

Comstock Neighborhood Council
Meeting Notes for February 16, 2022
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.

MEETING AGENDA:

- Welcome
- Public Safety – Police Report
- City Council Members' Report:
- Neighborhood Services Report
- Open Forum for Neighborhood Members
- Next Meeting –Wednesday February 16; 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM, Zoom

Attendees:

John Schram, Phil Svoboda, Ty Snider, Jeff Mergler, Carly Cortright, Brent Perdue, Doug Engle, Gretchen McDevitt, Chad ODonnell, John Pilcher, Kandy Conrad, Terryl Black

Welcome

John Schram welcomed the attendees and called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

Public Safety – Neighborhood Resource Officer Report – Ty Snider Detective South.

- April 1 is the retirement date for Ty Snider.
- Ty reviewed the statistics for the city and for the neighborhood. The specific crime report for this meeting is on the Comstock Neighborhood Web site. URL = <https://comstock.spokaneneighborhoods.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Comstock-2-16-22-crime-report.pdf>
- In general the South Side Crime stats are up.
- There was a discussion about homeless. There is Camp Hope down on Second and Freya.
- Discussion about how police officers have a conundrum of when to arrest certain bad actors because of a necessary need for probable cause.
- Discussion about support, (or lack of) for the police department by the city council.
- Discussion about Recruiting and Hiring. Ty seems to think that the SPD on track for hiring replacements with the new recruiting class.
- Ty provided a copy of the "Recruiting and Hiring Report" for distribution to the neighborhood. It has been uploaded to the Comstock Neighborhood web site: URL = <https://comstock.spokaneneighborhoods.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/2021-Recruiting-and-Hiring-Report.pdf>
- Spokane City URL for crime reports: <https://my.spokanecity.org/police/prevention/compstat/>

**Comstock Neighborhood Council
Meeting Notes for February 16, 2022
6:00 PM –7:30 PM, Zoom Meeting**

SCRIBE'S NOTE: The reports provided by Ty Snider will be posted on nextdoor with the notes from the meeting and will be posted to the Comstock Neighborhood website.

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

- No Report; the council members were not present.

Neighborhood and Planning Services Report ONS – Carly Cortright:

- Carly mentioned www.gogreenspokane.com - check out this web site for free compost.
- Good news: Clean-up is being started up with neighborhood curb side clean up events.
- Mobile speed signs applications are open.
- City committees are in need of volunteers.
- March 2 is Clean and Green training. Submissions for cleanup applications will be due March 11.
- Post Cards are usually used to announce a curb side event, but not announcing the availability of dump passes. The city is trying to go to digital to save cost on mailings and paper usage. There is also a need be aware of the timing of usage of passes so the waste facility does not get overwhelmed.
- Question about city staffing: Some areas are having trouble filling positions while other areas are able to fill openings. The staffing is lower than normal.
- COVID protocol question: It is up to the departments on how to handle in person or remote working.

START: OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES REPORT

*Report made for: Comstock Neighborhood Council
2022*

Updated: February

ONS Program Updates

- **[Community Engagement Grant](#)** | Gabby Ryan | gryan@spokanecity.org | *previously Annie Deasy*
 - Training will be held at 7pm on Monday, February 28, and application materials will be available soon on the website.
- **[Traffic Calming](#)** | Annie Deasy | adeasy@spokanecity.org | *previously Annica Eagle*
 - 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.
 - **[Mobile Speed Feedback Trailer](#)** applications are being accepted through Friday, April 1.

**Comstock Neighborhood Council
Meeting Notes for February 16, 2022
6:00 PM –7:30 PM, Zoom Meeting**

- Traffic Calming issue-identification workshops: contact Shauna Harshman of City Council's office for latest updates: sharshman@spokanecity.org
 - **Note:** Previous Traffic Calming cycles (up through Cycle 10) will still be under Annica Eagle, so you can follow up with her for those questions (aeagle@spokanecity.org)
 - **Clean-Up** | Annica Eagle | aeagle@spokanecity.org | previously Gabby Ryan
 - Clean Up Coordinator Training: Wednesday, March 2 at 6:30 pm
 - Updates for 2022 coming soon.
 - **Volunteer Opportunities:** Cendy Ortiz | cortiz@spokanecity.org
 - Check out [current volunteer opportunities](#) like our graffiti cleanup, Meals on Wheels, and April Spokane Gives opportunities.
-

