

Comstock Neighborhood Council
Meeting Notes for December 15, 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.

Proposed Agenda:

- *Spokane Police Department Report - Ty Snider
- *City Council Update
- *Office of Neighborhood Services - Carly Cortright
- *Environmental Analyst of the City of Spokane - Trey George
- * Traffic Calming - Jeff Mergler
 - Final comments on submitted High Drive Resolution
 - Comstock Park traffic
 - 37th - Bernard to High Drive
 - 37th/Bernard Crossing
- *Other neighborhood Issues

COMSTOCK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING

Co – Chairs: John Schram, Terryl Black

Note Taker: Phil Svoboda

Attendees:

Terryl Black, John Schram, Phil Svoboda, Kandy Conrad (conradsechs@gmail.com); ;
Imwaran email (LouAnn Waran); Brynn Snyder; Katie O'Donnell; Doug Engle; Chad O'Donnell

Rose Judge; Betsy Wilkerson; Jeff Mergler; Horizon Housing; David Schafer; Vita ???;
Stephanie Thurs...; Ty Snider

Michele Dionne David Whiting; Thomas Jarrard; Ashley Hansen; Shelly Prosser; Kandy Conrad;

Meeting Start: 6:02 PM

Presentations:

Ty Snider – Detective:

- Manito Christmas Lights are up and running and people are attending..
- Violent crime for year in entire city is up 10%
- Burglaries up 6 to 15 this month property up 33% for the year in our neighborhood.
- Question: What is happening with the baby moose? The police don't have the tools to handle the wild life.

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- Ty Agrees with CM Wilkerson about the community needs to have a voice in the building and location of the precinct.
- Asked Ty: what is the solution for the East Central Precinct. Ty had no specific recommendations, but did state that the current situation is not functioning as it needs to.
- Note the crime stats report can be found on the Comstock Neighborhood Web Site or on this URL: <https://communitycrimemap.com/?address=Spokane.WA>

City Council Update (Betsy Wilkerson)

- Prelude by John: asked about the homeless coordinator: The new City CHHS coordinator Jennifer Cerecedes
- Monday night adopted the budget. 1 thing to clarify: NOT defund the police department
- One issue about protection
- Office of civil rights was passed.
- 6% increase to police department
- Looking to get better outcomes with funding distribution related to social services.
- Approved money for homeless issue in reference to tent protest.
- 2022 dashboard to monitor of available beds....
- Burke and Mumm have left the council.
- Betsy discussed her commitment working with the citizens of the city.
- Doug brought up an issue about Police... He is concerned about the direct reports to the chief are not hired by chief but are required to go through the civil service selection process. Doug is concerned that there will be problems if chief does not hire direct reports...
- The supposed issue is that Police and Fire can only have two exempt positions which then require the rest of the department to be processed through civil service. Recent feedback indicates that the Fire Department may be different than Police.
- Question was asked about the East Central Library: Betsy is concerned that the community has a voice in what goes into the building and to best serve the community. It is up in the air i.e. for police, library, community center, etc. It is currently owned by the library. It was noted that the police need to be in a new place, what they have now is not working and is not up to code.

START: The following are the notes from Co-Chair John Schram:

I would note for the record that CM Wilkerson refused to commit to finding a new home for the police precinct before the use for the old east central library was decided. Moving the police precinct from the current decrepit building unsuitable for the general public to enter (8 years now) into the old library building had always been the general plan by previous administrations but those plans have conveniently been undermined by CM Wilkersons "public outreach" efforts. Note that the other buildings current tenant, the MLK center, wants the police precinct.

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I would note for the record that CM Wilkerson initiated a conversation about what she DID NOT say to the police officer requesting her businesses surveillance footage for a recent murder in that neighborhood and she refused multiple direct questions to tell us what she DID SAY. She gave no reasons for not answering the question. This is not how our elected leaders should act as it destroys the fundamental element of trust.

I would note for the record that the CM Wilkerson has admitted to not seeking a legal opinion prior to the City Council teeing up a vote that several police department leaders be placed into the civil service system rather than the current City appointment system in place. The City Council subsequently received legal counsel that found the issue only applied to the Fire Department not the Police Department and has tabled the matter.
Ready, Fire, Aim

END of notes from Co-Chair John Schram:

Carly Cortright – ONS (Office of Neighborhood Services):

- Did not attend but submitted a report.

