

Fairmount Neighbors Association General Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2011 7:00 p.m.
Laurelwood Club House

1. **Introductions and Livability Focus** –Josh Reckord and Camilla Bayliss, co chairs, opened the meeting. Josh introduced the question: What does livability mean to you? People received index cards to write their thoughts, shared these with the people they sat by and then shared out in the big group. The cards were passed forward for the minutes. A separate attachment will contain all comments; a summary includes often mentioned issues such as: safety, friendliness, shared expectations with students, quiet, walking availability, and sense of community.

2. **Livability Reports**

City Efforts - David Sonnichsen

David is a member of the Neighborhood Livability Working Group. They've produced a report, given to a recent city council work session, which includes potential new strategies to improve livability. He mentioned that a Register-Guard article noted several of these but didn't cover zoning. One of the strategies involved regulating "party bus impacts". These buses are hired to take passengers from party to party; a hired driver does the driving.

The Neighborhood Livability Working group is an ongoing committee.

3. **University Efforts/ Students Returning** - Karen Hyatt

Thirty nine hundred students will be arriving in residence halls and 20,000+ students will be on campus soon.

Sept 27 Community Walk – Volunteers from the University and adjacent neighborhoods including President LaRiviere, Mayor Piercy, Police Chief Kerns, and Councilman Alan Zelenka, will pass out a packet of information for students and neighbors in campus neighborhoods on this date. They also will pass out refrigerator magnets with important phone numbers. There will also be a gathering from 4-6:30 on Sept 27 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Q: Could more areas such as Central Blvd, Harlow, and Amazon be covered?

A: They don't have enough volunteers; individuals would be welcome to pass out materials themselves.

University long term goal is to have 25% of students living on campus; even with new dorms won't quite reach 20%; is a plan for another undergrad dorm.

A campus bi-monthly newsletter available on the back table

Matt Arena update: Expecting a large crowd on Oct. 7, Friday, at the volleyball game against Cal.; Oct. 25, perhaps will be a Trailblazers Game. TBA.

Josh - Availability for 650 students in Courtside and Skybox buildings by Market of Choice – structured as a private dormitory.

Sue Jakabosky - Hearsay: 3 bedroom/1 bath homes not renting yet; kids going into the brand new apartments instead

4. **J-Parking District** - Susie Smith

Josh - Diamond Parking is passing out cards with their info; Josh has guest passes to be passed out; season ticket holders will get a link on their info website reminding them about parking

Susie - An Arena monitoring committee is in existence made up of 2 from the neighborhood (Shellie Robertson and Susie with Danny Klute as an alternate; then 2 from university and 2 from city.) We owe a debt of gratitude to Greg Rikhoff and Karen Hyatt who have worked hard as liaisons with the neighborhood.

The formal committee is just beginning; the FNA Arena committee has also been meeting and is open to all.

Reminder: when you experience any problem The NALC and parking committees need to hear from the neighborhood. Email concerns to fn.uoarena@gmail.com. Your email gets tallied and posted on a matrix; you will not receive an email response. Greg reminded people that it really helps to add the date, exact time of day, and exact details; continues to be up to the neighborhood to monitor; matrix is a tracking tool, not an enforcement tool.

Volunteers may be asked in future to do things like stand on street corners during events to count cars. Volunteers can offer to help by emailing FNBoard@gmail.com

City has reduced parking requirements for the Walnut Mixed Use Center bringing a couple of benefits: football parking is not a problem and Courtside students are not eligible to buy J stickers.

City cannot sell permits in neighborhood for 2012 U.S. track and field trials. Call Jeff Petry directly at city for more information or problems.

5. **Density Committee** - Camilla

More than 20 neighbors involved, including by email, in the application for zone change for 3 row houses on Orchard; hired counsel to help; neighbors went to the appeal; hearings official will hand out the decision around week of Sept. 27. Camilla meeting with SUNA and Laurel Hill Valley Citizens neighborhood associations, as well as others, who want a coalition of neighborhoods; code is clear that you can't rent to more than 5 unrelated people. Susan J asking how to prove there are more kids in the house than they say.

Time to start talking about what we can do to ease these pressures. Camilla recommends to board that they adopt a Zero tolerance policy that owners can't rent to more than 5 unrelated people. (This is already a city policy.) A household gets 2 free J stickers and can buy one.

Danny suggests going to enforcement center to report violations; it's already a city policy and the board shouldn't have to take a stand.

Code enforcement based on complaints; goes onto a list; code investigators handle.

Alan - You cannot do a code violation anonymously but can request that your name be kept confidential; owner gets fined, not the students; you can file a complaint online.

Primary and secondary dwellings cannot BOTH be rented. If you live in the primary, can rent the secondary. Fines range from \$100-\$300, goes to daily fines later.

Entire code system is driven by complaints. City won't enforce slum like looking houses unless there are complaints. Otto Poticha suggests getting in touch with owners by looking up their tax lot, not that of the property manager.

6. **Walnut Mixed Use** Karen/ Greg

The Walnut Mixed Use Center is within the north part of the Fairmount neighborhood.