Neighborhood Updates

- **Free Covid Tests:** Get free at-home COVID-19 tests. Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests. The tests are free. Orders will usually ship in 7-12 days. You can sign up here: <https://www.covidtests.gov/>
 - **Neighborhood Calendar**
 - Please check this calendar and your neighborhood council's webpage
 - **District Videos:** Cendy Ortiz | cortiz@spokanecity.org
 - District video updates are listed on the Neighborhood Council landing page, listed under Items of Interest on the right hand 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 Cendy Ortiz, cortiz@spokanecity.org.
-

- **Compost Giveaway from February 1 through June 30.** Current and new City of Spokane "Clean Green" yard and food waste collection program can receive a free half-yard of finished compost from participating vendors as an incentive to divert more organics from the waste stream by using the green cart. To take advantage of this offer, go to gogreenspokane.com and submit a request for the free compost.
- **Boards & Commissions:** Give back to the Spokane community by joining a volunteer Board, Commission, or Committee! The following Boards and Commissions are currently

Comstock Neighborhood Council
Meeting Notes for February 16, 2022
6:00 PM –7:30 PM, Zoom Meeting

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. You may also mail applications or turn them in at the MySpokane Customer Service counter at City Hall; 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., Spokane, WA 99201.

- o [Citizens Transportation Advisory Board \(CTAB\)](#)- Open until filled. Send application directly to City Council office, cc: sharshman@spokanecity.org
- o [Spokane Park Board \(City Charter, Article V\)](#)- Interested citizens may submit completed applications to Parks and Recreation at spokaneparks@spokanecity.org.
- o [Plan Commission](#)- (Due Feb. 28)
- o [Parking Advisory Committee](#)- Open until filled.
- **Street Construction and Maintenance:** Weather permitting, 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**.
- **Snow Season:** During snow season, please remember to park on the ODD side of the street when a full-City plow is announced until trucks have passed. This allows drivers to do a better job of clearing snow. 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 also can issue tickets and initiate towing. [Press Release](#)
- **Weatherizing for the cold:** Here are some [tips](#) on how to avoid frozen pipes.
- **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 many locations around Spokane. Please visit

Comstock Neighborhood Council
Meeting Notes for February 16, 2022
6:00 PM –7:30 PM, Zoom Meeting

<https://covid.srhd.org/topics/covid-19-testing/community-testing-site> to find a site near you.

- The Spokane Police Department has [released a report](#) about recruiting and hiring. The report includes information about:
 - the increase in applicants
 - the increase in the diversity of applicants
 - the high retention rate of officers hired
 - the comparison of SPD officer demographics with the City of Spokane demographics
 - details of the recruiting efforts in 2021
 - upcoming recruiting efforts
-

Projects/Programs of Interest

- **Point-in-Time Count:** the annual Point-In-Time Count helps to develop a snapshot estimate of the homeless population in Spokane County. The count was originally scheduled for Jan. 27-Feb. 1. The sheltered count is now set for Feb. 24, followed by the unsheltered count Feb. 25-March 1. This change is based on strong recommendations from the Spokane Regional Health District and partner organizations in the community that have expressed concerns about public health and staff safety related to the expected peak of the Omicron variant over the next few weeks. The count is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The data from the count also helps secure funding for future services from state and federal sources as it provides the data used to complete grant applications and reports required by state and federal homeless service funders. If you have questions, contact Point-in-Time Count Coordinator Amira Djulovic at adjulovic@spokanecity.org or 509-435-8609. [Sign up to be a volunteer](#)
- **AARP Community Challenge grant program** now is accepting applications through **2pm PST on Tuesday, March 22**, and they must be submitted through www.AARP.org/CommunityChallenge. The program is open to 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), 501(c)(6) nonprofits and government entities. Challenge grants support community projects that spark change and lead to improvements across several areas, including: public places; housing; transportation; civic engagement; diversity, equity and inclusion; other innovative projects; and, new this year, federal funding implementation.

**Comstock Neighborhood Council
Meeting Notes for February 16, 2022
6:00 PM –7:30 PM, Zoom Meeting**

Upcoming Meetings

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

- CA Admin Committee: Tuesday, February 22, 12:00pm
- CA Pedestrian, Traffic, and Transportation (PeTT) Committee: Tuesday, February 22, 6:00pm
- **Comprehensive Plan Amendment Training: Wednesday, February 23rd, 5:30pm**
- CA Building Stronger Neighborhoods (BSN) Committee: Monday, February 28, 12:00pm
- **Community Engagement Grant Training: Monday, February 28, 7:00pm**
- **Clean Up Coordinator Training: Wednesday, March 2, 6:30pm**
- CA Land Use Committee: Thursday, March 17, 5:30pm
- Community Assembly (CA): Thursday, March 3, 5:30pm via WebEx (meeting number/access code: 146 138 6032; Meeting password: neighborhoods)
- CA Liaison Committee: Tuesday, March 8, 2:00 pm

Contact Us

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

- ONS liaison to: Comstock, Nevada Heights, North Hill and Southgate.

