

Fairmount Neighbors Association General Meeting Minutes

Nov. 8, 2011 7:00-9:00 p.m., Laurelwood Clubhouse

Livability

Josh Reckord led an exercise called a Human Map. Everyone stood to create a living map of the neighborhood. We stood in relationship to where we lived. For example, people from Orchard St. lined up together, and people from Fairmount Blvd. lined up together.

David Sonnichsen - Introduced Michael Kinnison, Director of Neighborhood Services for Eugene. Michael is facilitating the Neighborhood Livability Working Group made up of representatives from Eugene Police, UO Public Safety, the University, the city and university area neighborhoods. Currently they are talking about a proposal for a city wide Social Host Ordinance which would provide more options for the police dept., target underage drinking, large rowdy parties, and other undesirable behavior. David will attend the next meeting on Thursday, 3:00-5:00, in the Singer Room at the Eugene Public Library.

Josh distributed a synthesis of livability statements generated at the September FNA general meeting. We broke up into three groups of 10-12 people and organized the comments about livability into 5 categories or dominant themes. We returned to the large group, shared our insights and listed suggestions which could enhance community in the neighborhood.

Suggestions

Supporting Maude Kerns center as a community activity

Ice cream social this summer

Concerts in the park

Plant swap

Laurel Hill has a great summer picnic/event; maybe we could join

Observe zoning laws would create community

Greet someone new to neighborhood

Fairmount Welcome Wagon

Neighborhood Watch

Phone tree of everyone in neighborhood

Bench in front of Sandra's house invites people to sit as they walk by

Distinctive neighborhood signs Alan Reeder has seen in Portland

City Repair Project in Portland does things like above

South University Neighborhood Association (SUNA) painted fire hydrants in their neighborhood

SUNA is applying for a neighborhood matching grant to work on their street signs

Gleaning sharing vegetables and fruit

Becoming resources for students; creating positive relationships with students in the neighborhood

Comments:

We do not have a school in our neighborhood [which is a binding force]

We don't have much representation from younger people; a community needs to be multi-generational

Retired people have more time to go to meetings

Lucia Hardy: arbitrary boundaries sometimes keep us from getting together

Reports from Committees

I 5 Bridge - David – is the Fairmount rep. to the Community Advisory Group to I-5 Willamette River Bridge - inconveniences should be ending; they are tearing out box beams from the temporary bridge; many will be used to build a bike-pedestrian viaduct from Eugene into Glenwood ; in another year, may be more inconvenience on Franklin when twin bridge bracing will be installed.

Romania Showroom - Karen Alvarado. We have an opportunity to use the showroom at Romania - talks are occurring - call Karen if interested in this potential for wonderful use of neighborhood building owned by University. University is open to suggestions. University has been open about saying nothing big will happen for 25 years down the line due to economy, but maybe we

can do something now.

Density Committee - Camilla Bayliss - efforts have been ongoing re Orchard St row houses - neighborhood voted to oppose rezoning; Hearings Official approved; neighborhood voted to appeal; Planning Commission deliberated today for first time. Is very helpful to have people observe these Planning Commission meetings; process is really stacked against neighborhood. We've paid thousands of dollars to appeal. Appeal funds were \$1000 and then \$1800 for attorney fees. Need to raise a bit more. More funds will be needed if we have to go to LUBA (Land Use Board of Appeals); next mtg. tentatively scheduled for Nov. 21, 11:00-2:30 p.m. Lucia thought it was very interesting. Josh and Camilla were there; city wants more density; any lot in town can potentially be rezoned R- 1.5; this doesn't feel sensible; Peter Keyes spoke very well at the hearing; Portland infill standards make more sense than ours; we don't want to lose our stability; SUNA and Amazon neighborhoods are seeing similar problems; we need to be more attentive to real estate ads which advertise neighborhood buildings with things like 7 bedrooms and bathrooms.

One encouraging thing: Planning Commission today included talk about # of bedrooms being a better indicator of density than number of dwellings per acre.

