

West University Neighborhood - Executive Committee meeting

August 5, 2004, Indigo District

Present: WUN Board members Drix, Ron Lewis, Steve Jarvis, Steve Baker, David Kelly, Deborah Healey, Clark Cox; WUN resident Kurt Wisener; City of Eugene Neighborhood Coordinator Steve Norris; EPD Officer Jack Backes; and mapping project representative Darren Wyss. Initial notes by Steve Baker; later notes by Deborah Healey. Please send corrections to Deborah - healeyd@onid.orst.edu.

Announcements

August 15 Volunteer appreciation picnic at Alton Baker Park picnic shelter, 5-8pm. Food, music (Deb Cleveland).

Neighborhood Board

Drix: We need to get nominations in October and hold elections in November. We can deal with the bylaws then.

David K: 95% of the time, the bylaws don't matter. But because 5% of the time they're critically important to avoid controversy around an association decision, it's important that they're known about and followed by the group. WUN officially has a charter that calls for four officers plus 5 others. We now have 7 Board members. We need at least two new board members. We have to send the nominations to neighborhood residents at least 10 days before the election. A mailer or a newsletter would be good.

Ron L: Let's send a postcard/mailer early, before the nominations.

David K: Students aren't back until late September.

Group decision: Send a postcard for the October meeting and a newsletter for the November meeting. The Eugene police chief would like to talk with the group; we decided on the October meeting as a good time. Drix will call the chief's secretary and get on his schedule officially.

Drix: We should review the charter to think about including businesses.

David: Let's have a committee to review our charter and compare it to other newly developed or changed charters.

WUN Map project

Darren W talked about the mapping project and demonstrated the PDA and mapping software (ARCPad). The City of Eugene had hired students in Public Policy and Planning to do a West University housing survey. David mentioned that it would be useful to get the data from that survey, as well.

The group looked at the list of suggestions that came out of last month's meeting and came up with five priorities initially. A sixth was added.

David K moved that the WUN support the WUN Map Study with the 6 areas of focus:

1. Type of commercial property
2. Sidewalk condition
3. Above-ground utilities
4. Trees a certain diameter
5. Street lights
6. Dumpsters

and providing that the results be made available to the neighborhood.

Steve J: seconded

Six in favor, one opposed - motion accepted

Alley project

Drix: Alleys are being enhanced in Eugene. WUN wants some input on the process and to encourage certain activities - put utilities/utility access underground, personalize elements (like covers). Drix will write a letter to Seward Meintsma giving WUN input re utilities and art. Drix got a letter from a friend working with Shermer Schlesinger about putting ornamental glass into cement. Drix will ask them about donating some of their time.

Ron L: St. Vincent de Paul uses Aurora glassworks - could do glass blocks in the cement.

David K: This is ultimately going to be a contract that someone like Sand & Gravel will get; it will need to be planned ahead and made part of the contract.

Ron L: I've been talking to people at work, and they're asking questions like who's going to pay for it - then they ask about the alley behind Pegasus and behind the Bijou being fixed, and they're happy about it.

Steve B: This is going to be done next year, so we have some time to think about how we want to participate in the process. We need to try to get things into the design now, but there will be time to talk about the neighborhood's involvement in this as a whole.

Steve B: I'll talk to EWEB and try to arrange a meeting with EWEB and Seward. Seward says he's willing to design alleys with space for utilities. EWEB may or may not agree with this. Seward did mention something about decorative manhole covers, so he's in favor of this.

Ron L: To follow up on the cost of this. Two banks in our neighborhood (B of A is one of them) have gotten into trouble for redlining. To make them look better, they may be willing to do low-interest loans to help low-income homeowners pay for these things. We should see if the banks want to be part of this.

David K: The City does offer 10-year loans and the rate is the prevailing rate. Wouldn't it be great if the City could say that they can offer x% but BofA will offer a lower rate.

Ron L: This is just an idea to put out there.

WUN Park

Drix: Here are some thoughts for a letter to Eugene Parks Department about using the WUN park for a neighborhood event.

Dear City of Eugene Parks

In regards to WUN Park: we would like to use the park for an upcoming event in October. This would be an information event for the neighborhood.

