

Northeast Neighbors (NeN), General Meeting

July 19, 2022

Call to Order: 7:04 pm

Attendance: 46 in-person, 31 on Zoom. 6 board (Kevin, Kirstin, Jim, John, Neal, Rick), 3 presenters, 3 elected officials

4/4/22 General Meeting Minutes: Approved unanimously.

Announcement: The Delta Ridge development will be transferring a portion of their site to City of Eugene Parks. Parks is working with Delta Sand and Gravel to create bike paths along the river.

State Senator James Manning discussed important recent/current legislation projects:

- SB48, designed to create a release program for low-grade, non-violent people with ties to the community.
- SB770 universal healthcare for all Oregon creating access for all residing here.

Jason Davis, Lane County Health and Human Services:

- Spoke about plans to create a mental health stabilization center.
- Goal is to have it complete by 2025.
- Will handle people in crisis, connecting them to needed care, reducing incarceration.
- 42 individuals at a time. 8200 plus annually.
- Cost to build \$19M. Already have 42% of needed capital funds.
- Determining location that is accessible for walking, transit, drop-off. Central to the area.

Captain Doug Mozan, Eugene Police Department.

- Spoke of homelessness in the area, calling it a community services issue. Not a problem that police can solve through arrests.
- A problem with complex causes. Lack of affordable housing has increased our unhoused population. Drug use, mental health issues, and poverty are both results and causes of homelessness.
- EPD has formed partnerships with other city departments and non-profit organizations, SVdeP in particular.
- At start of COVID, a mistake was made permitting large campsites to allow sheltering in place. They formed large out of control communities. They have been dispersed and will not be allowed to form again.
- The culture is changing in how the city approaches the problem. EPD has two housing support officers who resolve issues that are non-criminal, connecting people to required services. In addition, non-police neighborhood services officers act as first contact.
- EPD was just about fully staffed two years ago. Covid, social changes, and retirement have led to it's being down 30 bodies. Recruitment is much more difficult than it was pre-COVID. They anticipate gains of 10 to 15 per year over attrition, suggesting re-staffing in a few years.
- Drug decriminalization, ballot measure 110, has created difficulty. It is now hard to hold people accountable. The support facilities implied by ballot measure 110 do not exist.
- Councilor Clark: The problem is we can't compel people to get well as a condition of release.
- In instances of illegal camping, call police non-emergency or Google 'City of Eugene camping enforcement'.

Will O'Hearn, Eugene Public Library Services Manager.

- Described EPL successes during the pandemic. Dramatic increase in emphasis on electronic access.
- EPL is now back to 98% of pre-COVID services.
- He invited people to go to the site and take survey about desired library services.
- Also announced EPL's earning "Star Library Award," national recognition placing it in the top 1% for efficient service. The Oscars of the library world.

Meeting adjourned 9:09 pm.