

## **Minutes of the Fairmount Neighbors general meeting**

Monday, September 15, 2014

Laurelwood Grill

Co-chair Steven Asbury called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and introduced the board members who were present: Sandra Austin, Sue Jakabosky, Kay Rose, Kay Porter, Patrick Deegan, Camilla Bayliss

### **Issues and challenges**

Josh Reckord led the group in an exercise to inform the board of priorities for the year.

What we value about the neighborhood: great trees, porches, Hendricks Park, walkability, schools, neighbors, sense of community, Eugene City Bakery, Prince Pucklers, neighborhood meetings, historic character, views, yards, peaceful

Challenges to sustaining those attributes: Differing views of goals and visions throughout neighborhood; costly to maintain the historic piece; some bigger trees shade out some of the smaller desirable trees; increased number and speed of cars; short-term residents not invested in neighborhood; too much infill; population growth; big semi trucks on neighborhood streets; university encroachment; increase in transient population density; traffic, parking; lack of maintenance and care of historic properties; rampant overdevelopment; UO-owned property not maintained; resistance to change; lack of neighborly contact and lack of e-mail list; reduced access to bus; no paths to walk in hills; older homes replaced with apartments; illegal secondary dwellings; code enforcement; burning couches; impact of Matt Knight Arena, especially in winter.

### **Friends of Trees**

Erik Burke described the mission and activities of Friends of Trees (FOT). This year is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the nonprofit. They maintain offices in Portland and Eugene-Springfield and work in 20 cities across the northwest. Their mission is build community, bringing people together to plant and care for trees and green spaces in cities.

There are many benefits related to an urban forest. Fairmount has the nicest forest in Eugene, with a canopy cover of 60%. Douglas fir is dominant in the south hills. The trees create a high canopy cover and most were not planted by humans. The organization primarily works

down in the flats and developed parts of town. Formerly the Eugene Tree Foundation, Friends of Trees has been here for about four years, and has two main programs.

Green Space: Includes planting trees in natural areas, parks, along roads, and the like. Recently they've planted 100 trees along the Roosevelt channel of Amazon creek, sponsored by EWEB. They are going to plant beside Union Pacific rail yard along Northwest expressway. Railroads don't usually like vegetation, but FOT came up with a planting that worked with their goals. A half-mile buffer of 119 trees will benefit the residential section of Trainsong neighborhood.

Neighborhood trees program: a street and yard tree program. Volunteer neighborhood coordinators go door to door to talk about trees to residents. Teams plant street trees. They have to select from a 20-year-old city list, and use the ones they think do well here and may last for a long time.

### **Disaster Preparation and Water Security**

Jill Hoyenga, a planner with EWEB's water engineering department, spoke about challenges to the water supply during a disaster and EWEB's work on a water master plan. The plan needs to be updated every ten years. It will be published and ready for public comment in December. Included will be a plan for updating aging infrastructure. Jill can talk more about that after the beginning of next year.

Water reliability and emergency preparation is a shared responsibility, and EWEB often does this presentation with the Red Cross. Reliability means being counted on to do what is expected. Jill distributed a booklet describing how to build a community emergency preparation kit. Most folks want to talk about "the big one." We're overdue for a very large earthquake—the only quadrant in the ring of fire that hasn't had a big one yet. Oregon is not prepared at all. Business continuity and recovery time are important. Utilities are the underpinning of planning effort, and the Oregon resilience plan concentrates on Power companies. Training for big one has already improved response to more common incidents, such as winter storms, floods, and wildfires.

The McKenzie is our only supply of water. We are the largest municipality that relies on a single source of water. Our options are limited, and include mutual aid agreements with other utilities and a conditional water permit for the middle fork of the Willamette. There is

a 20-year window to develop the permit, and a treatment plant is scheduled for completion in 2022. EWEB is building savings now and will have to raise rates. The board policy is to stay in the mid-range of rates, compared to other utilities.

