

Minutes of the Fairmount Neighbors annual meeting

Wednesday, May 18, 2016, 7 pm, Ford Alumni Center

Present: 25 neighbors, 6 of whom were board members; 4 guests

Co-chair Steven Asbury called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Board Elections

Steven summarized the provisions of our charter. Elections take place in May of each year. He presented the following slate of officers and board members, which had been nominated by the board:

Co-Chairs, Noah Parsons and Garrett Dunlavey; Secretary, Emily Farthing; Treasurer, Trevor Betenson. There being no additional nominations from the floor, Sandra Austin moved that we accept the slate, with a second by Jeff Cohen. The motion carried unanimously.

Lane County Poverty and Housing Plan

Co-chair Noah Parsons introduced Pat Farr, Vice chair of the Lane County Commissioners, who brought us up to date on the county's strategic plan for poverty and homelessness. The Community Action Committee and Continuum of Care Committee have been combined into a single board. They then took a step farther and created an 11-member board composed of elected officials and policy advisers throughout the community. Members include Dan Bryant, Oakridge Mayor Jim Coe, Noreen Donalds, Pat Farr, Hugh Massengill, Kitty Piercy, Paul Solomon from Sponsors, and Janet Thorn. It includes members of the business community, service, community, elected officials, and those who are being served. After forming about a year ago, the first challenge was to find a rest stop on county land. Nightingale health sanctuary houses about 30 people. It is secure and provides sanitary facilities.

Farr, a former state legislator who then went to food for lane County, said it's easy to get people involved when food is involved.

Homelessness is more difficult. The Board initiated operation 365, which housed 404 homeless veterans in 2015. This year they are targeting people with behavioral health issues, through a program called Housing First. People who have active addictions are not required to quit to get housing. They are hoping to house between 60 and 100.

The strategic plan addresses three goal areas. 1. Increase availability and access to coordinated, supportive housing, shelter, and services;

2. Prevent homelessness and poverty. 3. Inform and enhance public awareness and advocacy efforts. Copies of the plan were made available, and can also be found at http://www.lanecounty.org/Departments/HHS/HSC/Documents/PHB_ExecutiveSummary_StrategicGoals_2016_2017_appd_phb160421v4.pdf

Q: Given the supply and demand balances in services, why hasn't the county set aside areas for homeless camping?

A: We have, with Nightingale camp, and we're looking for others. It's difficult finding places that fit into the neighborhood, not only for safe housing, but for emergency housing. We're making winter plans now, making tiny houses.

Q: I'm referring specifically to the subgroup that is camping.

A: There are people who are more mobile, and not necessarily those we want to target. Potential pilot: Scatter ten bedsides, only ten people living in one area, low impact.

Q: Does anyone have a reliable estimate of the population and how many you are serving?

A: We have a homeless point in time count that only includes actively homeless. The homeless population in schools is shocking, maybe 4-5% of kids at Willamette High. Some rural communities have higher than that.

We have a program of tiny houses called SquareOne Villages (<http://www.squareonevillages.org>) People will pay small rent, and build a little equity through rent. They are adequate to live in and we are able to build for \$20,000 per house. Single room occupancy (SRO) is a big issue. Historically, those houses were used for students. Some could be converted to single room units.

Volunteer Outreach from Sponsors

Andrew Provencher does outreach for Sponsors (sponsorsinc.org), a nonprofit providing services for those coming out of jail and back into the community. They provide transitional housing services for 60-90 day stays. Most people coming back come back homeless. There are also some more permanent housing solutions. Staff members are available to help with resumes, job searches, and computer skills. They are recruiting volunteers for a mentorship program, which matches volunteers from the community with people released from jail.

Prison is an isolating experience. Returnees don't know how to make new friends. They need to have someone they can call. All matches are

the same gender. Mentors are older than mentees. Matches are actively case managed for the first year. After that year, the pair can decide to continue as friends or go in other directions. Sponsors offers mentor support groups, potlucks, speakers, monthly outings. They ask for a volunteer commitment of 4-6 hours per month for a year.