Cell Tower - Lucia Hardy - an issue for the upper area of Fairmount. Introduced Marion Smith who lives on E.27th St. She first learned about a proposed cell tower from an RG article discussing the idea of disguising a cell tower as a giant tree. Problems: 1) It would be an eyesore; 2) It would be a risk to public health. Research indicates health problems due to cell towers; 3) Matters of public health cannot be used to prevent rejection of a cell tower. She has started a website called Laurelwood Neighborhood Eugene, which has more information on this. There is a local attorney who knows a lot more about this. Marion will try to contact.

As yet, no one has applied for a cell tower. A cell phone tower was proposed in Veneta in 2002; they fought it and won. There is a Lane Co. regulation that we need to look at. One proposed earlier, E.15th and Villard; Marian Walters worked on that and won in past - that one has been moved near Hayward Field, is on campus, on south end of the west grandstand.

Marion S. passed around a clipboard for those interested to sign up to work on this issue. Her email is:

mesmith@uoregon.edu

Disaster Preparedness- Sandra Austin - Action Plan Eugene. Their job is to disseminate information about disaster preparedness. Could get 20 or so homes in a group, meet and discuss what different

people's resources are: doctors, nurses, people who have small children, etc. You can get trained in 2½ hours. FEMA.gov is the federal site. The tsunami in Japan was the catalyst for Sandra to find out more; a way to take care of yourself and your community. Sandra will put something in the newsletter.

Comments: nice idea to identify people in each area.

People from the city will help you organize this.

Seemed some interest; Sandra will continue to pursue.

Question and Answer - Alan Zelenka:

Steve Baker, from West University Neighborhood, just appointed to Planning Commission - Alan happy about this; appt. is for 4 years.

Sign code: Our sign code has nothing to do with the content of signs; Mr. Macherione has been arguing that his signs are political and they should be able to be as big as he wants; ACLU wouldn't take his case; the other 8 people with violations all complied with the violation infraction notice.

Occupy Eugene folks have moved to Washington Jefferson Park by the bridge on W. 6th St.; tomorrow, city will discuss whether they should get an exemption to the city park ordinance limiting event duration.

All city codes are complaint driven; your name is kept confidential but you cannot lodge a complaint anonymously; process has worked this way for 25 years.

Moss St. "Vacation" for UO is coming up request to vacate the alleyway and sell to UO; be around \$1.8 M - UO wants it for parking; street would still be accessible from both directions; adds perhaps 50-100 spaces; money goes to city general fund; talking about Moss St between E.15th and E.17th ; want to landscape so it looks like other landscaping on University.

Envision Eugene getting close to decision making; Phase I, discussing land needs, nearing completion; the Industrial land we have is not suitable for development so we don't have sufficient space for industry - thought is that some Industrial land would be redesignated light commercial might add larger parcels of Industrial land near the airport or Goshen. The other issue is trying to meet a 20 year supply of residential land; need 1500 units of space; is a limited amount of redevelopment that can take place within neighborhoods we have; rest is going to have to come from expansion of boundaries.

Feb. 18 will be Envision Eugene public hearing - all that will be Phase I

Phase II will be: what are the policies/procedures/codes that city puts into place to ensure these will go 2 years more beyond Phase I

Alan has started to call together a group to talk about livability around Ward 3 neighborhoods. He has invited people from West University, Amazon, SUNA, and Fairmount Neighborhoods plus 4 from staff and Alan and a facilitator.

Alan mentioned that for the first time in the last several years he's heard people talking about moving out of the neighborhood. West University has become 98% rentals. We don't want this in our neighborhood. He wants the summit to be solutions based so that neighborhood folks can talk to city planner folks.

Will take place around Thanksgiving.

Wants work session on banning plastic bags at dept. stores, grocery stores; 5 cent refund for bringing own bag. Meeting on this will be happening soon.

Meeting minutes are on Fairmount neighborhood site.

Basketball season - pay attention to the dates; day passes will now be good 365 days a year.

Trash cans are an issue; parking manager is working on this - a memo is going through city process - hopefully, enforcement coming. Code says your trash cans must be brought up near your house within 24 hours after pick up.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by Nancy Reckord