

City of Beaverton
Neighborhood Association Committee Meeting Minutes

NAC: Denney Whitford / Raleigh West

Date: Apr. 26, 2012

Board members present:

Chair: Ernie Conway
 Vice Chair: Andrew Bynum
 BCCI Rep: Ray Bowman

Treasurer: Martha Schauffler
 Recorder: Tracy Thornton

Quorum present? Yes No

Meeting start time: 7:04 pm.

Ray Bowman, BCCI Rep, called the meeting to order, as Ernie Conway said he would be late.

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue Report: Lt. Gately from station 53 gave the report. Fire District called a community academy, where a dozen leaders from the community spent time in a training center learning how to be a fire fighter. They also spent a night at a fire station. This station is one of the busier ones; the station has responded to just over 700 calls this year. In the DW/RW area, it has been 110 calls. 80% of calls are medical in nature; all the calls in DW/RW were medical. They have responded to fires in other parts of the district. They had a drill at Lincoln Center to train on fires in high rise buildings.

Now that we're moving into the drier parts of the year, we do live within the UGB, which is governed by DEQ. Backyard burning is prohibited by DEQ. Fireplaces or "recreation" appliances are allowed, but you can't burn yard debris.

Community Policing Report: Officer Mandi DeFrain did a presentation on "Beaverton Safe," a comprehensive crime prevention program, which she created. In Beaverton, 70% of burglars are considered amateurs; they're opportunists. Your home's design has something to do with security. Two-story houses are usually not a burglar's first choice, since the "goodies" are usually on the second floor, which is more difficult to reach. If you live in a townhouse, reinforce your sliding glass doors. In apartments, make sure the property manager changes the locks.

Simple security solutions include using longer screws to attach the door to the frame; increase the length of the screws on your deadbolt strike plate; use screws that are at least 1 ½ inches long. Check your lighting and make sure exterior lighting is in working order, or consider installing motion detector lights. Make sure that trees or landscaping are not obscuring the view to your house; this gives visibility to neighbors and police. Mark your belongings with an identifiable number, take photographs, and keep them in a safe place. This is useful for working with insurance companies should anything be stolen.

The police department does provide a home security survey program during the summer months. If you're interested in doing that, call them. BPD is working on CPTED program, or crime prevention through environmental design.

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BPD will do vacation checks while you're away from your home. Call the department and make a request. An officer will need to come by prior to you leaving so that they have a baseline for normal behavior on your property. If there will be any change in routine, such as guests or children arriving at your home, let them know.

Lights and timers inside are a good idea, even when you're not on vacation; someone casing the neighborhood won't try to rob a house where lights are turning on an off. Leave an ambiguous message on your answering machine, such as, "I'm not available now." If you notice something unusual at a neighbor's house, call the police first and they'll come check it out. It's better for them to do that than to have you deal with the situation yourself.

The "bug out box" is a box of things you need if you have to leave quickly, such as credit card information, medications, etc. It should be light and easy to carry. For more information, go to www.Beavertonoregon.gov and use the Emergency Management link.

The police can't always be where they need to be, so be a good neighbor, be the eyes and ears for the police. If something looks suspicious or weird, it's better to call the police than to possibly miss an opportunity to stop a crime. Try to gather as much information as you can (description of a person or vehicle, for example; license plate numbers are great), but they'll work with whatever you have.

The crime triangle: There are three things necessary for crime to happen: ability, desire, and opportunity. We can't control all of these, but we can control opportunity. Don't leave valuables in your car, don't leave packaging for expensive items outside, etc.

Bad guys want things that are concealable, removable, available, valuable, enjoyable, disposable. If it's not bolted down, and might bring someone enjoyment, it's a target for theft. If you leave your vehicle unlocked with valuables in sight, there's a 1 in 30 chance of your stuff will be stolen. If your car is locked and your valuables are in sight, that drops to 1 in 1000. If your car is locked, your valuables are concealed, and you use other safety options, the chances of theft are 1 in 30,000.

Personal safety: If you are a victim, do everything possible to keep yourself safe. To prevent confrontation, walk with a purpose; walk with your head up; make eye contact or a head nod, as this shows the person that you've noticed them, and they're not going to want to pick on you. Have a good awareness of your surroundings and try not to be distracted, especially if someone odd or suspicious is in the area. Never feel bad asking for credentials or proof of employment for anyone who comes to your door.

Identity theft: Never give any personal information over the phone unless you can verify that it's someone who needs that, such as the bank and you've called them. Don't give names, date of birth, SSN, or even e-mail addresses if you don't feel comfortable. Subscribe to an opt-out for credit card offers, or shred those offers. Contact the three credit bureaus for a credit report (you

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can get a free one each year) to make sure your credit is in good shape. If your information has been compromised, contact the BPD.

