

Northeast Neighbors (NeN), General Meeting Minutes

Gilham Community Church

January 23, 2018

Call to Order: 7:05 pm

Attendance: 98, including 6 board members, 6 presenters/staff

3 political representatives: Senator Manning, Councilor Yeh, EWEB Board Chair John Brown

Minutes for 9/12/17 Annual Meeting: approved.

Lt. Sean McGann, Eugene Police Department

- Most recurrent concerns voiced here: speeding and safety
- NeN has 5.16% of Eugene population and makes 3.26% of service calls
- Top three service calls: 1) disputes, 2) criminal trespass, 3) burglary
- Areas of highest demands on service: downtown, 99 corridor, campus (Friday, Saturday night)
 - Refocus on patrol has lessened problems in those areas
- Demand for service has increased; 35% increase in public initiated calls for service in last 3 years
 - Now takes longer to respond; priority 1 calls take 11.6 minutes (vs 10.6 three years ago)
 - Very good in responding to 911 calls
- Use general number to make contact: 541-682-5111
- EPD pay is competitive throughout west coast
- 190 sworn officers; 300 total personnel
- Break-in deterrence: dogs, loud alarms, vigilant neighbors

Mark Gissiner, Police Auditor

- Monitors police use of force, especially involving mental health
- Main citizen complaints: lack of service on burglaries, slow response on disputes
- Changes over the years: better dealing with mental health issues, more appropriate use of canines (aka dogs), better strategies for dealing with high speed chases, smarter use of force

Dr. Gustavo Balderas, Superintendent 4-J School District

- The three largest elementaries in 4-J are in the general Gilham area, including Gilham Elementary
- The growth areas in enrollments are in South Eugene and here
- They are seeking to move the crossing at Gilham Elementary for greater safety
- Bond issue being developed for a Kinney Loop elementary (on 4-J's 30 acres north of Crescent Village)
- 50% of the overall budget goes to PERS
- 55% of elementary school kids qualify for subsidized lunches
- Our comprehensive high school do quite well in graduation rates (Sheldon and South in high 80s; North Eugene at 75%, the state average). Overall average rate is pulled down by other schools.

Teresa Bishow, Bishow Consulting

- Focus in Crescent Village on walkable streets, neighborhood feel, events, families
- Supports plans for continuing Shadowview north, connecting with Spectrum out to Coburg
 - Commissioner Yeh is working on it.
- Is holding acreage for small to mid-sized grocery store (no takers yet)
- High interest in signalization at Shadowview/Crescent, but City continues to say it's not warranted
- Pacific Northwest Marathon will not use Crescent Village this year, but will be run from Coburg to Harrisburg on September 15. [David Cragun explained separately that people asked that the race be moved to the fall to be farther from the time of the Eugene marathon. However, UofO events make it difficult to schedule major events in the fall.]

John Brown, EWEB Board

- Only half of the EWEB bill is under EWEB control, for gas and water. Those rates have held steady or even declined. EWEB has cut costs. The rest, including the increases, is City (stormwater, etc.).
- Is working on emergency preparedness, including identify local area wells that could be water source.

George Brown

- Spoke briefly of goal of City Auditor petition (10,500 signatures. Saves \$5 for every \$1 spent.)

Kevin Reed, NeN Chair

- Seeking volunteers to be involved in seeking Neighborhood Plan (amending and updating Willakenzie Area Plan) for our area.
- Also seeking two new board members from area 1 (the eastern side of NeN area).

David Martin, NeN Board

- Has led recent efforts seeking funds for Creekside Park pavilion. (Previously done by Lions Club.)
- Cans for Creekside effort and cash donations have raised significant funds, and a neighbor has created a \$5000 matching fund, but more effort is needed before the City will contribute funds.
- Is seeking volunteers to help with effort.

John Jaworski, NeN Board

- Met with Sarah Medary, head of Public Works, along with Kevin Reed and councilors Yeh and Clark.
- Plans to split overall request into two projects:
 - A) Road connecting Shadowview to Crescent, a longer term project.
 - B) A park at Striker Field. Medary agrees that it is our area's turn and Striker is highest priority.
- Will present park project to City Council in February, proposing to set aside funds for it.
 - The City has funds to develop but not maintain the park.
 - If a levy to create maintenance funds is passed, maintenance will be available.
- Next step would be an outreach/design process that could be started right away.

Jennifer Yeh, Ward 4 City Councilor

- Is working hard on Striker.
- Important that NeN residents show up at City Council meetings and speak.

James Manning, State Senator

- On Ways and Means Committee (which decides highway funding) and others.

Adjourned: 9:17 pm