

Fairmount Neighbors Association General Meeting Minutes

Sept. 11, 2012, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Laurelwood Golf Course Clubhouse

Introductions

Camilla Bayliss introduced the new co chair, Lucia Hardy. Camilla will serve for one more year so we can return to our system of staggered leadership in which there is always a new person serving with one more experienced. The other board members present introduced themselves: Sandra Austin, David Sonnichsen, Jim Lobben, Sue Jakobosky, Kay Rose, Josh Reckord, Nancy Reckord, and Danny Klute.

Announcements and Updates

- **Interstate 5 Bridge**

David Sonnichsen: Will be a ceremony to celebrate the naming of the new Whilamut Passage Bridge on Sept. 29 at 11:00 at the north end of the Knickerbocker Bridge. Whilamut means “where the river ripples and runs fast.” Eastbound traffic on Franklin Blvd. will continue to be restricted to one lane until January, 2013.

- **Disaster preparedness**

Camilla: If enough people are interested we can follow up on the emergency preparedness ideas that were presented at the May meeting. Interest in this topic was to be assessed later in the meeting.

- **150 challenge**

Camilla: As part of the city of Eugene’s 150th anniversary we want to add 150 names to our email list. As the city moves towards electronic communication we want to be proactive. Everyone present was asked to send addresses of neighborhood people who may not be on our list to fn.board@gmail.com . Sandra Austin mentioned that there may be about 800 households in the Fairmount neighborhood but we do not have nearly that many on our email contact list.

- **Neighborhood livability**

Camilla: The Neighborhood Livability Workgroup, composed of university- area neighborhood associations, property owners and managers, the city and the University, prepared a livability report for the Eugene city council in 2010. It included discussion of the problems caused by an increased presence of students living in those neighborhoods. It listed crime statistics and

discussed the issues of unruly parties that often include inappropriate student behavior such as vandalism, crime, criminal mischief, and alcohol violations that interfere with neighborhood livability. The group has worked with the city to propose a Social Host Ordinance that would hold landlords and property owners responsible for unruly parties activities occurring in their houses. This would help police educate landlords and students about appropriate behavior for a residential neighborhood. Party hosts would receive citations and in repeat cases, landlord or property owners would be responsible for the related response costs. First, landlords would simply be notified with a warning. The first council work session is scheduled for October 10. No testimony will be taken then, but it would be good to have observers so the council can see we're interested. The first public hearing for this will be on Nov. 19. Suggestion: people present at tonight's meeting email the other city councilors telling them how important this is. Alan Zelenka knows this but other councilors may not understand the depth of feeling in this neighborhood. The Livability work Group is also working on issues related to code enforcement. The city addresses violations on a complaint basis so it is important to report violations of code enforcement to the city. Josh Reckord has been noting such things as cars parked on lawns, trash cans left on the street for many days (or weeks), furniture left on curbs, and allowing more than 5 unrelated people to live in the same house. The city can't do anything without complaints. If you are worried about retaliation write your complaint to the Fairmount Board (fn.board@gmail.com) and it will work on a process to complain on your behalf to the city.

Hayward Historic District October Celebration

Chris Hogle: Chris and his wife own the restaurant Studio One which is part of the Hayward Historic District. They live in the SUNA neighborhood and are very interested in the livability issue. The Hayward Historic District is collaborating with Maude Kerns to plan a block party on October 13 from 4:00 p.m. - 9:00p.m. Money raised would go to renovating the playground behind Prince Puckler. Several ideas in the planning stage: mariachis, a Frida Kahlo lookalike contest, salsa dancing, Jesse Marquez, and stages for adult and kid entertainment. They want it to be kid friendly as well as neighborhood friendly (especially in terms of noise) and plan the beer garden until 9:00 p.m. They would want neighbors to notify them if there are any problems and hope everyone will come.

Activity – Collect Information for Future Agenda Building

Lucia passed out a paper for attendees to fill out about their various interests in the neighborhood. The chart included the topics of Neighborhood Livability, the Agate Hall Playground, Emergency Preparedness, the 150 Challenge, Neighborhood Celebrations/ Social Events and Edison School. We were instructed to move around the room and pair up with another person, preferably someone we didn't know, to discuss our interests. These sheets were turned in and will be tallied for future use by the board.

Edison School

A resolution adopted by the FN board to retain the presence of Edison and Camas Ridge as neighborhood schools was distributed. Edison is in SUNA (South University Neighborhood Association) but is the school for Fairmount neighborhood too. It's a complicated issue and the board didn't want to get involved in educational issues thus limiting its statement to say that we think having a school in our neighborhood is important to the livability of our neighborhood. Steven Asbury spoke from the Edison school community. They, too, are trying to stay away from educational issues but want to look at the livability issues. They don't want to tell 4J how to educate kids but feel it's important to note that many people chose SU neighborhood or Fairmount neighborhood because of Edison school. The school has helped Fairmount hold property values during this economic downturn. Comment: important to have a school so that little kids can walk to it safely. Not as important for middle school.

Steven read the resolution into the minutes:

The Fairmount Neighbors Association is committed to the continued operation of Edison and Camas Ridge schools in their present locations. We support the continuation of those schools for the following reasons:

Neighborhood schools are essential to the preservation of strong, vital neighborhoods in Eugene's urban core.

Edison School serves as a social and cultural anchor and functions as a magnet for attracting and retaining families as we face increasing pressures from rising University of Oregon enrollment.

Maintaining existing school sites facilitates neighborhood livability, sustainability, walkability, and safe routes to school.

Furthermore, we believe that the loss of Edison school may seriously undermine the efforts of the Envision Eugene Initiatives, and urge the school board to collaborate with the City of Eugene and the University of Oregon to craft a solution that works for all.

