

Fairmount Neighbors Association Annual Meeting

Monday, May 18, 2015, 7 pm, Edison School cafeteria

Present: 21 neighbors (including 5 board members) and 4 guests

Minutes

Co-chair Steven Asbury called to meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and introduced the board members present.

Azalea Lace Bug

Rachel Foster, Friends of Hendricks Park, provided information on the azalea lace bug, one of a larger genus, some of which are native. The one infesting Hendricks Park is from Japan, and has been on the east coast for at least a century. Not an issue for the past 50 years, it's now come to the pacific northwest and is doing serious damage to the leaves of evergreen azaleas and rhododendrons and a little to the deciduous ones. The bugs are also attacking other related evergreens, including evergreens of the coastal forest such as huckleberry and salal. This is now occurring mostly in nurseries, but gives an extra layer of anxiety. An Internet search will turn up information on the pest, with examples of the damage and what it looks like. The bugs start to hatch in May, and the first ones of the year were seen just this morning. The infestation is treatable but expensive. Safer insecticidal soap works, but has to be applied to the undersides of the leaves at least three times three to four weeks apart. Neem oil may also be effective, but not as effective as Safer. The plants in Hendricks Park were also treated with mineral oil spray in January, and that seems to have helped. Friends of Hendricks Park and the city are sharing the cost of spraying. As more information comes available, it will be posted on the neighborhood website and Facebook page.

Eugene Parks Plan

Craig Carnegey, Director, Parks and Open Space, provided information about the current park system.

Eugene has over 3800 acres of public land, including neighborhood parks, community parks, trails, and natural areas. Case studies have shown that the most desirable communities are those that have

good park systems. There are also measurable environmental and health benefits. Challenges to the system include recent expansion without funds for maintenance. Budget cuts over the past few years have resulted in deferred maintenance for an aging infrastructure. An increase in illicit activities in parks (camping, drugs, trash) pose public health threats.

They have tried to meet the challenges with greater efficiencies, including reorganized staff and priorities. They are also working with groups such as the parks foundation and Rotary to raise funds, mostly for the rose garden and skate park.

Options for increasing revenue include a special parks district, bond measure, user fees, earned revenues, and private donations. Short-term options include a local option levy or stormwater parks fee. Carolyn Burke, Eugene Planning and Development, discussed the future of the parks system.

The city is embarking on an update of the parks and recreation facilities plan. The intent is to create a 10-year plus plan to help make decisions about how to manage and develop the parks and recreation system. It will help prioritize needs and identify sustainable funding sources to address issues described by Craig. There are also equity issues in the system. The northern part of town is less well served than other areas. There are also demographic shifts to plan for—age, income, and recreational trends. Changing climate patterns mean change in water use, with less reliance on irrigation and fuel usage.

The plan will involve an 18-month process, during which they will collect information, assemble recommendations, and draft the plan. In the summer of 2016 they will get feedback on the plan and refine, with council adoption at the end of the year.

To collect information, the city is hosting a series of pop-up events, going to where the people are. A trailer with a city logo will include a photo booth and place for stories about parks. They will go all over town, including Amazon pool, Art and the Vineyard, and Washburne Park. There will also be something at Sun Automotive in July. In our neighborhood, they want FNA to help advertise. Carolyn passed around a sign-up sheet for people who want to receive updates.

Q: What are you looking at for revenue?

A: In the short term it may be a stormwater parks fee. We want to

research other options, and are working with the trust for public land to help come up with a plan.

Q: We have a native plant nursery run by POS; few people know about it. There is also a seed collection program.

Capital Hill update

Kingsley Schneider has volunteered to help Faris Cassell with the neighborhood response to Capital Hill PUD. The project has been dormant since last November. There was a recent meeting at the city with planning staff, Tom Dreyer, representatives from Schirmer/Satre, LHVC, and three others from this neighborhood. They were not speaking for any groups, but just there to find out what's new. Tom Dreyer is still planning to do approximately 30 units, with a loop road through the property and another fire access road.

Neighborhood representatives brought up a few questions, including number of units planned. Five lots have units on them now. There's a possibility of 23 new units. They are currently looking at it as single family, and want to keep affordable so families with kids can develop. They are not looking for density. The developer doesn't want to develop any of the lots himself, but is doing extensive renovations to the pink house. There are also questions about the ribbon trail and Hendricks. Neighbors asked them to provide proposals for protection of tree canopy, and transportation and traffic in general. Scope of project will impact only Capital Drive specifically. The proposal is to widen it to 20 feet of pavement with sidewalk and curbs. Other questions from neighbors included when more specific plans will be available, how the project could be connected to the trail for alternate methods of approaching from the top of the hill and ways to get better emergency access to the trails. Regarding enforceability of restrictions to property for future owners, the city said CCRs are not best, and deed restrictions might be better.

Update from UO

Karen Hyatt reported that the softball team is in super regionals this week. It will be broadcast by ESPN so there will be more lighting than last week. Then Howe field will be torn down for the

new Jane Sanders stadium. The residence Hall at 17th and Moss is in design phase. Central kitchen is in the permitting process with the city.

Parties seem to be better this year. Karen is going to town and gown conference to present on what we've done. During day of service student volunteers worked at Washburne and Hendricks parks. They are also working on painting street names on curbs in SUNA, so you know what street you're on.

Newsletter funding update and neighbor feedback on advertising. Steven Asbury reported that the budget committee voted one time funding for newsletters for the next fiscal year. The Council will probably pass the budget. We were able to successfully fund our newsletter through advertising because advertisers wanted to get to our neighborhood demographic. Buying an ad is cheaper than mailers. Most ads were agency ads.

Update from the city

Councilor Alan Zelenka reported that, except for the add-back of funds for neighborhood newsletters, the rest of the budget was status quo.

The bad news is the urban growth boundary projection. At the 9th inning there was a new population growth projection. If the city accepts the new numbers, staff would be revising the plan instead of the special area study for university neighborhoods. He is trying to push council to go with the existing calculation and revamp later. The city took contingency money and donated it to sister city Katmandu (\$50K). They are currently figuring out how to get it there.

New city hall is still there—they just took all the air out of it. They exceeded reuse and recycle goal, over 95% of materials being re-used.

There is going to be a conversation about cuts to library. Council is starting to have conversations about a library levy to help fund restoration of those services.

Elections

Steven introduced the proposed slate.

Co-chairs: Steven Asbury and Noah Parsons

Secretary: Camilla Bayliss

Treasurer: Kay Rose

At large: John Barofsky, Beth Eiva, Travis Eiva, Sue Jakabosky,
Heather Kliever, Daniel Klute, Kay Porter, David Wade

Noah nominated Trevor Betenson to be added to the slate.

There was a motion by Josh Reckord and a second by Sandra Austin
that we adopt the slate. The motion passed with 14 votes in favor
and none opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Camilla Bayliss