START: The following is an excerpt of the report submitted by Carly for the meeting:

*Report made for: Comstock Neighborhood Council
2021*

Updated: December 13,

ONS Program Updates

- **Volunteer Opportunities:** Cendy Ortiz | cortiz@spokanecity.org
 - o Check out [current volunteer opportunities](#) like our graffiti cleanup and Meals on Wheels.
- **Community Engagement Grant** | Annie Deasy | adeasy@spokanecity.org
 - o The 2021 program has ended. Please look for training and application materials in the spring of 2022.
- **Traffic Calming** | Annica Eagle | aeagle@spokanecity.org
 - o [Mobile Speed Feedback](#) full season's report is available [here](#). Contact Annica with any questions aeagle@spokanecity.org
 - o The Neighbors Drive 25 yard signs are available at City Hall and area C.O.P.S. shops on a first come-first served basis.
 - o Traffic Calming issue-identification workshops: contact Shauna Harshman of City Council's office for latest updates: sharshman@spokanecity.org
- **Clean-Up** | Gabby Ryan | gryan@spokanecity.org

Neighborhood Updates

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- [Neighborhood Calendar](#)
 - Please check this calendar and your neighborhood council's webpage
- [District Videos](#): Candy Ortiz | cortiz@spokanecity.org
 - District video updates are listed on the Neighborhood Council landing page, listed under Items of Interest on the righthand side: <https://my.spokanecity.org/neighborhoods/councils/>. Please share on your social media accounts.
 - If you have an idea, event or something that you want to highlight in your neighborhood in an upcoming district video, contact Candy Ortiz, cortiz@spokanecity.org.
- [Leaf Pickup](#): City of Spokane crews began leaf pickup activities on City streets on Monday, Nov. 8. Leaf pickup is expected to continue until the middle of December. The crews generally will begin on Spokane's North Side, then moving to the South Hill, and finishing more in the core. Streets cleared of leaves provide safer driving conditions during winter snow and ice. Removing leaves from the streets also helps prevent clogged storm drains. The City's leaf pickup service is intended to remove only the leaves that naturally fall into the streets. **Residents should not rake leaves into the street.** A detailed neighborhood leaf pickup schedule is available at on the City's web site at www.my.spokanecity.org/streets/maintenance/leaf-pickup/. An online map at that site also will track the progress of leaf pickup. The need for snow removal can delay this schedule.
 - Being aware of the leaf pickup schedule is helpful because the City is asking residents to move their vehicles from the streets when leaf pickup crews are expected. Crew can work on leaf pickup seven days a week, with activities planned between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m.
 - Residents do have options for getting rid of the leaves in their yards.
 - The transfer station at the City's Waste to Energy facility, 2900 S. Geiger Blvd. accepts yard waste. The cost to dispose of yard waste is \$57.42 per ton with a minimum of \$6.11 plus a \$2 self-haul transaction fee. That facility is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

City Updates

- [Boards & Commissions](#): Give back to the Spokane community by joining a volunteer Board, Commission, or Committee! The following Boards and Commissions are currently accepting applications to fill current or upcoming vacancies. Please submit completed [applications](#) to the Mayor's office by emailing them directly to mayor@spokanecity.org.
 - [Council Districting Board \(City Charter Article VII, Section 59\)](#)

Based on population information from the most recent federal decennial census, it is the responsibility of each municipal government to periodically redistrict (redrawing existing district boundaries) to ensure citizens are receiving equal and accurate representation. The City of Spokane is currently accepting applications to fill three (3) at-large vacancies for the Council Districting Board. Individuals selected for these positions will fill one term, beginning December 1, 2021 and expiring November 30, 2022 after the adoption

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of the Districting Plan. All [Council Districting Board applications](#) must be received by the Mayor's Office no later than **December 17, 2021**.