EWEB is helping customers understand what it means to prepare, along with the Red Cross, government, and business. For responders to be available, their families have to be taken care of. A level of trust among neighbors is also required. EWEB had obtained additional funding for more water bottles, and is putting together an NGO to help everyone prepare.

### **Campus Partners and off campus student behavior**

Co-chair Patrick Deegan and UO Neighborhood Relations Director Karen Hyatt reported on a campus partners meeting held earlier in the evening. The meeting featured a report on the state of the university and reports from partner groups.

Party registration is a new program that will help UOPD and EPD to improve neighborhood relationships. A brochure in the shape of a red cup encourages students to drink responsibly. A student can sign up to host a party, and if a complaint comes in, dispatch can call and invite the host to shut down the party. EPD reports party patrol has been effective and will begin again on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of September, and other weekends as staffing and budget allow. Even if they can't respond, it's important to call anyway. The calls create a record that makes a difference. Karen's office is putting together a campus-neighborhood brochure that will be mailed out to everyone in neighborhood. Information will include how to make a complaint and how to reach Karen.

Substance abuse, sexual violence: The student code of conduct now applies off campus. It just passed new board of trustees last week, and staff are getting ready to make it happen. There is also a new person interacting with Greek life.

University planning: Plans include a new 500 bed residence hall near Global scholars so older residences can be upgraded. In the beginning stages are plans for an expanded softball field, and new science building. Locations are still to be determined and there will be a public process. Karen distributed copies of "Your Neighbors and You." The community welcome is scheduled for Tuesday, September 30, 4-6 pm. Neighbors are encouraged to volunteer.

Steven provided a reminder on how to lodge noise and party complaints. Call 682-5111. Call early, don't wait until too late in the evening. If UO students are involved, also e-mail to

[goodneighbor@uoregon.edu](mailto:goodneighbor@uoregon.edu)

That lets UO know that a complaint has gone to EPD. If you have names, it's even more useful.

### **Capital Hill Update**

Tom Dreyer: Ten years ago he bought the pink house and now owns 14 acres. He decided to develop the property himself because it's better if done by a neighbor. He held a neighborhood meeting and went ahead with the application process. The process slowed down on the recommendation of neighbors and city planners. They are planning another public meeting in December. The intent is to create a more vibrant neighborhood and attract young families. That will support older neighbors to age in place. He has applied to annex county land into city, which is an irrevocable step. It will go into the city tax rolls and taxes will go way up. Effects of the project will be mitigated by low density. The code allows five lots per acre. Instead he's planning 20 lots, with an average two lots per acre. That will increase the value of the houses. He plans to site houses high up from the ribbon trail to give visual separation. He also wants to provide public space, and invites input regarding where.

Fire: some houses in area have burned. Fire folks like the development. By adding a road, it provides a firebreak and a way for people to get out. Formerly, fire trucks blocked the road and there was no way to get out. They have inventoried every tree on 14 acres. He will try to save as many of the 1700 trees as possible. No building would start until 2017. If all goes well, he would rather sell the lots one by one to builders rather than bring in a developer. Deed restrictions will prevent subdividing. The developer will pay for the new road. He doesn't want to widen the current road. He wants to limit widening just to the PUD portion of the land.

Faris Cassell brought us up to date on the response committee, which has held some organizational meetings. They have formed six committees or work groups, organized around the requirements for a PUD: Environment, natural resources, ridgeline trail; traffic, road impact, safety; density, house placement, compatibility; geotechnical

(slope, runoff); communication, fundraising; storm water, drainage. Neighbors who want to be involved can sign up with Faris, who has been convening the meetings.

**Other items**

Karen Alvarado distributed pictures of the proposed exterior of the new student apartment building on Garden Ave. She encouraged us to contact the contractor about what the siding should look like.

Jayne Vasconcellos informed us about a group forming to save city hall and distributed fact sheets..

Steven announced that the next meeting will be at a different location

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm

Minutes submitted by Camilla Bayliss