

Northeast Neighbors (NeN), Annual Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2022

Call to Order: 7:04 pm

Meeting attendance: 86

- 56 in-person (4 board members/tech, Kevin, John Anne, Jesse; 1 elected official, Jennifer Yeh; 3 presenters)
- 30 unique viewers on Zoom (3 board members, Kirstin, Neal, Rick; 1 elected official, Rep Nathanson)

7/19/22 General Meeting Minutes: Approved unanimously.

Announcements: Thanks to our new site, Harvest Community Church. Pastor Brian welcomes NeN there.

City Councilor Jennifer Yeh: Neighbors need to come to Council and testify. Upcoming issues:

- Consideration of possible fireworks restrictions put to Council vote on 9/26
- Work session about the community Survey on 9/21
- Health overlay restrictions on industry, particularly in Bethel
- Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities mandate has many discussions coming up, particularly about possible changes in parking requirements
- Concerning MovingAhead, there will be additional study of Coburg corridor; decisions are not final for other corridors

State Representative Nancy Nathanson update on legislative topics:

- Because there is too much testing in schools, there is legislation to study and screen the tests; tools to evaluate schools on many factors
- Alert wildfire cameras are being funded, public able to login and see what is being filmed, add to monitoring to fires
- Adamant about the importance of the arterial bridge

4J Superintendent Andy Dey:

His three big goals:

1. Timely communication and meaningful community engagement. Better community involvement concerning grants. Where continue to invest? What does the community want? People want to have a say at the district and school level. Loss of confidence during COVID restrictions.
2. Coordinated focus on needs of all students, with amplified focus on those who have not done well in the past. Give students predictable days. Able to prioritize their time. Eliminate ambiguity in grading practices.
3. Safety and well-being for students and staff.

Questions/answers:

- Question about critical race theory: We don't teach that or train people on that
- Concerning gender, school is a place where everybody belongs
- Question about meeting neighborhood growth: New learning spaces at Gilham are full. We at present have adequate space for demand. Will need to build new schools, including at Kinney Loop. Elementary school is \$45-50 million at a minimum to build. Costs are going up. Will need to do some expansion in this part of town but will be a few years before we're ready. Need to prepare community for next bond, late 2020s or around 2030.
- Community engagement process goes into all design of curriculum and purchase of textbooks.
- Question about support for teachers and preventing teacher attrition: We are fortunate compared to other districts, with fewer openings than others. Retention bonuses have helped. But still a lot of disinvestment to make up for. Need money from the state.
- Why did 4J remove the metal detectors from the schools?: We never had any metal detectors in the schools so there weren't any to remove.
- Substance abuse counselors in the schools two days a week. Mental health specialists. Crisis intervention teams.
- Many opportunities for students who are learning at faster rate than average.
- Question how 4J will bring kids back to traditional level socially and academically: by making sports more accessible, activity nights, inviting people back in, expanded summer activities.

Vidal Francis, ODOT Area 5 Manager; Jim Gamble, District Maintenance Manager

- Overview of the Delta to River Road concept for the Beltline, from 2008 up to the present:
 - Focus on improving safety plus improving travel times.
 - 76,000 average daily trips, nearly back to pre-pandemic levels. Designed for 55,000.
 - Problems: crash rate, ramp spacing, short space for merged lanes, limited sight into distance.
 - The key bottleneck is getting over the river. Main bridge over the Willamette needs to be widened before Beltline itself can be widened.
 - Plans for later include putting new interchange at River Avenue.
- Concepts for Delta Highway interchange and arterial bridge:
 - Bridge for Delta north over Beltline has to be replaced; Delta needs to be widened down to Goodpasture Road.
 - Need improved intersection of Delta Highway and Green Acres.
 - New onramp going south onto Beltline west will be more separated from Division Avenue exit, thus safer.
 - Local arterial bridge is a partnership between City, County, LTD, ODOT.
 - Decisions and leadership needs to happen at the local level.
 - Traffic will be taken off Beltline onto local system, so ODOT plays a role. 17,000 per day.
 - Arterial bridge also accommodates LTD transit and bike/ped.
 - Arterial bridge needs funding. Reach out to state level legislators.
 - Need to push City of Eugene: UGB amendment, land use adjustments, pursuit of grants.
- Rob Inerfeld, CofE Transportation Planning Manager:
 - Yes the City does have land use changes it needs to make.
 - Also seeking ODOT funds for multi-use path on east side of Delta Hwy north of Green Acres.
- Kevin Reed: NeN has brought on board River Road, Santa Clara, and Cal Young neighborhood associations. All are now aligned behind the arterial bridge. The bridge will make local traffic safer, open routes for LTD and bike/pedestrian lanes across the river, and make our area more resilient in case of disaster.
- Questions/answers:
 - The pedestrian light in the southwest quadrant of the Delta interchange is there because of Federal requirement that any signalized road needs pedestrian access to crossing.
 - For the main bridge, not sure whether they will retrofit or replace.

Board election. Unanimous support for those up for vote: Kevin Reed, Chair (2nd term); John Faville, Secretary/Treasurer; Kirstin London, Area West Rep; Neal Benson, Area West Rep

Updates:

- Creekside Park picnic shelter now finished due to efforts of Dane Butler.
- Park at Striker Field grand opening NeN event in the spring.
- We are planning a November 9th General Meeting.

Meeting adjourned 8:51 pm.