

COMSTOCK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Meeting March 20, 2024
Jefferson School multipurpose room/cafeteria

Call to order

Chair Jeffrey Mergler welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:00PM. The group approved the January and February Minutes.

Chair Report: Jeff discussed neighborhood cleanup with additional input from John Schram (as he formerly led Clean Green). A decision will be made next month regarding a cleanup event in the fall (curbside vs central location).

Spokane Police Department: Sgt. Rhian Wilkinson distributed information and provided his report. Non-enforcement of the camping ordinance was discussed, as well as the jail being full and the NCAA tournament being a point of stress for SPD. Gretchen McDevitt and Patrick Striker brought up the quarterly meetings of the Police Advisory Council, as an opportunity for input. Sgt. Wilkinson said recruitment numbers are going up.

District 2 City Council Member Paul Dillon spoke. He said there will be a District Town Hall Meeting, June 10, at the MLK Center. Among topics he addressed were shelters, funds for Latah fire station, Lincoln Heights land use and development, traffic calming and an improved response around fentanyl. The Councilman said on April 9th a Town Hall re fentanyl is scheduled at the downtown library. He responded to questions. Shelters, sports tournaments and Expo were topics, as were Comstock Park trees and off leash dogs. Jeff thanked Paul and said we look forward to welcoming new Council Member Lili Navarrete.

Office of Neighborhood Services (Patrick Striker): Patrick suggested we attend a City Hall tour he will be leading. He informed that Maggie Yates is heading police and fire chief searches. Community Engagement Grants, cleaning up downtown and participation in Expo 74 were topics. Citizens are encouraged to apply for City Boards and Commissions.

South Hill Magazine promotion and cover shoot (Elizabeth): Elizabeth Goldsmith talked about the next day's photo shoot for South Hill Magazine which she coordinated and distributed a style guide. Elizabeth will compose the accompanying article.

Vice Chair Report (Mary Ann): No report.

Treasurer Report (Sandy): No report.

CA Rep Report (Sandy): Sandy reported on cleanup day, \$1000 beautification grants and Neighborhood Council Community Assembly grants.

Legislative Report (Gretchen): Gretchen McDevitt led the group through a By-Laws draft with proposed changes and additional recommendations. She thanked John and Greg for their

assistance and said she will send out a new draft soon. Gretchen recorded changes, including who is eligible to vote. We'll vote on new By-Laws adoption at the April meeting.

New Business:

Elizabeth requested deadline dates (for example for applications) to be included in the Minutes.

Ed Bruya questioned whether the asphalt art program could be used to create "crosswalk art" at applicable locations. Ed and John Pilcher agreed to work on a Crosswalk locations plan and report back.

Public comments

Dogs off leash complaints in Comstock Park

Schram notified that flags are empty at Manito and 29th, notify Mary at Manito NC.

Jeff adjourned the meeting.

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 17, 6:00PM Jefferson School.

Mary Ann McCurdy, VC
Acting Secretary