

## Comstock Neighborhood Council Meeting

Date: Wednesday Dec 13th, 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Location: Jefferson School multi-purpose room/cafeteria

### Agenda

#### Call to order

A sign in sheet was distributed.

Meeting called to order at 6:02pm

Jeff Mergler took minutes with post meeting input provided by other members

#### Announcements

-Recognized and gratitude given to new officers Mary Ann McCurdy (Vice-Chair) and Sandy Wicht (Treasurer and CA Rep)

-Elections for 2024 will happen in Jan (Jeff running again for chair, no other elections scheduled at this time but anyone can run for chair or any of the other open positions).

Office of Neighborhood Services, Patrick Striker report.

**The Spokane Neighborhood Leadership Academy (SNLA)** is a five-month program designed to equip new and emerging neighborhood council leaders with knowledge, skills, and resources to increase engagement and effectively address their priorities. Application deadline is Jan 5 2024. More:

<https://www.gonzaga.edu/school-of-leadership-studies/degrees-programs/leadership-training-and-development/spokane-neighborhood-leadership-academy>

#### New Business

Motion previously made by resident David Randall to change the voting requirements in the bylaws, specifically to remove "two meeting" attendance requirement, ref. point 4B below. Bylaws state, in Section 4:

A. Council membership shall be open to anyone who lives, owns property, or operates a business in the neighborhood and who is at least 16 years of age.

B. Voting membership shall be given to any individual who meets the criteria in 4.A and shall be effective at the second meeting attended within a 12 month period.

C. To maintain voting privileges, each member shall attend one meeting annually.

To change the bylaws a vote of  $\frac{2}{3}$  of members must vote in favor of the motion.

After 20 minutes of discussion, motion was voted upon with 3 residents in favor, 5 opposed and the chair abstained. With  $\frac{2}{3}$  of voting members not having voted in the affirmative, the motion does not pass.

Gretchen noted that the bylaws have not been changed since 2016 and that we should review the bylaws and suggest possible improvements. If you have improvements to suggest or want to be involved please contact Gretchen.

-Ongoing recruitment for Neighborhood Council volunteers. Needs are:

~~—Vice Chair: lead meetings in the event of chair absent and take on misc tasks (~3 hours or more per month)~~

--Secretary: take in-person meeting minutes and provide electronically to team (~3 hours or more per month)

~~—Treasurer: maintain accounts (and possibly apply for grant for 2023, see below)~~

-- Communications Director: provide electronic notifications to the public regarding meeting notifications, agendas, past minutes. If possible utilize other social media sites to communicate with the public. (~3 hours or more per month)

--Community Outreach Grant Coordinator: Grant Training was Mar 13, 6:30pm (ref. email), recording available TBA

~~—Community Assembly Representative: attend monthly CA meeting and represent Comstock: report highlights from previous month to CA and report highlights to Comstock from previous CA meeting. (6 hours per month)~~

--Clean up (Clean Green) coordinator for 2024 (12 hours per year)

Jeff read a document "Reason To Return" from Mary Ann McCurdy's recent workshop. Ref "Reason To Return\_ Participant response.pdf"

## **Public Comments**

A theme developed: is there a project that the CNC should be working on?

Elizabeth Goldsmith reports that 1. Picnic tables and benches were recently repaired and painted. It was done very quickly thanks to Elizabeth contacting Parks and Rec. 2. Two swales weeded and cleaned up along High Drive and south of 21st Ave. 3. The swale east of SE corner of Comstock Park was cleaned up a few months ago thanks to some industrious neighbors.

General complaints made about bad behavior at Comstock Park, area near picnic tables, including the destruction of a park bench. There are parties every Fri and Sat night at the NW corner near the picnic tables.

Complaints of dogs off leash at Comstock and owners not cleaning up.

Status of the speed cameras asked: hiring an officer to review footage must be done before cameras are installed. We will communicate these to Lt Kyle Yrigollen next month.

Elizabeth Goldstein to rewrite South Hill Neighbors magazine advertisement text and Jeff to do introductions with publisher (Emmi Render).

**Next meeting will be Jan 17 2024 6pm at Jefferson School. Back to normal schedule and Jefferson School to be our new default location.**