

Northeast Neighbors

June 9, 2020

SUBJECT: Board meeting minutes

Call to Order: 6:40 p.m.

Board members in attendance: David Martin, John Faville, Rick Edwards, Anne Millhollen, and Bill Haynes.

Board members absent: Kevin Reed and Dane Butler.

Visitors in attendance: None.

Meeting minutes: A motion was made by John to approve the May 12 Board Meeting minutes as written, and seconded by Anne. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Review of the May19 General Meeting. David called attention to an error in the minutes for the general meeting; the amount of money raised for the Creekside Park Picnic Shelter should be corrected to show \$23,300 raised as of June 9. Rick made a note and will correct the minutes. The discussion turned to attendance for the online meeting, and the consensus was that attendance was low. Regarding the speakers, everyone agreed that the presentations were good but the speaker discussing affordable housing did not use all of the allotted time, and could have gone into more detail. Three elected officials were in attendance, but one did not arrive until the end of the meeting. A fourth elected official who had asked for time on the agenda failed to show without explanation, so his absence raised concerns. David voiced the opinion that when an elected official is on the agenda but doesn't attend, we should follow up to let the official know we were expecting them and want them to visit our meetings. Rick stated that he is responsible for

inviting elected officials and offered to follow up when elected officials miss speaking engagements. David agreed so Rick will add follow-up calls to the protocol for elected officials. David also said there have been requests for recordings or copies of the minutes from people who missed a general meeting, and suggested that a draft of the minutes should be posted on the web site immediately following the meetings. The question was asked about whether or not we should wait until the draft of the minutes have been finalized. David pointed out that it takes too long for all the Board members to respond with corrections, so a decision was made to post draft minutes on the web site immediately following general meetings, and then post the final copy after all corrections have been made.

Charter revisions: The discussion revolved around the pros and cons of revising the charter to separate the office of Secretary/Treasurer. John said that in researching other neighborhood associations, half combine the Secretary/Treasurer but half don't. He also confirmed that rewriting the Charter would have to be approved by the City Council. David asked Rick if he would reconsider the Secretary/Treasurer position but Rick declined. Rick said we should advertise the position of Secretary/Treasurer on the e-news and in our next newsletter because it might be an appealing job to someone new. David said that he preferred recruiting volunteers who wanted to work on improving the neighborhood and had a positive attitude. David observed that there is more involvement from neighbors living to the west of Coburg Road, but very little involvement from renters. Rick reminded the Board that the charter also has a requirement to appoint a nominating committee for the upcoming election. John suggested postponing any further discussion of rewriting the charter until after the election. The Board agreed, so David postponed further discussion of charter revision. David asked Bill to form a nominating committee, and asked John to post the upcoming election on e-news.

Business Sponsors for Newsletter: David stated that our contract with the b2 Wine Bar & Grill ends August 31st and asked if we should look for a new sponsor from other businesses. Ideas suggested were to find out if WINCO or Shepherd Motors would be interested in sponsorship. John commented that 85% of the neighbors supported WINCO, and Dane enticed b2 Wine Bar to sponsor because he is one of their clients. David decided to ask Kevin to contact the b2 Wine Bar and Shepherd Motors to find out if either one was interested in sponsorship.

Land use updates:

WINCO: John Faville reported that WINCO submitted a new MDA and it is likely to be considered “complete” soon. If the MDA is deemed complete, then the planning director will make a ruling within 45 days. Teresa Bishow submitted a letter that focused on intensification, the amount of increased activity that would lead to the development being considered a new “use” of the site. The planning department response did not address the issue, merely giving a dictionary definition of intensification. The planning department response did acknowledge that the parking lot was considered a "use." If the WinCo development is considered a new "use" versus the Shopko general merchandise “use”, then it will be judged by 2020 code standards rather than the code standards in effect in 1988. This won't lead to different SDC fees, but will require them to upgrade the parking lot, landscaping, and driveways.

Striker Field: John recommended drafting a letter of support signed by the Chairman of NeN. David received a letter on Land Use changes, and on the back is a comment that staff will be available at a Public Hearing on July 8th at 5:00pm. David will send copies to the Board members.

Outreach Budget: John said there is only approximately \$200 left in the budget and gave kudos to Anne for the work she put into buying new signs. He said Anne spent \$202.50 on 15 yard signs to be used for announcing our meetings.

Elections: All Board members are up for re-election except Bill Haynes. Kevin Reed will be nominated for Chairman, and David agreed to be nominated for Vice Chair. Anne will be nominated for a second term as Area East Representative, Rick for a second term as Area West Rep, and John for At Large Rep.

Ideas for potential candidates for Board vacancies: The open vacancies that will be advertised are the Area East Representative, At Large Representative, and Secretary/Treasurer. Dane will be offered the position of alternate Area East Rep, and Tiffany Edwards will be contacted by David and offered a position serving on the Nominating Committee, or the At Large position.