David K: Randy Ellis supposedly has tents that we might be able to use?

Officer Jack B: Yes.

David K: Do we have enough volunteer focus and energy to pull something together in October?

Deborah H: We need to plan the map project in October, too.

David K: Chief Lehner is interested in visiting the neighborhood in October, too.

Steve B: People come out for tree planting. Is October is a good time to plant trees?

Steve N: Call NeighborWoods about it.

Deborah H: We could have tables set up - WUN Map table, Police Chief, Zak, housing code, etc.

Jack B: Re engraving bikes - it lets people have a number on a bike that's registered, that helps the police find a lost or stolen bike.

David K: If you and Randy have a table, you can do that and give information.

Drix: When the kids are just moving in, the scammers just show up. It would be good to tell naive students to keep their doors locked.

Steve J: We can get the non-profits in the neighborhoods

Ron L: Get the businesses in the neighborhood to put their brochures out on a table

Drix: WUN info on a table, too.

David: In the letter, say the date we need to know - and what conditions may be attached to the use.
Is this a better thing in the evening or on a weekend?

Group discussion: Saturday afternoons - depending on the football schedule. Say Saturday, October 9 or October 16th. [Note from Deborah: there are home games on October 2 and 16, so it looks like October 9.]

Steve N: That will be the main meeting - with nominations, discussion of the charter, etc.

Decision: Next meeting September 9 - Board meeting - need to let people know about the Sept 9 meeting

MUPTE and Larry Von Klein

Drix: Larry Von Klein like to talk to WUN about a building they want to do on Patterson near the Mill Race. Across the street from Barnhart Hall - just south of Broadway. There's a parking lot where they want to build an apartment house with a peaked roof, 3 stories.

Steve J: The front view looks pretty classical - a decent looking building.

Drix: He'd like a letter from us saying that we're in favor of it.

David K: Does he have a timeline about when he's submitting his MUPTE application? He should be able to write a 2-3 paragraph description to send to Drix to email to everyone. For the September meeting, he can come and talk to us and we can decide.

Drix: I'm impressed that he came to us. He cares about the neighborhood.

WUN Media

Drix: Bookmarks - we can put them on the counters, hand them out. We could maybe do calendars. We can change them and reprint as needed.

Steve N: Probably \$10 for 500 or so.

General agreement with the idea.

Neighborhood Leadership Council

Drix: They meet at the Atrium building once a month. People make presentations there that the neighborhood leaders can bring to their groups. One presentation was by the HIV/AIDS group about their needle exchange. They will come and give us a talk.

General agreement: Have them come to the information meeting in October.

Police Commission

Drix: The EPD is asking for our involvement in improvement their image. They want feedback and a way for people to complain. They'll be happy to come and explain to the group about how to do that. It softens the look.

David K: If the Chief's going to be there in October, it's a good addition to his talk.

Deborah H: Another bit to add to the bookmarks at some point.

Ron L: Their phone number should be on info we put out - the local station. We can also have local business information.

David K: If the neighborhood group prints the bookmarks, we can have ads on it.

November meeting

Drix: Housing code, alley discussions would bring people in. We need people here for the vote. We can present the WUN Map results.

David: Council is going to be talking about housing standards at our next work session. The public hearing could be before the November meeting - but maybe not.

Ron L: Next month he'll spring for pizzas. Let Ron know if people are vegetarian.

Steve B: We could meet at Pegasus instead of here - we're changing the date anyway. Pegasus is very supportive of the neighborhood.

Ron L: Let's shoot for Pegasus.

Drix: I'm going to draft a letter thanking Indigo District.

I was thinking as a neighborhood we could try to get a neighborhood note or something in the

<Blink> What about these orange handouts - we could maybe have them put the neighborhood group's newsletter in as an insert.

David K: Could you find out the orange handout distribution schedule? It could be very useful.

Drix: Could we ask to get our information in the Emerald? A little logo or a box?

Steve J: There's some kind of form you need to fill out the Tuesday before.

Drix: I went to a UO meeting about their long range development plan. They're an example of what planning can do - they want open spaces on campus and they plan for it. I've got the plan and I'm willing to loan it to anyone.

Meeting adjourned 9:10pm