

City of Beaverton
Neighborhood Association Committee Meeting Minutes

NAC: Denney Whitford / Raleigh West

Date: March 9, 2017

Board members present:

Co-Chair: Sherry Moore

Co-Chair: Ernie Conway

BCCI Rep: Michelle Lupo

Treasurer: Sheri Struk

Recorder: Tracy Thornton

Quorum present? Yes No

Meeting start time: 7:00

Beaverton Police Department Report: Officer Justin Haugen gave an update on crime stats. In last month's meeting, one of the concerns was graffiti, and he noted that for February there were 3 reports of vandalism (which includes graffiti), but January had 8, so there appears to be a decrease. In general, most crime types have gone down except DUIs, which the department tends to focus on.

The department is close to implement the use of body cameras. A "train the trainer" session is coming up in the next couple of weeks, and the plan is to roll out this new technology to the officers after that.

Check the department website for car seat clinics and drug recycling events:
<http://www.beavertonpolice.org/>

Michelle Lupo asked about cables laid across Larch Drive between Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway and 5th Street. Officer Haugen said that those are normally set up by the Traffic Department for cases where, for example, they receive a report that people are speeding in a neighborhood. The cables allow the Traffic Department to gather statistics and take appropriate action and/or report back to the person who reported the issue.

The department plans to hire about five new officers in June. The officers who were placed on administrative leave due to the shooting on 170th are due back to work in a couple of weeks.

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue Report (Station 53): No report.

Tualatin Hills Parks & Recreation District Report: Kelly McNutt continues to cover for Heath Wright as the temporary center supervisor at the Harman Swim Center and as our THPRD rep. She reported that THPRD's master sign replacement plan, due to a logo change, is phasing in sign updates. The plan is to replace the remaining 266 signs by the end of March. The Cedar Hills rec center is getting a new playground; work has started and will continue through the end of May.

The Nature Park has changed its volunteer strategy. It used to try to get volunteers who could commit to a lengthy term, but it was difficult to find people willing to commit to that much time. They have switched to shorter volunteer assignments and they have seen a huge increase (73%) in volunteers; thus, they'll continue to use this system. Volunteering is open to all ages, and they're seeing a lot of student volunteers.

THPRD won the budget presentation award for the 13th consecutive year. This award judges the effectiveness of an organization's policy document, their financial planning, and how the budget presentation works as a communications device. Kelly reminded us that THPRD budget meetings are open to the public.

City of Beaverton
Neighborhood Association Committee Meeting Minutes

NAC: Denney Whitford / Raleigh West

THPRD has won a \$3.7 million grant from Metro for a new, 1.5 mile long, 12 feet wide section of trail that will connect the Beaver Creek trail to Hocken Ave. The anticipated benefits are more pleasant, off street passage for its users, a safer way to travel that area, and improved access to light rail for people not using cars; this trail section will also feed into commercial areas. This trail fills a gap in THPRD's 70 mile trail system.

In the aquatics area, THPRD's 50 meter pool is in its second remodeling phase, and will be closed down for a portion of summer into fall; exact dates are TBD (but will be announced as soon as they're known). This will create an influx of people into the other swim centers. The swim centers continue to host "Dive-In Movies"; the next one is scheduled for March 25th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Harmon and the movie is Disney's "Beauty and the Beast." These have been popular events. The "first free Fridays" program is also continuing; this program allows people to use the aquatics facilities at no cost for open swim, lap swim, and/or family swim on the first Friday of every month.

Guest Speaker:

Cherilyn Bertges from Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative (OBRC) gave a presentation on a new, stand-alone "bottle drop" center that is going in where Pier 1 used to be located, at 9307 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway. Ernie noted for the attendees that this was not a public hearing or a preliminary meeting; OBRC has already filed their permits with the City and has been approved to move into that space. This is an informational presentation to let people know how the new center will work and to give them a chance to ask questions.

A bottle drop center accepts and processes deposit containers returned in Oregon, regardless of where they're purchased. This function, now being performed by many retail grocery stores (such as Fred Meyer or Safeway) is being moved, with the financial support of those stores, to stand alone centers like the one OBRC is creating. There are currently 19 of these centers open across the state, including one on Highway 99 in Tigard; the Beaverton location will be their 20th. These drop centers are different from grocery store self-service facilities. These locations are staffed, indoor facilities that provide additional services, such as a bag drop program, a manual bottle count by staff, and state of the art self-service vending machines that are able to both accept containers more quickly and to accept mixed containers; glass, aluminum, and plastic containers can all be recycled together. OBRC strives to provide a good retail experience and focuses on keeping the facilities safe and clean.

For people wanting their bottle returns hand counted, staff will count up to 50 containers at a time while you wait. The self-service machines work much like those at grocery stores, only faster, and they're designed in such a way that they don't break down as often. The biggest difference between these centers and a grocery store is the "green bag" drop-off program. To participate in this program, you need to sign up for an account. You are then given a green plastic bag to take home along with bag tags; each bag holds between 75 and 100 containers. You then fill the bag and drop it off at the center any time during drop-off hours (7:00 am to 10:00 pm; note that while some other centers are open 24/7, City of Beaverton code restricts retail business hours to this range.) Staff members then count your bottles and deposit the redemption value to your account. You can access those funds at any center or also at participating retailers, such as Fred Meyer and Safeway. At those locations, you get your cash by going to a special bottle drop kiosk where you print out a receipt and then redeem that for cash from a cashier. As an added incentive, if you're going to use your cash to shop in that store, the store will give you \$.06 for every \$.05 in redemption value. You can take out as much as \$80 at a time (which would have a shopping value of \$96).