Emergency preparedness:

a) Stimulating more neighborhood involvement: Bill Haynes said there was no response recruiting volunteers to be Team Leaders, and only one person was interested in emergency preparedness; a new neighbor named Lefty Dundee. Bill said they have talked about emergency preparedness but Mr. Dundee is primarily interested in Ham Radio. David recommended continuing discussions with Mr. Dundee as the first step towards building a team, so Bill agreed and will also work on neighborhood mapping.

b) Bill said he has been very busy and has not had time to reach out to existing Neighborhood Watch groups, but believes that there is still potential. David suggested sending out an appeal on e-news, so John said he would put a notice out if Bill drafted something for publication.

David announced that the barn next to the church has wiring for lighting, so he put in 5 watt bulbs connected to a 12 volt battery. He also installed a solar panel on the roof for power and now the barn has light.

Creekside Park Picnic Shelter: David said approximately \$23,300 has been raised as of June 9th. The money is in a savings account earning a small amount of interest. They have another truckload of bottles and cans worth an estimated \$200 waiting to be returned. The shelter is still in the building permit process but the completion / funding deadline has been extended through August. Kate Tromp van Holst (Parks and Open Space), is working on the site drawings. When that is complete, the next step is a building permit application.

Plan for the fall meeting: The discussion started with concerns about whether or not it will be possible to meet in person. The consensus was to plan ahead and pick the date, but make a final decision to meet in person or via zoom at a later date. David opened the discussion on potential topics and said we could reconsider the issue of rats since that topic was postponed. Anne suggested affordable housing for a topic and said Sarai Johnson is working hard to foster interagency

cooperation. David suggested inviting the Chief of Police again for a follow-up presentation on crime. Rick agreed on an update on crime and suggested inviting related agencies such as the program called Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets (CAHOOTS). David shared a story about an instance when someone at the church was in crisis, so he called a direct number for CAHOOTS, and the response was very quick. Rick added that CAHOOTS was a cost/effective crime prevention program because it is operated by a non-profit agency called the White Bird Clinic. David also raised the question of the payroll tax and speculated that some of the funding may go to programs related to policing. Rick suggested that presentations regarding crime could also include a representative from the 9-1-1 Call Center because a dispatcher ultimately decides which agency responds to incoming calls. Anne said the City Council was considering an alternate number to call other than 9-1-1. John said there was also consideration for a counselor to respond to domestic disturbances. After the discussion of topics, the consensus was to plan two meetings; the Annual Meeting, and a general meeting on the following dates:

- a) The first meeting will be the Annual Meeting on September 29th. The topics will be: NeN elections, an invitation to the six elected officials, the Chief of Police to discuss crime, and White Bird Clinic to talk about the CAHOOTS program.
- b) The second meeting will be a general meeting on November 10th. The main topic will be housing and homelessness. The six elected officials and Phil Spears from Shepherd Motors will be invited. Rats will be the last topic on the agenda.

Next Board Meeting: July 14th at 6:30pm, (virtual meeting via Zoom).

Other Business: Anne asked the Board to review a request from the NLC to discuss and answer five questions in an effort to initiate action that would improve the homelessness situation.

The first question asked what two actions we would most likely take out of eight alternatives. After a review of the options, emergency shelters, fund-raising, transitional housing, emergency response teams, and a resource center were determined to be unlikely actions. The Board concluded that education campaigns

to raise awareness, and assisting with outreach efforts, were the two most likely actions that we would take.

The second question asked for a description of the level of engagement in projects, goals or discussions regarding homelessness. The consensus was that we bring in speakers at general meetings for discussions, and the goal is to appeal to our neighbors to get involved.

The third question asked which part of the existing system works best in our neighborhood. The unanimous decision of the Board is that Bascom Village has been a success providing affordable housing. David added that as Chairman, he has not received any complaints about Bascom Village.

The fourth question asked which part of the existing system is the worst in our neighborhood. The consensus was that homeless people and transients do not have any designated or legal places to stay overnight, so they create makeshift camps.

The fifth item was not a question, but a space for additional comments: The Board made observations about the differences between Eugene and Springfield. The consensus was that Springfield doesn't appear to have the same degree of problems with homelessness and transients as Eugene. One of the reasons for the difference may be that Springfield enacted a law prohibiting drivers from handing out money from inside their car. Another observation that the Board discussed is that the Eugene Urban Growth Boundary limits development, and forces an artificially higher value on existing land. The cost of rent keeps going up, but auxiliary dwellings do not seem to be helping to meet the goal of affordable housing. One positive step is that the temporary rest rooms and hand washing stations were a great help, and the Board recommended continuation of that aspect of the system. Anne added that the 1st Baptist Church volunteered to allow their open space to be used for a homeless camp.

Opportunity for public comment: None.

The meeting was gavelled closed by the Chairman at 8:50 pm.