The largest parcel of land is owned by the University. Lorig Associates of Seattle has been hired to help plan the area. The University is asking for input on what to do over the next 20 years with land they aren't using just now; very general concepts were presented at the first meeting. A second set of meetings is being held on Sept. 20 at the new Ford Alumni Center from 4:00-5:30 and 6:30-8:00.

Plan also involves Franklin Blvd from Agate to Springfield. Otto P. encourages the neighbors to get involved. He fears that consensus will be sought before any creativity is put forward. A parking lot as an entrance to the University is not acceptable from an urban design standpoint. The University is afraid of the efficacy of the neighborhood. They are trying to "pacify" the neighborhood before the design starts.

Susie S - They did involve a lot of people beforehand.

Karen Alvarado – They need to remember to take into consideration the other side of Franklin (north side).

John Barofsky: UO bought Romania and ODOT properties and have decided they are not needed for use at this time for things like classrooms/dorms etc.; consultants are being brought in to look at a vision for the future.

Josh - NW corner of 15th and Walnut is now protected by the Walnut Mixed Use codes. Someone who had applied for a permit for that piece of land did not pick it up. This now allows the property to come under the WMU codes for any building in the future.

7. **Bridge Update** – David Sonnichsen

Exit 192 will be closed for the next 2 years. Starting the week of Oct. 3, must take Exit 191 through Glenwood instead of Exit 192.

David is going to the Grande Ronde Reservation to seek endorsement for the name Whilamut Passage Bridge. This is the last hoop to go through before sending on to the Oregon Transportation Commission.

8. **The History Project is ongoing** – Sandra Austin

Maude Kerns Project - Tommy's Paint Pot has donated paint and someone in the neighborhood has donated \$5000 for painting.

Hendricks Park project – Staffing has been cut by a third; no permanent staff there at all any more; please donate if can; Sandra has displays on tables adjacent to meeting area..

Sandra coedits the neighborhood newsletter with Linda Sage; would like more interviewers in order to continue the oral history project.

Sandra shared an anecdote from Don and Carol Dumond's interview: the ECHO Newsletter (original Fairmount Newsletter) from the 1970's stood for "Eastside Cats Have Organized". The name was suggested by Norm Potts, then pastor of the Unitarian Church [correction: Central Presbyterian Church]. The name was voted down but the newsletter continued.

Sandra noted that Evelyn Hess wrote an article about Hendricks Park for the Oregon Quarterly that has been very well received

9. **Q and A** -Alan Zelenka

Eugene hasn't changed the urban growth boundary in 30 years and Envision Eugene is looking at this. The city is looking at areas such as south of the airport near Jerry's (Home Improvement Store) and Goshen industrial land near our neighborhood as bigger parcels for industrialized land.

Phase 2 of the Envision Eugene process revolves around rules and strategies to implement the Livability Pillar. Alan would like to see a Ward 3 Summit that would discuss solutions to Livability issues. We need aggressive goals with more reflective monitoring built in; phase 2 will look at HOW we densify.

Someone asked about a Social Host Ordinance. Alan explained that the county already has one which holds the homeowner responsible for things that happen in the house such as noise and Minors in Possession. The city is considering its own version of this. County ordinance does not apply within Eugene city limits.

Ward redistricting- changing some boundaries- Ward 3 grew the most because it became more dense; part of Amazon neighborhood will shift to Ward 2.

Neighborhood Summit – neighborhood representatives will get together with city staff on Saturday, Sept. 24, 8:30-12:30 at North Eugene High School.

John B – sees Alan's position being a very delicate balance – trying to expand our growth needs vs densification; he's seen the intense densification of the West University Neighborhood, near his pizzeria, become a ghetto. He asked how Alan can make a vote for growth needs when he lives in the neighborhood? Renters make up 98% of residents in the West University Neighborhood. He wants the conversation to be about how to make this NOT happen in our neighborhood.

John - Other neighborhoods may not be as well set up to deal with these problems as we are; densification is a shared sacrifice.

Alan - Best way to get in touch with Alan is using the phone – 541-337-6714. Better than email.

Marge Ramey: In the 1950s , University officials inspected every non – University home that students lived in. In the 1960s, things changed and students didn't want any in loco parentis. University stopped doing this.

Greg and Karen have now been working 4 years as University/community liaisons and doing a great job.

LaRiviere has a community focus; Kitty and Alan meet with LaRiviere about town/gown issues on a frequent basis.

Minimum standards for renters require property owners to have such things as fire alarms in working order and banisters and stairs. These are paid for by the landlords through the renters.

Don Dumond – University had said they wanted to move into the Moss St. area in 1965 but the bottom fell out of the student market and socially, in loco parentis became out of fashion. The University backed off from sponsoring student housing. Dormitories are not supported by state funds

10. **Upcoming Meetings and Contacts - Josh / Camilla**

It is anticipated that two FNA General meetings will be held at the UO Many Nations Long House and two at Laurelwood in 2011-12. this year.

The meeting ended at 9:05 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Nancy Reckord