

**Comstock Neighborhood Council**  
**Meeting Notes for May 19, 2021**  
**6:00 PM –7:30 PM, Zoom Meeting**

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.

COMSTOCK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
MAY 19, 2021 6:00pm

Co-Chairs: John Schram, Terryl Black

Recording Secretary: Terryl Black

Attendees: John Schram, Terryl Black, Jeff Mergler, Gretchen McDevitt, Jim McDevitt, Thomas Jarrard, Doug Engle

Presentations:

**Carly Cortwright, Office of Neighborhood Services**

*Report for: Comstock Neighborhood Council*  
*Prepared on: 5/19/2021*

*ONS Program Updates*

- [Neighborhood Calendar](#)
- [Traffic Calming](#) | Annica Eagle | [aeagle@spokanecity.org](mailto:aeagle@spokanecity.org)
  - **Mobile Speed Feedback** trailer season has begun! Placements started May 10<sup>th</sup> and will run through October 11<sup>th</sup>. Contact Annica with any questions [aeagle@spokanecity.org](mailto:aeagle@spokanecity.org)
    - 5/10-5/24      416 W 37th Ave, near Bernard      WB
    - 6/21-7/5      High Dr where High Drive and Manito Blvd intersect, near S Manito NB
    - 8/16-8/30      3103 S High Dr (in parking bump out), near 33rd      SB
  - Information regarding the Traffic Calming fall issue-identification workshops coming soon!
- [Community Engagement](#) | Annie Deasy | [adeasy@spokanecity.org](mailto:adeasy@spokanecity.org)
  - The Community Engagement Grant is now open, and applications can be found [here](#), extended to **May 21, 2021**. Contact Annie Deasy [adeasy@spokanecity.org](mailto:adeasy@spokanecity.org) for further info.
    - Suggestions/Ideas: Postcards and bulk mail, banners, outdoor concerts/concerts in the park, etc.
- [Clean-Up](#) | Gabby Ryan | [gryan@spokanecity.org](mailto:gryan@spokanecity.org)
  - For information on requesting a disposal pass, visit [tinyurl.com/2021DisposalPass](http://tinyurl.com/2021DisposalPass)
  - **Change of Resource Name**

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- We have made the switch to calling the passes Disposal Passes, at the request of the City Administrator. Communications coming from the City will refer to them as Disposal Passes; we understand you all are used to calling them Dump Passes and that it'll take longer to make the switch over to Disposal Passes when referencing them to community members. We want to clarify that when you see the term Disposal Pass that we are referencing the vouchers formerly known as Dump Passes.
- o **Regarding Spokane residents who don't have access to internet to create a MySpokane City web account:**
  - There will be an option for accessing a disposal pass for those who do not have access to internet, or don't have the ability to sign up for a city web account.
  - A limited number of paper Disposal Passes will be at C.O.P.S. locations. Residents will need to call their C.O.P.S. locations to confirm the hours of operation before going to pick up a Disposal Pass. C.O.P.S. Locations will begin distributing the Disposal Passes on May 17th, but not all locations are open on the 17th, so please go to <https://www.spokanecops.org/locations>, for listed contact information.
- o **Postcard Mailings**
  - We also have confirmed that we'll be able to send out 1 postcard to all Spokane residents alerting them to the Neighborhood Clean Up Program launching. We will stagger those mailings out so that we don't overload the Waste to Energy Facility in the beginning months of the program. Our goal is to have postcards in every mailbox by the end of July.
- o **Program Launch Date**
  - We have been working with the Web Team to create a user-friendly registration form that can be digitally accessed through the MySpokane.city web account. Due to the many changes that the Clean Up Programming has undergone over the past few weeks due to neighborhood feedback, continued conversations with Web, Public Works, City Council and our City Administrator, the launch of the Clean Up Program's digital platform will be May 17th. The form will be up and running on Monday, May 17th. It will take our system some time to process the requests by verifying resident eligibility for passes, so the first batch of digital passes that will be uploaded for requests received May 17-June 1 will be dated June 1-30 usage.
- o **Fall Events**
  - We appreciate the feedback that we have received from neighborhoods regarding the desire for fall events. The Office of Neighborhood Services and the Solid Waste Department continue to have discussions about the feasibility of fall (no earlier than September) curbside and roll-off events in neighborhoods. At the May 6th Community Assembly meeting, our Director of Public Works discussed the details around fall event feasibility. We are hoping to be able to hold 9-10 curbside collection events and 6 roll-off events in the fall. Staffing capacity, COVID restrictions and funding may have an impact on these plans, so we ask for your understanding as we begin to look at fall event planning. If you are interested in an event, please indicate what event you would prefer by June 15th (curbside or roll-off). As we anticipate more requests than we'll be able to hold, we will need to work together to determine which ones the City can support. Solid Waste, City Council, and the Office of Neighborhood Services are currently working on sifting through previous program years' data to get an idea of how events will be planned. We do plan to include Clean-Up Coordinator, Neighborhood Council and Community Assembly feedback and assistance during the planning process. Final determination of what events and which neighborhoods will be finalized in August.

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- o **Directing Questions to Gabby about the Clean Up Program**
  - If you or any residents have questions about the Clean Up Program, please direct them to [fridayupdate@spokanecity.org](mailto:fridayupdate@spokanecity.org). If they go to the “gryan” City email, they run a risk of getting buried amongst other emails and that may delay a response.

