

Minutes of the Fairmount Neighbors General Meeting, Tuesday, February 24, 7-9 pm, Edison School Cafeteria

Present: 32 neighbors (including 5 board members) and 6 guests

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

Capital Hill update

Camilla Bayliss reported that Tom Dreyer is renovating the pink house, and plans to hold new neighborhood meetings for the PUD sometime this spring. Faris Cassell is no longer able to serve as convener of the joint response committee, and is recruiting folks to take her place.

Fifteenth and Seventeenth Avenue Repaving

Rob Inerfeld, Public Works, and City Traffic Engineer Tom Larsen reported on two meetings held to discuss bike and pedestrian issues related to the planned repaving of 15th and 17th. In response to the feedback, the city plans to add shared lane markings for bicycles on 15th and retain current parking spaces. They considered curb extensions at Villard, but determined the space was too tight.

Comments included concern about crosswalks, pedestrian traffic across Villard near the Wild Duck, and dangerous pedestrian crossing at Franklin and Walnut. Traffic and parking issues will continue to be studied as part of Walnut mixed Use.

UO Update

Karen Hyatt, UO community relations, reported that the UO is engaging in a Campus Physical Framework Vision Project and invited all neighbors to participate in the survey. This year's day of service was the largest ever, with 250 students participating in volunteer projects, including 50 at Hendricks Park. Fairmount and SUNA representatives are working on issues in Washburn Park, including marijuana smoking. UO, with their substance abuse staff, and EPD, are working with the students involved. Marijuana smoking will not be allowed on campus or in city parks.

Central Kitchen: They are just finishing the contract with the builder. Construction may start in March. Campus Planning is also working on plans for a new residence hall and softball stadium.

Special Area Planning

Associate Planner Zach Galloway and Urban Designer Will Dowdy from the city planning department provided copies of a planning outline draft. Zach displayed a map showing proposed UGB expansion near the airport for industrial growth and a school site for Bethel. Projections are for 34,000 new people to come to the area within the next 20 years. No expansion is needed for multifamily housing, but there have been questions about extending the UGB for single family. They had originally proposed expansion in two areas: Gimpl Hill-Bailey Hill and Bloomberg-LCC. In light of new data, the recommendation is now that expansion is not needed. They hope

everything will be wrapped up by summer. The Envision Eugene document commits the city to two plans: one for River Road-Santa Clara, and one for the university-area neighborhoods. The refinement plans of the 70s and 80s were policy documents, but it's now possible to do something broader to incorporate things like traffic and UO into one document.

The draft area-planning document introduces some of the nuts and bolts. The city will bring in an intern from planning at UO. Community vision-policy language will dictate future development. Then there will be an implementation plan, including code amendments to impact development. River Road and Santa Clara have undertaken a lengthy public engagement process, including listening sessions. Information is available on their neighborhood pages. Local residents surveyed architectural styles and historical places. Activities included listening sessions to get issues on the table.

The city is setting up a website where neighborhoods can post documents, including plans, maps, data, and any past projects. They have received information from SUNA about universities that have worked on housing in communities to keep ownership high.

Historic Designation

Land use attorney Rebekah Dohrman formerly worked as a planner with the Historic Review Board. She described the advantages of historic designation for a building, including tax credits, low interest loans, and easements to preserve portions of the building, such as the façade. A building can qualify for special historic zoning, providing more flexibility with use. Examples are the Oregon Electric Station, Campbell House Inn, and historic houses that have been turned into office spaces. There is some leniency with building codes, except for fire and safety issues.

There are three criteria for city landmark designation. The first two are consistency with city policies and historic significance. It's possible to claim historic significance in one of four ways:

- (1) Associated with historical events or
- (2) Significant persons;
- (3) Distinctive style;
- (4) Any pre-history or pre-European significance

The third evaluation criterion applies to buildings that have been moved or were commemorative in nature. A building has to be 50 years or older to qualify.

There's also an option to register on the National Register of Historic Places. The city's criteria are based on the National Register. Examples of buildings on the city register include the Maude Kerns Art Center (formerly the Fairmount Presbyterian Church), East Skinner Butte District, Blair Blvd. District. The National Register includes Civic Stadium, Hope Abbey Mausoleum, and two historic houses on Garden Avenue.

Updates from Councilor Alan Zelenka

The bike path that goes out to the Knickerbocker Bridge is going to be redone. Yesterday council rejected a staff proposal to do away with the obnoxious vegetation ordinance.

The Eugene Civic Alliance has come up with \$4.1 million to buy Civic Stadium. The city will use park funds to buy a pocket park in the northwest corner, which the Alliance will develop and maintain. The Alliance will also develop and maintain a bike path through the middle.

The city is working on a plan to start meeting the goals of the climate recovery ordinance: to be climate neutral by 2020 with a 50% reduction in fossil fuel use by 2050. Use has already dropped dramatically, even with recent development. Vehicle miles traveled have been reduced.

The Council has passed an ordinance so that transportation companies like Uber and Lyft fit into the regulatory framework. The Austin, Texas City council has passed an ordinance similar to Eugene's.

Railroad quiet zone: Ten intersections downtown have to be secure enough so the train horns don't have to blow. Two can be done as part of the Riverfront Research Park urban renewal. The only other funding mechanism would be to put it in the road bond, as Salem did a few years ago. Our two road bonds have reduced the \$225 million street repair backlog to \$84 million.

The city is also working on MUPT. It now just applies to downtown. They have been modifying to add value, public benefit, and workforce housing.

There will soon be a work session on onsite management for apartment complexes of a certain size. They need to work out definitions. There are also plans for a work session on economic development—how to create jobs in specific sectors. In partnership with UO, the city is also working on RAIN, to help entrepreneurs start businesses and be successful. The city owns the Bradford Stereo building and UO will help fund the renovation. It will be a UO-City-State partnership.

There's also going to be a workshop on micro-housing.

The councilor will be introducing a carbon tax fee resolution. According to a study, it would not impact the economy but would reduce carbon. It seems to be working in Vancouver, B.C.

Paid sick leave goes into effect July 1. The legislature is using the Eugene ordinance as a model.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm
Minutes submitted by Camilla Bayliss