

WUN meeting November 4, 2004

Indigo District, 7-9pm

Notes by Deborah Healey

Present: WUN Board members Steve Baker, Clark Cox, Drix, Deborah Healey, Steve Jarvis, David Kelly, and Ron Lewis; neighborhood residents Meghann Cuniff, Grace Burgwyn, and Charles Hirsch; City of Eugene neighborhood liaison Steve Norris; visitors Charles Biggs, Dan Keller, Zach Vishnoff, Courtney Hight, Marc Schlossberg, Sandra Rossetter, Darren Wyss, Kat White, Patrick Carr, Jon McConnel, and Kristopher Ackerson.

7pm Board meeting; the general meeting continued seamlessly from the Board meeting.
NLC meeting - Drix handed information around to share

Review of Pegasus meeting - Larry Von Klein was there and discussed his project. He's been responsive to the neighborhood's requests. Steve Bennett was also there - he's the owner of NW 14th and Hilyard property. It was Ron's birthday, and he provided pizza for the group (thanks again to Ron!).

Zach V: We rush through and don't talk about things. The major topics are MUPTE - that's a half hour. We just rush through and don't discuss things. We've been doing this for the last six meetings, where we don't have a real discussion of issues.

Drix: We have a discussion group on Yahoo - you can discuss things there.

Review of INFO FAIR event - lots of people involved; police, neighborhood groups; aerial photo of the neighborhood - good apple tree in the park

Drix: have a bike day where people can swap or whatever in the park

Zach V: It's illegal to be in the park. If I want to paint by the park, I can be arrested if I'm on the sidewalk. These are the kinds of basic things. I've been ordered off the 13th Street sidewalk.

Deborah H: I'll send thank-you notes.

David K: The turnout was low. Before we try another large event, we need to figure out a better way to do PR. There are 3000 residents and we got about 40 people.

Ron L: What has happened to all these lists? I'd be willing to phone people.

David K: My old neighborhood did a phone tree. At every board meeting (a month before the quarterly election) we'd split the list.

Zach V: Have an event at noon on Friday in the amphitheater - that's where people are.

Courtney H: I work for the ASUO, so could probably get space for free.

Drix: Good idea. Could you check to be sure?

David: If Deborah creates a phone tree, I'd commit to calling.

WUN Map project: Marc Schlossberg

12 teams went out, collecting info that WUN wants to know - trees, street lights, dumpsters. It was good to see students in my class working side by side with neighbors. Even though the whole day was just recording the same thing over and over, the time passed quickly. Six of the teams used the PDA; six used paper and

pencil. We brought all of that back to the classroom, entered the paper-based information into the computer, then had students mess around and make maps. I have a series of student-made maps. Don't read too much into them - they weren't made with any theory or agenda in mind. What we hope to do is give a bit more focus. Two or three students are looking at this with the idea of what kinds of maps would be useful. We'd like some more extended time to talk more about this and project some maps for everyone to view. We're open to criticism, questions, etc. The maps here aren't something to draw strong conclusions from.

One conclusion that the students did notice: there were really no streetlights in some places. I don't know if they were distinguishing styles of streetlights. People looked at trees; tried to sort by well- and poorly-maintained dumpsters.

(In response to a question about where the data will be) I'm not going to put anything up on the web without discussion from you.

David K: Whether or not we put the maps on the web, it would be good to have the data. You also had some of the city data - property type, etc. That is also valuable.

Zach V: This system (GIS) has Homeland Security Applications associated with it. How can you justify going forward with a project before there's a lot of debate about sensitive issues people have in the neighborhood? It needs 400 people, not just one or two or four to make this decision. GIS has many applications, and what you glean from one project is easily transferable.

Drix: It was fun seeing the whole process.

Marc S: Thanks to the folks in the neighborhood. Many of the students in class are here - they thought it was a valuable experience. The relationships, walking the streets, learning about the neighborhood from people with a long history here - a lot of stereotypes were broken, and we had a lot of fun.

Clark C: I'm looking at the map of the dumpsters - did you try to chart the dumpsters for every apartment?

Marc S: We charted the dumpsters that were easily visible.

Clark C: That's why mine isn't here.

Marc S: That's the thing about it - the first thing people do is look for where they live and find inconsistencies. (I did go and give a thank-you to Pegasus Pizza.) What I'm hoping to do is to have the 2-3 students who are doing this as a class project continue. Their project is due the beginning of December - if we can have time in December at the meeting, they can go over what they've done. Sometime early next year, let's schedule an extended time outside of here to have an extended discussion and debriefing. We'll start off showing maps and see where it goes.