- o [Spokane Historic Landmarks Commission](#) (SMC 04.35)
The Spokane Historic Landmarks Commission is currently accepting applications for one vacancy. The position is to be held by a professional Preservation Construction Specialist and will be a four-year term beginning January 1, 2022. Those interested in being considered must send a letter of interest, resume and a completed [application](#) to the Mayor's Office by **December 17, 2021**.
- o [Bicycle Advisory Board](#) (SMC 04.16)
Are you looking for an opportunity to contribute to our community and help make it a more safe and friendly place to get around by foot and bicycle? The Bicycle Advisory Board (BAB) advises and directs the Mayor, City Council and all departments and officers of the City on matters relating to bicycling and to raise public awareness of bicycling issues. The Bicycle Advisory Board is currently accepting [applications](#) to fill five vacancies. Applications must be submitted to the Mayor's Office by Friday, **December 17, 2021**.
- o [Citizens Transportation Advisory Board \(CTAB\)](#)
The Citizen's Transportation Advisory Committee is currently accepting applications for multiple positions due to a recent Board expansion. The positions will remain **open until filled**. Applicants for this Board should submit [applications](#) directly to City Council Office – Attn: TBD Administrator, Shauna Harshman (sharshman@spokanecity.org).
- o [Human Rights Commission](#)
The Spokane Human Rights Commission is currently accepting [applications](#) to fill one at-large vacancy. The Human Rights Commission advises and makes recommendations to the City Council regarding issues related to human rights and unjust discrimination and the implementation of programs consistent with the needs of all residents of the City of Spokane. The position will remain **open until filled**.
- o [Plan Commission](#)
The Spokane Plan Commission is currently accepting [applications](#) to fill two vacancies. The Plan Commission provides advice and makes recommendations on broad planning goals and policies and other matters as requested by the City Council. The positions will remain **open until filled**.
- o [Salary Review Commission](#)
The Salary Review Commission is currently accepting [applications](#) for two vacancies to serve a four year term. The Salary Review Commission (SRC) is charged with reviewing and establishing the salaries of the Spokane Mayor, Council President, and City Council Members. Positions will remain **open until filled**.
- **Street Construction and Maintenance:** City crews are doing street sweeping, crack sealing, and construction. More information can be found at: <https://my.spokanecity.org/streets/notices/>.
- **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**.

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- **Snow Season Preparation:** As the City of Spokane begins preparations for snow season, Parking Services personnel will be educating residents about on-street parking rules for non-passenger vehicles and dedicating resources to resolve complaints about such vehicles throughout the City. Non-passenger vehicles include recreational vehicles, boats, and trailers. Additionally, obstructions like basketball hoops should also be removed from the right-of-way. As a reminder, RVs, boats and trailers cannot exceed 24 hours of continuous on-street parking, according to [Spokane Municipal Code \(16A.05.310B\)](#). The public will see parking enforcement across the City visiting vehicles and placing courtesy notices on them. Parking enforcement can also issue tickets and initiate towing. [Press Release](#)
- **Winter Shelter Options:** Spokane has a regional network of shelter spaces available for use by those needing a safe place to spend the night or relief from the elements during emergencies. Those include shelter for single adults, families, young adults, and youths. Pandemic restrictions are followed in the shelter system. See <https://my.spokanecity.org/hazardsheltering/> for more information about what is available and where.
- **COVID-19 and City Hall:** City Hall and other City facilities have reopened to the public and masks are required within City facilities. MySpokane is open from 9am - 12pm and 1pm - 4pm. For more information, visit <https://my.spokanecity.org/covid19/>. Drive thru testing is available at Spokane Falls Community College Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8:30am-6pm (no testing is done on Wednesday).
- **East Central Library Space:** As part of a comprehensive public engagement effort, Spokane City Council is looking for community input on the future use of the former Spokane Public Library at East Central via ThoughtExchange. ThoughtExchange is an online tool where an open-ended question on any subject is asked in what is called an “exchange.” Participants confidentially share their thoughts and objectively rate each other’s responses and ideas. City Council will use ThoughtExchange throughout the public engagement process to survey and collect feedback with the anticipation of receiving diverse responses and broad perspectives that can help inform their decision-making. To participate in the first exchange, visit <https://tejoin.com/scroll/418291364>

