

Comstock Neighborhood Council
Meeting Notes for November 18, 2020
6:00 PM –7:30 PM, Zoom Meeting

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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 February 19; 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM, Sacajawea Cafeteria

Welcome

- Terry Black welcomed the attendees and called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM

Public Safety – Neighborhood Resource Officer Report

- No report from the RSO.

City Council Members' Report: - Betsy Wilkerson (bwilkerson@spokanecity.org)

- A new homeless Cannon shelter has opened in Browne's Edition
- The City Council recently passed an ordinance that addresses the drug and alcohol problem that is occurring around the city parks. The ordinance is based on the state law related to parks. It is unlawful to use drug paraphernalia or sell or give or permit to be sold or given any drug paraphernalia in or adjacent to the park and its surrounding streets. Signage will be posted in about 30 days.
- Also there is a guideline for groups of 15 or more to register with the parks before they have their gathering. There is no additional fee; the reason for this informal contract is to ensure that people clean up their mess.
- The council is considering a sales tax that will be designated to a fund related to housing. It will be used to address the needs of attainable, affordable, special needs housing. It is intended to be targeted toward the infill needs for housing. It is considered a regressive tax which is estimated to cost about \$25 per person per year. The vote to pass this tax is scheduled at the November 30th meeting.
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Transit Report: Kathleen Weinand, Principal Transit Planner
kweinand@spokanetransit.com

- Working on implementing the 10 year plan that was passed and funded by the voters in 2016 to grow the transit system.

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- Implemented many of the South Hill improvements already. Including a park and ride at Moran Station, implemented a new bus route #4.
- 2022 is going to be a big year. They will have the first rapid transit line from Browne's Addition to FCC and downtown and the University District.
- Started the 2022 planning last summer, but the pandemic caused some impact on the plans. The board reviewed the plans and adopted new assumptions passed on the changes in financial forecasts.
- Couple of proposed changes for the Comstock routes. There were online survey. This winter there will be surveys and a proposal.
- The routes that will impact the South Hill are: #43: Proposal to shorten this route to stop at the Manito Shopping Center instead at the South Hill Park and Ride. Route 146 will cover 37th Ave. No changes on Route 4.
- A question was raised about the change to Route 43 which will be shortened. There will be new housing developed near Southeast Blvd with multi-dwelling units. This will impact the need for service at the park and ride at Southeast Blvd. Kathleen that Route 146 will still be servicing the park and ride along with Routes 45 and 34.
- The attached the power point contains the details of Kathleen's presentation.

**Neighborhood and Planning Services Report – Carly Cortright Phone: 509.625.6263
Email: ccortright@spokanecity.org**

- Report was provided via email: The following items were share by Terryl during the meeting.
- Annual Reports regarding the Clean-Up Program, Traffic Calming, and Community Engagement grants will be presented at December CA meeting
- Planning and the Housing Action Plan group is conducting a survey; please check it out: <https://my.spokanecity.org/housing/spokane-housing-action-plan/>
- The top complaints we receive in ONS both happen to be in Comstock, and that's the traffic circles on 43rd and the 20 MPH on High Drive. We continue to document and share with Shauna Harshman in Council's Office. Just wanted to share with group – no other traffic calming projects generate the negative feedback these two projects have. Feel free to not share this one – it can wait until I am present to attend next month, but based on the discussion last month I thought it was worth mentioning
- Annica is in receipt of concerns of speeding at Lincoln and 33rd and is investigating
- Cupid Alexander, the new NHHS Division Director (whom ONS reports to) started on Monday, and is committed to community engagement on topics
- Legal is finished with the MOU for hanging the banners, we're just waiting on Street feedback. I suspect it'll be ready for John's review by week's end

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

- No report

Community Assembly Report

- No report – we need a new representative

Clean and Green Report

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- No report.

Open Forum General Discussion Topics for Neighborhood Members:

- Betsy: Traffic calming is the number 1 issue that council is receiving. Complaints about intersections and lack of signs, not yielding right of way, a need signs to slow down in neighborhoods. Council is gathering data in order to find the best way to address the issue.
- Diane Birginal: Discussion about the Water Tower planned for construction in Hamblen Park. What Hamblen Park neighbors want and plan to do is to model a similar type of resolution that Comstock Neighborhood created to address the cell towers in and around our parks. The proposed resolution will focus on stating and supporting of maintaining the integrity of the park. City charter states that city parks cannot be sold or exchanged without the vote of the people. Diane is requesting that all the neighborhoods review the resolution with the hope that all the neighborhood councils will support the resolution to maintain the integrity of the parks.
- Betsy: There is no money in the 2021 budget for the water tower so if there is any funding for a water tower it would be in the 2022 budget. There are also more studies that need to be conducted. Council President Beggs is looking into other alternatives also.
- Diane was curious about the budget because the tower was supposed have been built by now, so she was wondering if the tower is already funded. Also it was indicated that the engineer who was discussing the project indicated that they were going to start building in the spring.
- Betsy indicated that she will check on this water tower project and get the information back to Comstock council for distribution.

Upcoming Meeting:

- An announcement will be made on Nextdoor and on the Comstock Facebook page regarding the next meeting.