

Northeast Neighbors (NeN) General Meeting Minutes October 25, 2023

Call to Order: 7:04 pm

Meeting attendance: 50

- 38 in-person: 5 board (Kevin, Rick, John, Anne, Charlotte); 3 elected officials; 3 presenters
- 12 unique viewers on Zoom: 1 board (Brian)

Unanimous approval of minutes from May 30th, 2023, General Meeting

Announcement: Successful Striker Field Park grand opening on September 30th. 600 ice cream bars distributed. Over 800 in attendance.

Comments from elected officials

- Lane County Commissioner Farr: Need for housing, restrictions due to Urban Growth Boundary.
- City Councilor Clark: Acknowledged success of NeN Chair Kevin Reed in completion of Striker Field Park. Reported five speed bumps would be added on Holly Avenue by the end of the year, addressing concerns from residents there.

Theme of meeting: broad look at future energy needs and sources for Eugene

Frank Lawson, General Manager of EWEB

- Described current operating environment and the EWEB Integrated Resource Plan for addressing future energy needs. EWEB is required to meet full demand for energy despite fluctuating consumption patterns and prices. EWEB has low average costs, but at times exceptionally high cost for meeting marginal demand. For the future, EWEB is modeling a range of options to consider as sources for energy. The Northwest anticipates a significant future deficit of supply versus need.
- Q&A: Eugene is in good shape for future water rights. EWEB's decommissioning of the Leaberg Dam will be a many year process.
- Q&A: Affordability of electricity versus natural gas varies depending on the application and time of day. Affordability of both will change in the future. Need to consider environmental impact, including use of carbon offsets.

David Van Der Haeghen, Community and Government Affairs Manager for Northwest Natural Gas

- NW Natural is committed to being responsive to the communities that serves. It is evaluating blending in increasing amounts of hydrogen and renewable natural gas as alternative to methane. NW Natural is highly focused on the safety of the gas system.

Bethany Cotton, Conservation Director of Cascadia Wildlands, spokesperson for Fossil Free Eugene

- The cost difference between gas and electricity really depends on the efficiency of the appliance. It reduces new housing costs to have one source of energy (electricity), rather than two, especially over the lifetime of use. Gas stoves create health impacts due to methane.

Northeast Neighbors elections: Unanimous approval for Richard Edwards as Vice Chair and Charlotte Pearce as East Area Representative.

Announcement: NeN Chair Kevin Reed announced his departure from the NeN Board, effective today.

Adjournment: 8:51 pm