Projects/Programs of Interest

- **Manito Park Holiday Lights:** The Enchanted Garden Drive-Thru Holiday Lights at Manito transformed a decades-long Spokane tradition into a COVID-friendly experience to lift spirits and brighten the season. Typically held indoors at Manito’s Gaiser Conservatory, we moved the show outdoors to allow for physical distancing. Visitors were asked to drive through the show to ensure compliance with COVID-19 guidelines. Thousands of people explored twinkling, festive lights along one-half mile inside one of our city’s most historic parks! Entrance on 25th Ave from Grand and Bernard streets.
 - Drive thru event December 10 - 16 | 6:30pm - 9:30pm
 - Walk thru event December 17 - 19 | 6:30pm - 8:30pm
- **Rental Assistance for those affected by Covid-19:**

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- The City of Spokane was awarded Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) funds by the U.S. Treasury. These funds are distributed to Family Promise of Spokane, The Carl Maxey Center, and LiveStories to support City of Spokane residents. City residents can visit the [Resident Assistance page](#) for direct links to each program.
 - [City of Spokane Rental Assistance Program powered by LiveStories](#) accommodates **any household located within City boundaries**. This emergency rental assistance program is intended for those who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Funds are available for past due, current due, future rent and utilities.
 - [Family Promise of Spokane](#) accommodates **households with minor children** and will provide financial assistance to families impacted by COVID-19 to prevent them from experiencing homelessness.
 - [The Carl Maxey Center](#) will prioritize rental and utility assistance to **African American and BIPOC households** located within City boundaries. The goal of the Carl Maxey Center is to uplift, empower and transform Spokane’s African American and BIPOC communities that have been impacted by COVID-19. Funds are available for past due, current due, future rent and utilities to prevent housing instability.
- o Additionally, there are funds available for landlords to receive funds for resident rent assistance. Pre-registration and information is available now through the [City of Spokane Rental Assistance Program for Landlords](#).

Upcoming Meetings

Links to the virtual meetings listed below can all be found on the [Neighborhood Calendar](#)

- CA Liaison Committee: Tuesday, December 14, 2:00 pm
- CA Land Use Committee: Thursday, December 16, 5:30pm
- CA Admin Committee: Tuesday, December 21, 12:00pm
- CA Building Stronger Neighborhoods (BSN) Committee: Monday, December 27, 12:00pm
- CA Budget Committee: No meeting for December
- CA Pedestrian, Traffic, and Transportation (PeTT) Committee: No meeting for December
- Community Assembly (CA): Thursday, January 6, 5:30pm via WebEx (meeting number/access code: 146 138 6032; Meeting password: neighborhoods)

Contact Us

Director of Community Programs: Carly Cortright, ccortright@spokanecity.org, 509.625.6263

Community Engagement Programs Manager: Cendy Ortiz, cortiz@spokanecity.org, 509.625.6147
(Special events, volunteers opportunities, and bi-weekly district videos)

Community Programs Coordinators:

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- Annie Deasy, adeasy@spokanecity.org, 509.625.6343, (Thursday neighborhood liaison, Comm. Engagement Grant, Admin, Budget, and Liaison Committees, and CA/CC Program contact)
- Annica Eagle, aeagle@spokanecity.org, 509.625.6156, (Tuesday neighborhood liaison, Traffic Calming, PeTT Committee, Town Hall contact)
- Gabby Ryan, gryan@spokanecity.org, 509.625.6858, (Wednesday neighborhood liaison, Clean Up, BSN Committee)

END of the report submitted by Carly for the meeting:

Other neighborhood Issues

- Brynn Snyder: Issue: Cross walk at 37th and Bernard. Fact: 36 students cross there. Currently ranked about 70th in the docket of traffic calming. The consensus of the Comstock Neighbors is that this is a critical issue that needs a resolution ASAP. NOTE: This is an issue that has been on our docket for a number of years.
- Betsy Wilkerson will take the initiative to work on the 37th/Bernard Cross walk and get the city, SPS, and even the bus transportation involved because they have a bus stop near there.
- Jeff Mergler: stated: 7 of the 8 projects we have for Comstock are related to cross walks. It is probably the highest priority at 37th/Bernard.
- Another area of concern: Rose Judge mentioned the intersection of 33rd and Lincoln. There is an apparent recklessness of young drivers around the park and at this particular intersection.
- CA Representative voting: Doug Engle was nominated and voted to be the representative with the exception of himself and abstention from Phil Svoboda. Doug does not want to take the position. Brynn Snyder: Has been voted as our Alternate CA representative.