Comments: the school board is in the planning stages; decision must be made in the next month; one possibility is to sell the Edison school building; another is to build a large school to accommodate both Edison and Camas Ridge children where Roosevelt is; another is to build a large school to accommodate both Edison and Camas Ridge children where Camas Ridge is (Camas has a bigger site than Edison); Roosevelt could move to the Civic Stadium site.

The school board wants community input; will be 4 public meetings: Sept. 27, Oct 4, 7, and 10. Good to email Alan Zelenka if have feelings about this issue. Steven will be meeting with Alan next week.

Larry Koenigsburg moved to ratify proposal, Stephen Ramey seconded. Vote: 42 yes, 3 abstain. Comments: District 4j seems to be on a narrow path even though they say they are open to meetings and public input; Edison Parent Council meets 3rd Thursday of the month with all welcome; it's an economic issue; suggest sending money to Edison through Eugene Education Fund (EEF).

Karen Hyatt – University Community Relations Liaison

Will be 25,000 students this fall; first day of classes is Sept. 24; University added new residence hall for 400+; University goal is to house about 25% of students, now at 20 or 21%; University is making thousands of brochures to hand out but are not doing the community walk this year; is making a video that will be distributed to us. Suggestion: put brochures in Market of Choice, Hirons, Prince Pucklers, Studio One, etc. Suggestion: electronic media would get to students better than paper brochures.

City will do a campaign to inform students about pulling garbage cans back in their driveways; Sept 20 is Move In Day for the residence halls; city and University together will send a letter to student households with information about the values of neighborhood livability.

Maintenance people on the Joe Romania site discovered a previously covered up Coca Cola mural that was painted on the side of the building; it's a historic sign as the building used to be a bottling company; University now owns that property and the sign is being preserved.

Suggestion: could we extend the "move out rules" through August meaning that the University would keep the same procedures in August that they use when students move out of their residences in June.

Parking sticker deadline was Sept. 1; J district residents need to go to Diamond Parking to get one so they don't get ticketed.

Q: Would University get behind the initiative to support Edison? A: maybe faculty senate could get involved; faculty administration not likely to take a stand. Q: What to do with a couch that "appears" on your property? A: Call City Public Works at 541-682-4800.

University went smoke and tobacco free on Sept. 1. Includes housing. If this causes problems in the neighborhood let the University know. Email address is on the “smoke and tobacco free” website. Map of University areas also there. Karen’s email: khyatt@uoregon.edu

Row House Update

We won. Developer wanted a zone change to develop three row houses on a single lot on Orchard St. between 15th and 17th. Since that would have violated our refinement plan, the neighborhood opposed it. After several rounds in which we prevailed, the state Court of Appeals affirmed the decision of the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) without writing an opinion. Although our attorney, Meg Kieran, has been very generous with her time we have paid about \$16000 in legal and appeal fees. We are still fundraising and have about \$2500 to go; please mail checks to Camilla Bayliss.

Planned Unit Development

Fairmount neighbor Larry Weirnerman introduced Bill Blix from the Laurel Hill Valley Neighbors. Larry and Bill are heading up a joint committee representing the two neighborhoods to assess the impact of a proposed PUD to be located in the Laurel Hill Valley. The development would include a large multi-family development of as many as 608 units housing as many as 1500 people. Much of it would be next to the Ribbon Trail, and would involve cutting as many as 10,000 trees. The proposed development would cover approximately 120 acres, and is the largest ever to be proposed. Concerns include the destruction of upland wildlife habitat, fire issues, access issues, noise and traffic issues, and lack of appropriate infrastructure. The developers continue to revise the application so that the current one is quite different from the one presented at a neighborhood meeting last spring. As a result, the developers will be required to hold a new neighborhood meeting before the application can be deemed complete. Bill suggested that the three affected neighborhoods (Laurel Hill, Fairmount, Southeast) sign on to a letter to city planning staff voicing opposition to the project. Question: Should the neighborhood direct the board to work on such a letter? Comment from Sue Jakobosky: We already have a process. Once the letter is drafted, the board can edit and approve via e-mail. Important to be heard early in the process, as it’s expensive to appeal to the Planning Commission.

Some neighbors expressed frustration that they didn’t know what to do to help and need information and guidance.

Suggestion: use Facebook to spread this information. It would be far more effective. Kelly Fitzpatrick offered to help with this project.

Other Land use Information:

Josh: Passed out a sheet of information about new campus student housing. As of Sept. 2013, 1,280 beds for University students will have been created on the east edge of campus. The Global Scholars building is on E. 15th and Moss St. and is a university owned dorm housing 450; it opens this fall. It has 35 vehicular parking spaces. Courtside and Skybox, private dorms for students, opened this past year. They are in the "Arena District." Skybox is on the east side of Villard St. where the former Villard Pub was. It has 76 2-4 bedroom units with 237 beds and 70 vehicular parking spaces (plus 12 tandem that don't count towards the minimum). Courtside is on the west side of Orchard St., south of Market of Choice. It has 47 3-4 bedroom units with 180 beds. There are 35 vehicular parking spaces.

The Arena Lofts, 6 stories tall, is to be built on the NW corner of 15th St. and Orchard with 89 1-4 bedroom units with 169 beds. There are 72 vehicular parking spaces. The building permit is expected within a few months.

The Walnut St. and 15th development (no name yet) has a building permit and is on the former Tommy Williams Florist site. It will have 65 units with a total of 244 beds. There will be 82 vehicular parking spaces off of the alley.

The latter two private dorms do not plan to contain commercial establishments on the ground floor (as do Skybox and Courtside). Rooms will be furnished. The students in these buildings are not eligible for J stickers although each building can have 8 stickers. The impact on neighborhood residents will likely involve increased traffic, congestion and noise.

Minutes submitted by Nancy Reckord