

Feb. 28, 2012 Fairmount Neighbors Association General Meeting

Laurelwood Golf Course – 7:00 p.m.

Introductions of all present

Agenda review

**Activity: exploring how we think about neighborhoods** - Josh Reckord

Josh explained the idea of “micro neighborhoods,” the concept of breaking a neighborhood into small areas within which people would get to know each other. He used an idea called Plus Fours, the name given by the post office to a group of approximately 30 houses within a given zip code. These are the last 4 digits added to a person’s zip code. Using this as a possibility for how we might imagine 30 or so houses around where each of us lives we each took a piece of paper and “mapped” what a grouping of streets/houses would look like from our own home. Around 30 houses would create a small neighborhood. After drawing this we each brainstormed ways we might get to know the people in that group (potlucks, garden sharing, backyard picnics), resources we might want to be aware of and would be willing to share in that grouping (tools, medical expertise, woodstove, ladder), and last, we brainstormed ways in which we would show trust in our neighbors (sharing keys, trip itineraries, relative’s phones). A more complete list of these brainstormed ideas will be posted separately.

**Reports**

Row House Appeal Update - Camilla Bayliss

Developer George Hawes wants to build 3 row houses in the middle of an R1 block on Orchard Street. The Fairmount Board opposed this, a hearings official approved it, and the neighborhood appealed to the Planning Commission which reversed the decision on two of the three assignments of error. The developer is now appealing to the state. The neighborhood has paid about \$7000 to a lawyer; the next hearing is Mar. 22. We need approximately \$3000+ more and need to begin another fundraising appeal. Camilla asked whether people thought it would be OK to solicit funds by using our neighborhood email list. Joan Kelley suggested a fundraiser for funds; it would need a synopsis of information to go with it and need to explain that it would protect the neighborhood. Sandra Austin suggested we try funding through email and see what feedback we get. Betsy Steffensen made a motion to this effect and asked that the ability to ask to not be on the email list be part of the solicitation. Lucia Hardy seconded; nineteen people voted yes; none opposed; 2 abstentions.

I-5 Bridge and Golf Course – David Sonnichsen

Thanks to Sandra and Linda Sage for a great job on the newsletter; refer to the newsletter article on I-5 Bridge; ODOT has done a great job on this; they’ve gone out of their way to protect the

park, river and fish; fill pad from deconstructed bridge will be gone; I-beam installation happened on Feb. 21 and 22 as planned; 180,000 pounds lifted perfectly into place.

Golf course – Camilla, Lucia, and David met with Craig Smith of Library, Recreational and Cultural Services and Johnny Medlin, Parks and Open Space, to talk about spraying at the golf course. They were advised that Parks and Open Space will take over the oversight of Laurelwood golf course. A new RFQ, Request for Qualifications, will be issued this spring. It will include a new integrated pest management policy developed specifically for the golf course. Johnny Medlin assured that there would be no more pictures of bad spraying such as we saw earlier this year. Lucia reiterated us that we do support the ongoing preservation of the golf course as a viable facility for golf and neighborhood uses.

#### Livability work goal – Josh and Camilla

Neighborhood is involved with University concerning Arena and parking; meet often with Greg Rickoff and Karen Hyatt from the University as well as representatives from the city. We also work with Michael Kinnison, Neighborhood Services, and others from the city on livability issues. Working on how to sustain neighborhoods with students as residents. Working on ordinances and agreements concerning: rentals/social domain/parking/music/zoning issues/ how many people can live in a dwelling; Courtside and Skybox are now part of our neighborhood; we want an ongoing positive relationship between city/university/neighborhood.

Livability Workgroup - contains city, University, West University, South University and Fairmount representatives; has made an excellent booklet – should have a link to it on our website; Fairmount, West University, South University, Amazon neighborhoods all feeling pressure; now have permission from Sarah Medary, Ass't City Manager, to create a formal coalition to work on land use recommendations to address some of the neighborhood concerns and pressures. A proposal will be written to the city soon; Camilla asked for volunteers to participate.

#### Cascadia

Josh, Camilla and David attended a 2 day workshop called Safe Cascadia which is a group of criminologists, some ex-police officers but now academics, who are from various cities in the northwestern US. They look at the environment and how it affects crime; this is called "Crime Prevention through Environmental Design." It was the first time they'd consulted with a city as a group; called together by Todd Schneider; contained representatives from police depts., representatives of neighborhoods around the University, and University folks. They had lunch at the Wild Duck under the new Sky Box apartments, toured the neighborhood, and met again at 10:00 p.m. on 13<sup>th</sup> St. They made suggestions for addressing particular neighborhood needs. Their observations were helpful in noticing such things as where noise might occur due to the design of a given building. Todd is available to give further training to neighborhoods. There have been follow up meetings to support the campus livability workgroup.

#### Eugene City Streets– Camilla

Last year, city of Eugene closed 5<sup>th</sup> Street for a block party. May be a forthcoming proposal to close Agate this year to try the same thing in another area; need volunteers; contact is Lindsay Selser. She's in Transportation Planning; Camilla has her email.