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

- ONS liaison to: Grandview-Thorpe and Latah-Hangman.

Community Programs Coordinators:

- Annie Deasy, adeasy@spokanecity.org, 509.625.6343
 - New Traffic Calming program, staff representative to Liaison and PeTT committees
 - ONS liaison to: Audubon-Downriver, Bemiss, Browne's Addition, Five Mile Prairie, Hillyard, Manito-Cannon Hill, Minnehaha, and Shiloh Hills.
- Annica Eagle, aeagle@spokanecity.org, 509.625.6156
 - Clean Up program, Traffic Calming (through Cycle 10), and Town Hall contact
 - ONS liaison to: Cliff-Cannon, East Central, Lincoln Heights, Logan, North Indian Trail, Riverside, Rockwood, and West Hills.
- Gabby Ryan, gryan@spokanecity.org, 509.625.6858

Comstock Neighborhood Council
Meeting Notes for February 16, 2022
6:00 PM –7:30 PM, Zoom Meeting

- o Community Engagement Grant program, staff representative to Admin, Budget, Building Stronger Neighborhoods (BSN), and Community Assembly/City Council committees
- o ONS liaison to: Balboa-South Indian Trail, Chief Garry Park, Emerson-Garfield, Peaceful Valley, Northwest, West Central, and Whitman.

END: OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES REPORT

Community Assembly Report

- No Report.

Traffic and Pedestrian Calming – Jeff Mergler:

- Spokane City is initiating a Traffic Calming Program “Convening Group.” The purpose of the Convening Group is to bring together a diverse group of 30-40 established and emerging, community leaders to collaborate with the Traffic Calming Program in creating a successful community engagement process for this project.

The role and responsibilities will include:

- * Serve as an ambassador for the Traffic Calming Program roll-out in 2022.
- * Focus on community engagement: participate in a free two-hour training in community engagement and project background.
- * Assist with outreach by personally inviting people to attend community workshops.
- * Attend a monthly meeting of 60 to 90 minutes, from March to July 2022 and as needed throughout the remainder of the project. COVID permitting, we will meet in person at a location to be determined.
- * Agree to work with the set of ground rules that emphasize collaboration, creativity, and focus on future generations.
- * Participate as a note-taker or scribe in select district and neighborhood workshops.
- * Note: the Convening Group is not a decision-making body. The decisions will be made by the community in collaboration with the City.

Comstock has nominated the following proposed representatives:

- * Jeff Mergler: jeffreymergler@gmail.com 509-991-4182
- * Sarah Mount mountainrange@gmail.com 512-239-9104
- * Ed Bruya edbruya@gmail.com 509-951-6267
- * Brynn Snyder snyder.brynn@gmail.com 509-821-1438
- Working on the Mobile Speed Back Units sign applications. Suggested areas are: 2 on Hatch near the Country Club; 2 on Perry near library; 2 on High Drive; West 37th Near Jefferson elementary; 1 located by Comstock Park near Lincoln and W 33rd; 1 on 37th between Bernard and High Drive.
- Question about the speed signs for 30 MPH. Jeff will follow up on the issue.
- Question about the cross walk on 33rd across Bernard. The status is still undecided. Brent Perdue (Principal at Jefferson Elementary) provided some insight about the issues with getting the cross walk. One problem is that there is no sidewalk on the

**Comstock Neighborhood Council
Meeting Notes for February 16, 2022
6:00 PM –7:30 PM, Zoom Meeting**

west side of 37th, which is a requirement for a proper crosswalk. Since there is not cross walk then the school district cannot assign a crossing guard to the intersection. There is hope that the new home owner will now allow a sidewalk to be installed so we can proceed with a cross walk solution.

Open Forum for Neighborhood Members:

- Doctor Bill Bender is involved: Summer Parkways: Will likely happen this year in Mid June. Looking for two volunteers. One for route control and one for getting signups for booths. Check out Summer Parkways web site for information about the volunteers needed; <https://summerparkways.com/>. Information is also found on their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/summerparkways>

Upcoming Meeting:

- Wednesday, March 16, 2022. Look for a notice on Nextdoor for the Zoom meeting link.