Amico that provides some general information about the event follows:

START OF EMAIL=====

Holding close to its vision to “make tennis accessible to everyone,” USTA PNW provides low-barrier RecTennis programs during the school year and during spring, summer and winter breaks.

For the past three years, USTA PNW has collaborated with Spokane Eats to host Rally + Eats at Comstock Park in Spokane. Here's a TV story regarding last year's event <https://www.facebook.com/ReporterCarolineFlynn/videos/632362677256324/> . USTA PNW plans to host the event again. USTA PNW would also like to involve the neighborhood council in this year's event and make it larger in scale.

Rally + Eats is free for families (kids of all ages!) and is all about getting people on the court to rally and play. No prior tennis experience is necessary, and all equipment is provided for free. To round out the fun, we invite food and beverage trucks/vendors to participate, along with a photo booth. We're also considering adding a music component to the event, if it makes sense for the neighborhood.

Thanks so much,
Kelliann Amico
(for USTA PNW)
503.705.6203

END OF EMAIL=====

- Jessica Engleman with the Bicycle Advisory Board and a founding member of SpokAT (Spokane Active Transportation) gave a presentation about the City of Spokane Greenways efforts. Some of the highlights of Jessica’s informative and detailed presentation are as follows:
 - N. Cincinnati Street will be our first designated Greenway in Spokane.
 - What is a greenway: it is an infrastructure to encourage bicycle riding, walking, and other pedestrian type mobility activities to use the city streets safely for travel.
 - Greenways share the road with vehicles but it is geared toward slower traffic and a safe use of the road by people.
 - Greenways are used for traffic calming and is used to keep cars at a slower and safer speed.
 - The city has a master bike plan which can be found at: <https://my.spokanecity.org/projects/bicycle-master-plan/>
 - There was mention of proposed greenways in the Comstock Neighborhood. One is near Comstock Park, another is Arthur Street and one is Manito Blvd.

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- There are 4 recommendations for the neighborhood to request a greenway for consideration in the traffic calming request: 1) submit a specific greenway; 2) submit a general request for an particular area; 3) submit a problem spot/corridor; 4) include a specific greenway request that the neighbor expresses a desire for a greenway assessment.
- <https://www.facebook.com/SpokAT.org/>
- <https://www.spokat.org/>
- The Spokane City liaison for bicycle is Colin Quinn-Hurst, Planning:
cquinnhurst@spokanecity.org 509.625.6804

Upcoming Meeting:

- Wednesday March 18, 2020 at Sacajawea Middle School Cafeteria (entrance from the Lamonte Street)