### Olympic Trials – Josh

There will not be parking in either J or A districts in Fairmount neighborhood this year for the Olympic Trials; may affect some of the FN that is higher up; some parking available in ODOT lot; parking will be available in Autzen with a system of shuttles; bus route will turn at the Arena and turn on 15<sup>th</sup> at the edge of our neighborhood; athlete's buses will be smaller and turn on 19<sup>th</sup>; this is a draft plan; more specific information coming in University newsletter tomorrow. J district is still operational during Olympics. June 22-July 1 are the dates; is no FN representative on the current committee but input is always welcome. (Karen)

### **Update from Alan Zelenka**

City has completed a Neighborhood Atlas; gives all kind of statistical information: income levels, # of houses, etc.; will be able to access soon. Alan will post on our website.

City passed a resolution, sponsored by Alan, to say that money is not speech and corporations are not people; passed 7 to 1.

Last night, talked about urban farming at the council meeting: (chickens, ducks, pot bellied pigs, miniature goats). Feeling of council is pro animal husbandry; talking about changing some of the rules to accommodate more small animals.

Alan promoted a model ordinance that promotes reusable bags – banning single use plastic bags; doesn't refer to bulk plastic bags or meat/fish bags; would include fast food stores, groceries, and mandate 100% recyclable bags; allow vendor to charge 5 cents per bag; currently plastic bags cost about one cent; MOC (Market of Choice) hasn't used plastic bags for over a year; their bags with handles cost 12 cents.

April 30 is expiration of exclusion policy for downtown; majority of council is accepting of this as a temporary measure. More police have been added; now have 6 policemen and in July will have 11 in core area; Alan's proposal will be to extend exclusion zone until June 30'

Capstone Collegiate Communities has made a proposal to build a large student housing complex downtown where Peace Health used to be; would be 550-650 units, approximately \$650 per bed. Capstone is the country's largest student housing management system. City council is involved because an alley goes through the property right now; city would sell it to them but would retain rights in perpetuity and would maintain it as a bicycle/pedestrian alley only; are asking for a \$1 million per year multi unit property tax exemption ( MUPTE) as an incentive; would be a very large MUPTE. Controversy over parking; guessing 85% ratio in rent, would have parking underneath building; apts. would have common rooms. Comment: giving a tax break is not to the neighborhood advantage when money goes to big corporations. Betsy: wants

information on the cons to the project. Alan: will be series of public hearings and open houses in March and April; decision in May on MUPTE and alley vacation; Danny Klute: how much MUPTE did we give to the chip plant in west Eugene and did land underneath increase in value over the first 10 years or is it fixed? Answer 1: don't know but it was a state program and there were no subsidies from city or EWEB and we lost re Hynix. Answer 2: property value is set by assessor and currently we get nothing because Peace Health is a non-profit and pays no taxes.

Howie Bonnett comment: Thanks to Alan for his work; just building parking spaces in apt. building doesn't guarantee the students will choose to pay for them.

John Barofsky comment: How we go about densification along our urban corridors is a big struggle going forward for the city and for neighborhood associations; is going to have to be a give and take; implementing ideas from Envision Eugene is the hard part coming up.

Alan comment: proposal for 1200 beds in downtown relieves some pressure from our neighborhood for student housing.

Camilla comment: Jefferson/Westside Neighborhood has interesting links on their website.

Comment: Capstone might have a "Courtesy Officer," plus 2 other onsite people to monitor student behavior.

Q: How many more apartments do we need to satisfy growing student population at UO? Greg: now have 24,400 students with plans for 25,000. All are housed now somewhere; UO is not admitting more but having higher retention rates: close to 90% retention. Rainbeau Wulf comment: rent money goes to corporations in New York and doesn't go to owners here in the neighborhood. Alan: most of current rental money actually goes to out of state owners.

### **Pete Sorenson, County Commissioner – Urban Growth Boundary – Role of County and City**

- 1) Urban growth boundaries and county role – State legislature divided into a Eugene and a Springfield growth boundary which is divided by I-5; recent meeting on idea of moving Urban Growth Boundary to Metro Growth Boundary which is bigger and outside of UGB – mostly around LCC; Urban boundary is within Metro boundary but outside of Eugene; is a proposal to build housing/restaurants, amenities for students living there; Envision Eugene may propose urban changes – city will rule on this first; is a longer term idea because this LCC proposal affects our neighborhood concerns
- 2) Budget – various funds administered by the county – federal forest payments and property taxes (\$1.28 per thousand); we are planning to implement a 25% cut to our general fund in April/May; county will have to vote on this around June; commissioners toured closure of beds in the jail.

Q: What does the general fund get when land is annexed? A: idea is to centralize service districts for fire and possibly for public safety. Q: Have you heard anything about human services being affected? A: Mercurial process, county administration proposes a process;

potential to eliminate or severely reduce animal services, drug programs; we won't know until formal proposal is made; even idea of taking money from tourism promotion has been suggested.

Announcement – need a new co chair for next year

9:00 adjourned

Minutes submitted by Nancy Reckord