**City Updates**

- **Potholes:** If you see a pothole, report it to the **City's Pothole Hotline at 311, or for outside city limits, 509.755.CITY (2489)**. Street Maintenance Crews are also proactive in looking for potholes and getting them repaired.
- **Speeding:** If you have a concern about motorists speeding in your neighborhood, please report it to the **Traffic Hotline at 509.625.4150**. If it is an emergency or in-progress, please call **911**.
- City Hall and other City facilities remain closed as part of the response to the coronavirus pandemic. For more information on City's service changes due to the pandemic, visit <https://my.spokanecity.org/covid19/>.
- **Libraries are now open.** Visit any time during open hours to browse the shelves, check out books, and use the computers, just keep your (masked) visit to 30 minutes or less.
- **COVID-19:**
  - o Updates available [here](#). Vaccines are open to all as of April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- **Comstock Park Irrigation:** Due to the January storm our irrigation was knocked out on the mid/east side of the park (where we have to hand water) as well as compromises in other areas to the park. Parks has been approved to bid out fixing the entire mid/east region of the park (which is around the tennis courts to the south to the basketball court and extending west to the ball fields) but this will take a while. Parks will be getting some on-site, signage to help educate that Comstock will be going a bit brown this summer but we are forming our plan to water the trees. The turf we will have to re-grow in spots, but we don't want to lose the trees.

**Projects/Programs of Interest**

- **Housing Action Plan:** The City of Spokane is creating the Housing Action Plan to develop policy to help increase housing options that are affordable and accessible for people and families of all incomes. Following close to a year of stakeholder and community engagement, the City has completed the draft Housing Action Plan and it is now available for public review and comment.
  - o The public is invited to review and provide feedback in a variety of ways. Upcoming opportunities **as soon as Tuesday, May 18**, include online Open Houses, Plan Commission Workshops and a Hearing. To learn more and submit feedback, visit the [Spokane Housing Action Plan project page](#) on the City's website.
  - o The Spokane Housing Action Plan provides guidance for City staff, elected officials, and decision-makers to encourage the construction of additional affordable and market-rate housing that meets Spokane's current and future housing needs. The strategies identified in the Housing Action Plan are recommendations, and if each action is undertaken, it will be subject to its own public process of review and adoption.

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- **Spokane's Sustainability Action Subcommittee (SAS)** has drafted a plan to ensure our city and our citizens are better prepared to face future challenges, including impacts resulting from a changing climate. Visit the [SAS website](#) to learn more about the Sustainability Action Plan and how it was developed. By providing your feedback you will help to refine the goals and strategies within the plan as well as provide direction on how the City should prioritize action.
  - Read the plan and fill out our survey, both can be found on our [SAS Website](#). If you want to submit written feedback on behalf of your organization, please email me (Kara) directly at [kodegard@spokanecity.org](mailto:kodegard@spokanecity.org).
  - Attend a Climate Workshop (schedule and registration on [SAS Website](#)) or [watch our video](#) to learn more about the SAP and how it was developed.
  - Host your own climate workshop using the SAS Meeting in a Box materials – A Meeting in a Box is toolkit for a group gathering to generate conversation and solicit feedback on the SAP. Meetings can be hosted by anyone in Spokane, including neighborhood associations, community groups, or friends. Input received from these meetings will be used to refine the goals, and to help develop policies to support the goals and strategies identified in the Plan. Email Kara at [kodegard@spokanecity.org](mailto:kodegard@spokanecity.org) to request materials.
  - Invite the SAS to present at your organization's virtual meeting or event. Email Kara at [kodegard@spokanecity.org](mailto:kodegard@spokanecity.org) to schedule a presentation.
- **Town Halls**—Due to Covid restrictions, the Town Hall program has pivoted to one neighborhood council presentation possible per every City Council meeting. This adapted program is now available for all neighborhoods through the end of the year. If your neighborhood is interested in presenting and have not already contacted Annica, please email [aeagle@spokanecity.org](mailto:aeagle@spokanecity.org).
  - Current scheduled Town Halls:
    - May 24—Manito/Cannon Hill
    - June 14—Audubon/Downriver
    - June 21—West Central
    - August 23—North Hill

**Upcoming Meetings**

- **Links to the virtual meetings listed below can all be found on the [Neighborhood Calendar](#)**
- CA Liaison Committee: June 8, 2:00 pm
- CA Building Stronger Neighborhoods Committee: Monday, May 24, 12:00 pm
- CA Budget Committee: Monday, May 24, 6:30 pm
- Community Assembly: Thursday, June 3, 5:30 pm via WebEx (meeting number/access code: 146 138 6032; Meeting password: neighborhoods)

**Betsy Wilkerson, Spokane City Council:**

\*The Downtown Police Precinct has not been open due to Police/Staffing shortage.

\*The City has received American Recovery dollars-the city has 4 years to spend it.

\*The City is very short on employees

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\*High Drive Pilot project reducing the speed limit to 20mph is ending in December. The speed reduction has been very controversial.

\*Lime Scooters – Spokane has signed a new 2 year contract. It is Code Enforcements responsibility to monitor.

**Ryan Quigley, Waste Management:**

\*Recycling is now every 2 weeks. Residents can request a larger, 96 gallon bin for free. Call 311 and make the request. Replacements will begin on June 1. Glass is the only item that is not profitable. Contamination in the recycling also drove up prices.

\*May 22 – The City is accepting old tires for free.

\*Recycling is also available at the Waste to Energy Plant. Items can be left there for free. Chemicals that are turned into recycling are available for free. Any questions, please contact Ryan at:

[rquigley@spokanecity.org/509-625-6503](mailto:rquigley@spokanecity.org/509-625-6503)

**New Business:**

The 20 mile an hour speed limit on Highdrive is very controversial. How do we help get a consensus on the next step of eliminating it or making it permanent? Some would like to see the limit extended to Rocket Market.

**Old Business:** None

**Next Meeting:** June 16, 2021 6:00pm. Zoom link