When contacting the police, call the non-emergency number unless there's a threat to life or property (in that case, call 911).

The City has a wonderful dispute resolution/mediation program if you have issues with neighbors that you're having trouble resolving.

Guest Speakers:

Debra Fife from THPRD gave a presentation about the Sunday Trailways event on June 24th, between 11 am and 3 pm. It's a 4.5 mile-long route on the Fanno Creek Trail. Come out and see the whole section of trail now that it's completed. There will be stations along the way to find out more about the trail, talk to a park ranger, learn some history (such as at the Fanno Creek Farmhouse). The THPRD website gives more information about all the activities.

There is no registration; jump in wherever the closest access point is to you. Rules of the road do apply; anyone under age 16 riding a bike must be wearing a helmet. All regular trail rules apply, so pets are allowed on leash. Expect a leisurely pace. Cyclists may want to come early, otherwise they may not be able to travel very fast once it gets busier later in the afternoon.

There are 6 departments, in addition to THPRD staff, who will be supporting the event. There will be about 200 volunteers. 35-45 people from the community response team will be helping in "less" safe areas, such as crossing Hall Blvd. or Denney Rd. THPRD has coordinated with the groups working on replacing the Scholls Ferry bridge near Allen.

New Business:

BCCI Report: Beaverton Recycling Day at the old Westgate Theater site on June 2nd. This is a fundraising opportunity for the NAC, and we need volunteers.

Ray handed out flyers with a list of upcoming City events. The Beaverton Farmers Market will open Saturday, May 12, and BCCI will have a booth there.

Old business:

March meeting minutes were accepted as written.

Treasurer's report: Our current balance is \$3,895.30 at Rivermark.

Walmart conditional use permit: Ernie attended the Cornell site Planning Commission meeting. The Planning Commission had an issue with what constitutes "small truck" deliveries (answer: a two-axle vehicle, 40 feet long, about the size of a bus). There was a lot of discussion about noise. Last night, Ernie attended the Planning Commission meeting for the Apple Way Walmart site. The apartment building across Apple Way from the site has a condition in the property owner's tenant agreement that says that people living there can't make loud noise between 10 pm and 7 am. However, the same property owner owns the Walmart site property, and he has

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not opposed the CUP for Walmart. Some of the citizens who spoke at the meeting felt this was a conflict of interest, but the Planning Commission chose to err on the side of caution and allow the property owner to testify in favor of the CUP.

Our NAC did not handle the CUP process properly in the previous discussion on this. We need to either support or oppose the CUP if we want to preserve our ability to appeal. However, that doesn't mean that the Planning Commission will take the feelings of the NAC into account, as they don't consider NAC input a criteria for consideration in a CUP. The Planning Commission doesn't see NAC opposition as a reason, by itself, to not grant a CUP. Ernie asked the Neighborhood Office where the NAC's voice gets heard in these issues.

If you see a business open after hours, you have to call Code Compliance (George Fetzer), not the Planning Department. He is understaffed and may take a while to get back to you; leave a message stating specifically what you want.

The bottom line: the NAC took a position of "no position"; but had we known what we know now, we would have opposed the CUP. The Planning Commission pushed out a decision until the May 16th meeting (which will be another public hearing) because the noise study was not done properly and will need to be redone. Per Jason Wachs, because Walmart was on our agenda for this meeting, we as a NAC can take a vote to change (or make more clear) our position.

Ray moved that the NAC oppose the Walmart CUP for extended hours from 10 pm to 7 am. The motion was seconded and approved.

Ernie suggested to the Planning Commission that all new business permits in the NAC get reported to the NAC. For example, a Grocery Outlet recently opened at Hall and Scholls, but few people (at the NAC meeting) knew it was going in there. We would like to know about new businesses so that we can welcome them to the NAC and let our neighbors know. City Councilor Ian King said that there are thousands of business licenses issued, such as for businesses in people's homes. He said we should get this information through a public records request. Ray Bowman said that Portland used to list new businesses in the Business Journal, so there is precedent for this.

Other issues:

The next NAC meeting is Thursday, May 24. Dinner was not going to be served at this meeting, contrary to what was posted on the agenda, but now we will have some sub sandwiches thanks to Charles Wilson's generosity!.

The Planning Commission will probably decide the Apple Way Walmart issue on May 16. The results will be posted Wednesday, May 23. Our next meeting will have an agenda item to discuss the results in case we want to appeal.

Meeting end time: 8:55 pm