David K: A campus location would be good - or Central Presbyterian.

Drix: What would bring more people here? I'd suggest through the Yahoo Group.

Charles B: Invite the new Mayor - you always get more people when she comes.

?Kat: You could go to other neighborhood groups and invite them, too.

Ron L: I get a little distraught. I don't want to be a salesman and harass people to come to a meeting. It's your basic democracy. Having an agenda that's so loaded we have to rush - but have time to discuss fonts and websites - is not good. I don't like being shut up, and I don't like being dissed every time I open my mouth. This isn't a good place - older people can't hear here, and it's a bar. There are improvements we need

to make as a Board to get more people here. I like this place, but it's not a good meeting place.

David K: I like this place too, but it's not a good place for a meeting. Sacred Heart is good, but you need bread crumbs to find the meeting room. Campus is good for students, but not good for others because of the parking situation. Looking at a campus location might be an experiment. I don't think there's a concerted effort to pack the agenda. The way it worked in my old neighborhood better was to separate the board meeting in time from the general meeting. Everyone was welcome to the board meeting, but the reality was that not as many people were willing to come. We could change the bylaws (with a quorum) to have a meeting quarterly.

Zach V: If people have to go to more meetings, it's a barrier.

Steve J: It's not too much to do to come to another meeting if there's something you want to add to the agenda.

Drix: My point of the Yahoo Group is that we can't get everything done here.

Alley Update: Seward Meintsma

We're tweaking a few small things now, so not much to report. I expect to be advertising the project in Feb-March and beginning construction in April. Did you get what you needed for the fair?

Drix: Yes - it was beautiful.

Charles B: I've been told that the design of the actual alleys is to have more concrete than a street.

Seward M: It's 7", and it's a city design standard based on experience. This area has some of the worst soils I've ever seen. It's not consistent even in a single alley. The design standard is what's been known to work here most of the time. It's a conservative design. There are a couple of alleys where we're doing more design work. I will bring information about trees to the next meeting. We've identified some trees that may be removed, but we're doing as little tree removal as possible. I'd just as soon avoid the controversy.

Drix: We'd still like to do the art paving. There's still time to get that to you, right?

Seward M: Yes - if there's anything we can imprint without adding too much cost. We've got a stencil that we use, a fish stamp, on the manhole covers.

Zach V: If you leave them unguarded, they'll get decorated.

Seward M: The only alleys we will maintain or repair are ones that are built to our standards.

Steve J: The city forced the person behind me to pave the alley - so it may not be to the standards. It's got the fish stamp on it.

Seward M: It sounds like it might be built to city specs.

Drix: Re the Rental Owner's Association (the person wasn't here to talk)

Having a housing code like Corvallis's means that the worst landlords would be held accountable.

David K: Under the proposed standards, any university-owned off-campus housing would need to comply with the standards, but not on-campus housing.

Kat? Is there anything about financial accountability, like getting your deposit back?

Courtney H: The code is only addressing four standards, including heating, plumbing, structural integrity, and weatherproofing. Beyond that, it's not addressed. It's going to be complaint-driven. The City isn't going around and checking on apartments. It's just creating a way to enforce the existing state code. These are just the main areas, not all the problems that exist, like getting your deposit back. At this point, we wanted to cover the most basic stuff. There are some startup costs to the city, but after that it will be self-supporting.

Drix: This is a process of creating community. This is what this woman brought up - the fee was originally going to be \$6/year, but now it's going up. She represents the mom and pop landlords, around 800 of them. What started as \$6 is now \$12.50.

David K: That's not right. The \$6/year/unit never came out of any staff or council discussion. There has never been any discussion at city council as high as \$12.50. The highest has been \$10. Council will take the attitude that if you build a surplus, the fees will need to be reduced. Putting on my city council hat for a second, there are a lot of things in the state law that this law will not address. There are safeguards and abuses on both sides. As Drix said, when it's only in state code, your only remedy is to go to court. The ordinance is on the city's website in draft form. The public hearing is set for the 7:30 Council meeting this coming Monday. Anyone can take 3 minutes to talk.

Zach V: In the UO's 10 blocks of family housing, they have rules about what you can or can't have, like no gardens in the front, no signs, etc.

Courtney H: The city has a law that says no landlord can forbid a political sign in a yard. It's freedom of speech.