Moving Ahead

City planner Zach Galloway and LTD planner Hart Mikdall reported on a joint project conducted LTD and City of Eugene. They are integrating land use and transportation planning to determine how to make investments for folks who use transit, walk, and bike, and how that impacts the road system. Moving Ahead (movingahead.org) is trying to match transportation investment to where we anticipate development. They are trying to collaborate more often. Moving Ahead is also an implementation of years of high level planning of where we want to see transportation. The conversation is not just about bus rapid transit, but about how the neighborhood wants to see investment and growth in the neighborhood.

Range of choices includes comprehensive EMX, fixed route, and enhanced corridor. They are also working on bike-pedestrian plans and full transportation network.

Hart described the LTD piece. They first looked at frequent transit corridors and held neighborhood workshops. An example is 30th Avenue and LCC. They began with workshops, applied screening criteria, looked at cost and ridership. On October 12 City Council and LTD board voted to continue studying certain areas, currently MX and enhanced corridors for River Road, Coburg Road, Highway 99, Further study of 30th and LCC corridor, and MLK Jr. Blvd corridor.

The project is currently in Phase 1. By fall they hope to select preferred options for each corridor. Over the next year they will refine designs and prioritize. In phase three, date to be determined, they will begin the detailed design phase.

Q: How many corridors possible to implement? How many can you build in the near term?

A: More than one. Possibly one with another phased in. Impact analysis will show what will be necessary.

Decision making chart: LTD Board and Eugene City Council are at the top of the chart. The project management team serves as a sounding

board. The project oversight committee is composed of City Council, LTD board, Lane County, and ODOT.

Zach presented the high-level system map. There is some talk of River Road being tied to the LCC route. All information is online at movingahead.org. He then shifted to the topic of MX. They are looking at more intensive investment in the Oak and Pearl area. They are looking at ways to maintain on street parking for businesses, bike route, etc. There are still questions from property owners.

Q: For the capital costs involved, what are advantages of MX versus enhanced transit?

A: Mostly reliability. MX has more dedicated lanes. From an economic development point, a bus transit system makes us look competitive with Portland and Seattle for recruiting companies. Amenities are unlike other transit corridors: more permanent commitment, real time travel information, 10-minute frequency.

Q: Sells getting people out of cars.

A: Reliability. More people use the bus when it's reliable.

Q: If going to build new corridor, it lets us think about sidewalks, etc. That kind of planning wasn't applied to Franklin Blvd. If we had this type of tool when planning Franklin, would have had better sidewalks, bike access, etc.

A: Imagine a corridor River Road to 30th. It would help things to fill in when you get infrastructure built. We're now talking about connections to existing things. We'd have more freedom to have cross-town connectivity. Coming up will be another look at Franklin Blvd.

Q: are you going to use this kind of template on South Willamette from 20th to 29th?

A: Analysis going on right now recognizes the South Willamette decisions. We are using Amazon Parkway instead of Willamette.

Q: Advantage of EMX is consistency. Congestion has gotten worse, which will slow buses, and shouldn't slow EMX.

Q: Are you looking at feeder lines?

A: We now have a hub and spoke system. It's time consuming. The intent is to make spines to free up resources, to avoid coming downtown, and create shorter trips.

Q: Bicycles, sidewalks, pedestrians. I'm confused. Are bikes allowed to be on sidewalks?

A: It all boils down to who feels safe doing what. We attempt to provide space for all modes.

Q: Will you ever get small vans getting passengers to the EMX?

A: Will follow up-don't have an answer. I wasn't here when that was discussed.

Friends of Farmers Market

Sherman introduced herself as volunteer coordinator for Friends of Farmers Market. They operate out of a federal farmers market promotions grant.

Volunteer opportunities and services: On the first and third Saturdays, they will have veggie valets to help carry purchases to car or bus.

Market guides will help answer questions and help find product.

Cooking demonstrations will show how to cook seasonal dishes. This year they also have a photo booth. There will be blind comparisons of foods from the supermarket with food from the farmers market.

They are also helping to raise funds for SNAP match. Starting July 2, people using Oregon Trail cards can swipe for \$10 and get an extra \$10 to spend at the market. It can only be spent on fruits, vegetables, and mushrooms.

