

**Northeast Neighbors (NeN) Board Meeting Minutes**  
**January 2, 2023, 6:30 p.m.**

**Call to Order:** 6:34 p.m.

**Board:** Anne Millhollen, Kirstin London, Neal Benson, Brian Martsfield, Rick Edwards, John Faville

**Neighbors:** Charlotte, Bob Siegmund, Bruce Strimmling, John Q

**Guest:** City Councilor Jennifer Yeh

**Minutes:** December 5 Board meeting minutes were approved. Brian moved; Anne seconded.

**Introductions:** Board members introduced themselves to Jennifer.

**Discussion with Councilor Yeh:**

**What are NeN's priorities?**

- Arterial bridge. Primary current NeN role is encouraging city staff who have been very responsive, now dealing with land use issues because city and county properties, within and without UGB, are involved. Vidal Francis of ODOC is most energized pursuing the funding.
- Coburg Road congestion on both sides of Beltline. City has responded with fine-tuning of traffic lights and protected lefts. Full solution is a long-term, very expensive one, potentially widening Coburg as it passes under Beltline.
- Budget. City budgets will be under pressure for the next several years. We live or die by our outreach budget.
  - Yeh: NHA outreach is a small piece of the overall budget and not currently focus of cuts. Will let us know if we need to get before the committee and make our case for the value of our outreach.
- Homeless issues. A two-sided issue. We have put a good deal of effort into spreading information about solutions, particularly safe sleep sites across the city. But there's also a strong neighborhood desire to avoid the problems that other neighborhoods have faced. Neighbors are very quick to report property crime or unauthorized camping.
  - Yeh: It has been frustrating but there are good opportunities for funding being created. Cautiously optimistic.
- Kirsten London: Reinforced the importance of the issue of dealing with the homeless, also the issue of overall housing shortage particularly affordable and middle housing.
  - Yeh: The problems are going to be with us for a while and there will be a learning process for the community as a whole over several years. There are no quick change solutions.
  - Yeh: Open to meeting with individuals who want to talk more about housing and homeless issues.
- Striker, celebrating the opening of the park. Will be very time-consuming once we get the committee going. Yeh has voiced interest in being involved.
- Broadening the board's representativeness. We constantly look for opportunities to incorporate people who are working, younger, renting, diverse.
  - Yeh: Important to recognize who's not in the room and acknowledge the breadth of the community.

**What does Councilor Yeh see as major upcoming City issues?**

- Housing!
- Land use changes dictated by the state, particularly discussions of parking that can get very heated.
- Budget will face cuts over the next several years. City staff is already smaller than it used to be and is under pressure. At same time need to increase funding for fire and police.
- Issues of homelessness are going to take a long time to get better.
- Police reform work will come back before city council middle of the year.

Neal: it seems like Springfield is able to react more quickly to issues. Yeh: Springfield is much smaller and has different issues. Does not deal with the scope of problems we have in Eugene.

**Possible speakers for March 7th meeting:**

- Top two:
  - LTD to talk about how to get more coverage out here, possibly with innovative methods. John will coordinate with Tiffany Edwards and also invite our LTD commissioners.
  - Where will housing get built, affordable and middle, and how can it be encouraged. John will contact Better Homes Together to coordinate. BHT has many participants, architects, builders, and can suggest

who would best to speak to the question. May also include Denny Braud, Planning and Development City of Eugene. John will contact BHT.

- Alternative: Jason Davis, Public Information Officer of Lane County, about the navigation center on River Avenue and its links to the planned behavioral health stabilization center in Harlow.
- Longer term alternative: The evolving nature of community engagement by the city, perhaps focused on the planned robust outreach about climate recovery. Yeh: will think about people who could speak to that topic at the City Manager's office level.
- Kirsten suggestion: solicit more neighborhood input concerning what issues matter most to them. Ask in general meeting. Ask in mailings and in eNews.

**Mailed announcements for March 7<sup>th</sup> meeting and Feb 11<sup>th</sup> food drive:**

John will determine whether we can afford two mailings.

Postcard for food drive would need to go to printer Jan 11<sup>th</sup>.

Postcard for meeting would need confirmed speakers by February 7<sup>th</sup>.

Newsletter would need content and confirmed speakers by February 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Winter Food Drive, Anne:** Feb 11<sup>th</sup> at Harvest Community Church, time TBD. Volunteers will be needed. Participating NHAs so far: NeN, ABC, JWN, WCC, SCCO.

**ENI membership, Anne:** Approved by unanimous vote. Anne moved; Brian seconded.

**Corporate Sponsor:** Neal's agreement ends 2/28/23. If Kevin does not get participation by B2, Neal will repeat.

**NeN's bill for webhost** Has just been paid, \$156.

**Creekside picnic shelter update:** Dane's frustrations of working with the City are nearly over.

**Neighbor comments:**

Bruce Strimmling: Very new to the neighborhood. Suggests speakers from district attorney's office or EPD about how to deal with crime that occurs in the area.

Bob Siegmund: Are they still planning to change the name of Striker? Yeh: Yes, it is still being pursued,. Very slow because of the number of tribal governments that need to be involved.

**Adjourned 7:40**