David K: The Rental Owner's Association has asked that the law 'sunset' in 3-4 years so that Council will have to revisit the issue. There will probably be majority support to add the sunset clause. There is already a nuisance code in the city code. If you have an issue with the property next to yours that there's trash or junk cars, you can file a nuisance complaint in writing or on the city's website.

Courtney H: On Monday there is a public hearing for this - it's been almost a year to get this. We're excited about this. If any of you is interested in coming, if you've had a problem with a landlord, the Council needs to hear about it. We aren't saying that all landlords are bad. There's a meeting at the UO in the ASUO office at 6:30. You need to be there before 7:30 to sign up. Go into the back of the room and sign up before the hearing starts. It's at the corner of 8th and Pearl. We'd like to get as many people there as possible to show support. There's a signup sheet here if you want to come. The students at UO and LCC have been working on it - Council has been extremely supportive.

Drix: Let's talk about communication. There's a Yahoo Group for this group. You control your own subscription. Everyone except Ron and Clark on the Board are online.

Zach time:

Zach: The city still hasn't said whether there will be a hearing on the new university research park building that may be doing Homeland Security and weapons work. They're supposed to break ground on the building next year. The time to hold

discussions on this is now. I'm going to stick on this until we have a discussion on this.

David K: Two things. There is some potential that the UO Faculty Senate will be talking about weapons-related research in a couple of months. In terms of hearings on a building, it depends on the zoning and the property. The whole Research Park operates on a conditional use permit. If the CUP allows that use as an outright permitted use, there will be no hearing.

Zach V: Can Council pass a resolution forcing a hearing?

David K: The Council could, but I don't see it happening. The person who brought it up could be marginalized.

Zach V: Thank you for being willing to talk about it.

Charles B: I attended a recent forum on racial profiling. This ward has a significant level of arrests. There will be a presentation on racial profiling at the university - watch for it.

Zach V: Call my message number 543-1051 if you want more information about weapons research.

Clark C: I discovered the October 11 Council work session on the transportation plan around Sacred Heart hospital. David, could you talk about it?

David K: I was told by Peace Health that they intend to get on our agenda in the coming months. What I know at this point is that Peace Health is planning their new hospital in N. Springfield. When that's built, they intend to redevelop the Hilyard Hospital campus. They want to improve access to that site. The two one-way couplets are sometimes problematical; the emergency access is also one-way, which can cause problems with an ambulance. They have floated ideas such as making that one block of 13th two way. They would have to go through Council for that. They have promised to do outreach to this group, NCC, and others. They plan to come to WUN and ask for ideas. One theme from Council was think big - not just your narrow interest, but the broader areas several blocks around. Don't forget that it's more than cars, also bikes, pedestrians, buses.

Clark C: What about tree removal for making Alder 2-way?

David K: They also brought up Alder. It's one way southbound now. They're thinking it could be more of a gateway street by widening it.

Clark C: They're talking about giving the city part of their property as right of way - but there are trees, many of them heritage trees.

David K: I think when they come to the neighborhood association, it's the perfect time to bring that up. I'll bring it up here, too. City code defines heritage trees, but it's not precise and can be interpreted in various ways. The City doesn't define legacy trees. Some of us tried to strengthen the tree protection sections of the code. LUBA remanded the changes and it has yet to be reconsidered in the last 3 years. What Eugene Tree Foundation is doing is completely different. It provides no legal protection, but lets people who want to list their trees to do so.

Zach V: It provides TV coverage if someone is trying to cut down a tree with one of their plaques.

David K: The annual meeting of the Eugene Tree Foundation is next Wednesday, 11/10 at EWEB, 6:30 PM.

Charles H: What about the changing of one way to two way? I'd prefer that the change be tied to the use for emergency vehicles, not just to make it more appealing for doctors offices.

Zach V: The neighborhood group can take the hospital to court and appeal any change.

David K: Something that is a land use decision, the neighborhood group can get a discount on appealing the decision.

Ron L: What about the WUN Park? Randy says the 13th Street business community goes nuts when people talk about opening the park. Can we go talk to them and see what their issues are?

Drix: Maybe it will be an event park.

Steve J: If we had 20 people here, we could talk about business representation at these meetings.

David K: Maybe the chair could write a letter to the WU Small Business Association asking for their comments on the park. Inviting businesses to the meeting is different from giving businesses a vote.

Zach V: What about a park subcommittee from this group to talk about the park? I want to be a part of it.

Steve J: I have a small stack of research on it.

Steve B: Maybe we should try to change our meeting to a day when we could meet at Central Presbyterian. I can call Central Presbyterian.

Drix: Is everyone okay with calling us The WUN? [no objections]

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.