

## **Northeast Neighbors (NeN), General Meeting Minutes**

**November 9, 2022**

**Call to Order: 7:04 pm**

**Meeting attendance: 41**

- 32 in-person: 4 board (Kevin, Neal, Anne, Brian); 2 elected officials (Yeh, Clark); 4 presenters
- 9 unique viewers on Zoom: board (Kirstin, Rick, Tonya); 1 elected official (Nathanson)

**9/20/22 General Meeting Minutes: Approved unanimously.**

### **EWEB rate increases and major projects**

- John Brown, EWEB Board Commissioner representing Wards 4 and 5:
- EWEB has not raised rates in five years, but has to now.
- Next year electric rates will go up about 3½%. Over the next ten years, about 32%.
- Next year water rates go up about 6%. Over the next ten years, about 70%.
- Major project: \$250 million problem up the McKenzie, the Leaburg Canal. They have to rebuild or tear the dam out and return the river to its natural state.
- Major project: \$90 million dollars to build a second water treatment plant in case problems arise at the Hayden Bridge plant or something happens to the McKenzie.
- Major potential issue: If the Snake River dams are eliminated, which may happen, or if the salmon are declared endangered, that would threaten our supply of electricity.

### **Transit plans for Coburg Rd & elsewhere (MovingAhead)**

- Andrew Martin, LTD Development Planner
- Rob Inerfeld, City of Eugene Transportation Planning Manager
- Pat Walsh, LTD Director of Marketing & Communications
- Brian Richardson, City of Eugene Public Affairs Manager
- Last spring, the LTD Board and Eugene City Council saw initial concepts and directed MovingAhead staff to continue planning for the five major corridors. There have been no final decisions on plans for any of these corridors.
- On Coburg Rd, they would squeeze changes in where they can and minimize impact. For instance, bus lanes in really strategic places, not removing car travel lanes. And where possible nicer bus shelters because there is a lot of ridership on Coburg Road. In other corridors, they are looking at a lot of pedestrian and bicycle improvements but not particularly along Coburg.
- City Council gave direction to focus on Highway 99 and River Road first. LTD/CofE will be back out here about Coburg Road although it may be a while, maybe even a couple of years.
- They are updating their website with information about the project and opportunities to engage.

### **Impact of major current issues on the political environment of our community**

- Our City Councilors Mike Clark and Jennifer Yeh
- Many current issues addressed: Accommodation for the homeless, accountability for them, drug issues, need for state level help, drug decriminalization, lack of prosecutors and jail space, natural gas, climate change, rising utilities costs, public awareness without a local newspaper, the Ward 7 recall, public safety, transit.
- Extensive discussion by neighbors.

### **News article summarized in the Chat about Ballot Measure 110 by Nancy Nathanson**

- Oregon's effort to decriminalize drug use got off to a slow start. However, the Legislature has now allocated additional money to addiction service providers and mental health treatment (more than \$300 M).
- This represents a new, substantial, and flexible source of funding that has never previously been available. The two years between decriminalization and funding has created problems that are now being addressed.

**Meeting adjourned 8:51 pm.**