How we can help: Volunteer, bring a friend, donate, tell others about us.

UO Trials Update and other UO News

Karen Hyatt, Director of local community and neighborhood relations, provided the following updates.

Hayward field: Olympic Trials coming up July 1-10. Will have a major impact because more streets are closed and it goes on for 10 days. There will soon be a newsletter—Track Town 16 edition, which will provide information about street closures, competitions, opening and closing ceremonies, and fan festival. It will be updated regularly. UO

Foundation will present plans for the renovation to the trustees in early June, and then we'll know the schedule for demolitions and constructions. The schedule may be spread over a longer time. Traffic Impact Analysis is in completeness review with city. Cell tower is in land use process.

Tom Jordan with Pre classic announced that shuttles will be available from Autzen to Hayward. They will try to get as many as possible to park at Autzen. Shuttles will start two hours before the event.

Q: If noise from UO is really loud is there one number to call?

A: The number is in the Campus Community Contact newsletter.

Q: Not wise to schedule KISS concert on last day of trials.

A: Trials are from July 1-10. During that time there's also the Bach Festival, Art in the Vineyard, and the KISS concert at Matthew Knight Arena. The parties involved are talking about how parking will work

Q: Are there public meetings for land use decisions?

A: There will be notice after review is complete. No overall decision, just a few pieces that are reviewed by staff. Going to be working on parking and transportation plan for Hayward in the fall after we get through the summer.

The Central Kitchen and woodshop at 18th and Columbia are now open and being used. The kitchen does major food preparation and catering. There will be an open house Monday at 4 pm. Food will be served.

Q: Can you request some restorative work on island between 15th and Franklin?

A: Thanks, will do.

The residence Hall at 17th and Moss will be going up soon. Parking lots are now done and in use.

Q: Have you received feedback from neighbors on noise?

A: No

UO softball is now in regionals, so there will be two games Friday, one on Saturday and two on Sunday.

Vision Framework project: If we grow, do we have enough land to build? One option is on the north side of Franklin. There is an expired CUP, so we have to update master plan and CUP with city. Just exploring at this point. Just getting engagement from neighbors.

Alan Zelenka on Envision Eugene, Refinement plans, updates

Lucy Vinis will be good mayor. In Ward 1 there will be a runoff between Josh Skov and Emily Semple.

New City Hall: We did increase budget to add things to the project. It will be an energy efficient bldg. with solar PGs. We saved exterior cedar from the old building and will re-use. It's going out to bid and we may break ground in late summer, early fall.

Q: How did architect fees get to \$4 million for a \$16 million building?

A: Not just for architects, but for visioning process, meetings with council. Budget figures are on city website.

Q: We need public buildings to be operational after an earthquake.

A: I think we should have done that. The city is self-insured. If the building is unusable after an earthquake, then we will have to build a new one and pay the entire cost.

Downtown urban renewal district (DTURD): For potential downtown projects, I'm not in favor of renewing urban renewal. Potential projects include high speed fiber; revitalize park blocks; revitalize old LCC building as innovations hub with incubator kitchen, wet labs; build out of farmers market. In 2010, when we renewed urban renewal, we made a commitment to allow it to expire after bonds were paid off in 2016. All the projects can be funded by other means.

Q: Vision for downtown

A: Turning out to be a high tech center. Broadway Center, RAIN, 3,000 to 5,000 jobs just in that area. People don't want to own cars and want to live there.

Just came from budget committee, and is a status quo budget. I've been on committee for 20 years. This year we're adding back, partly because of economy and partly because of library levy.

Q: Why did you vote for neighborhood outreach funds cut?

A: We see motions all at one time. I voted to table until the last meeting. At the meeting today, most folks wanted to restore the outreach budget. There will be public comment before the meeting.

Other things include added 24-7 Cahoots van, sister cities, 2021 World games.

South Willamette: Mayor called for reset of process. Need trust building process. Council moved to withdraw plan and start over.

EWEB property: Were still negotiating with EWEB over taking over the property, but city wants environmental liability to stay with EWEB.

Then Williams Danes will come in and figure out how to implement the master plan.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm

Minutes submitted by Camilla Bayliss