City of Beaverton
Neighborhood Association Committee Meeting Minutes

NAC: Denney Whitford / Raleigh West

These centers are an important way for retailers to manage the growing volume of recycling that is expected when all other containers (such as Gatorade and juices) fall under the Oregon bottle bill starting in 2018. The Oregon Liquor Control Commission oversees the state's recycling program and ensures that certain conveniences stay in place when recycling moves from grocers to these centers, such as easy parking, onsite wheel carts to help with transporting your containers, the drop off service, and open hours seven days per week. The only retailers who can participate in this program (that is, retailers that can stop accepting recycled containers or severely limit the number they will accept) are those with stores that are over 5000 square feet. There are 19 participating retailers, who fund these centers so that the centers can take over their bottle bill obligations. Six of these retailers will continue to accept up to 24 containers per person per day.

The new Beaverton center will have winter hours (when the facility is staffed) from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm, and it will be open until 7:00 pm in the summer. The center will hire 7-8 employees. The green bag drop off door will be accessible from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm for users of that program.

For more information, see the website at www.BottleDropCenters.com.

Questions/concerns

Security: Cherilyn noted that the other centers have not had issues with loitering because the facilities are staffed during business hours and they do not allow loitering on their sites. Security cameras will be placed throughout the facility. In some other locations around the state, security guards have been hired; the determination for whether that is needed will come after the facility has been up and running.

The Tigard facility is the one considered most like the Beaverton facility in terms of volume and the neighborhood area. An audience member noted that the two sites are not alike, because the Tigard facility is part of a large strip mall area and has a very large parking lot; there was concern that the parking lot at this facility would be too small.

One person expressed concerns that this site would see people dumping cans at night, creating sanitation and safety issues. Cherilyn noted that staff of the centers will keep the area clean during business hours and it's not expected that people will drop off redeemable containers outside of business hours, since the purpose of the facility is to redeem recyclable containers for money, and there will be no way to do that outside of the regular hours.

Traffic: Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway is a very busy street and there are concerns about people trying to turn left out of the parking lot, which is quite difficult at certain times of the day or on certain days of the week, such as Saturdays, when the facility is likely to be busy. Trucks will enter the facility to pick up recycling during regular business hours; when truck drivers plan their routes, they ensure that they take only right turns as this is more logistically and cost efficient for them. It was also noted that there would be less truck traffic overall because a truck is going to one facility to pick up recycling rather than having to stop at Fred Meyer, then New Seasons, then Rite Aid (for example).

Someone asked why a traffic study was not done. Scott Whyte, Senior Planner with the City, explained that because the use did not change, there was no requirement for a traffic study. An individual can request a traffic study if a specific issue is noticed, which could lead to a hearing before the Traffic Commission (Ernie, who is also chair of the Traffic Commission, commented about this process.) However, Scott noted that the best place to start is for neighbors to talk to each other about concerns; sometimes these issues can be resolved simply with additional signage (for example).

City of Beaverton
Neighborhood Association Committee Meeting Minutes

NAC: Denney Whitford / Raleigh West

There's a concern that this is located next to a medical/veterinary facility. There is a private road between the bottle drop center and the veterinary clinic, and it was assumed that people wanting to turn left would make a right turn out of the bottle drop center, then make another quick right turn onto this road as a way of getting to a road that would allow drivers to get to a light which would make a left turn onto BHH possible. There was no discussion about whether this was an issue when Pier 1 was operating at this location.

Other concerns:

Several people expressed general frustration with the fact that they were not notified about this new facility. Scott Whyte explained that the usage for this facility commercial (e.g. retail), not industrial, and nothing is being processed on site; containers are collected and then transported to another facility for processing. Because the usage did not change from the previous occupant (Pier 1), City law does not require any notifications to go out, and the City must follow the law equitably for all businesses seeking permits. (This is the same reason no traffic study was required.) On the other hand, if OBRC wanted to have the facility open for extended hours (before 7:00 am or after 10:00 pm), for example, then they would need to apply for a conditional use permit, and that would have triggered a notification to neighboring property owners. Ernie noted that an ongoing and frustrating problem in this NAC is that so many properties are next to unincorporated areas or county areas, making jurisdictional concerns and differences difficult for the average citizen. This is a similar issue to the one faced when Walmart put in its Apple Way location; because it was a grocery store going into a location that had previously been a grocery store, no notification process was triggered. However, Walmart did ask for a conditional use permit for extended hours, which created the need for them to have a public meeting. Scott Whyte noted that OBRC's permits have already been processed and they have met the conditions required by City code (such as using lighting techniques that shield light from neighboring properties). One person noted that he had been working with the City for four months to have a public process where these issue could be discussed, claiming that neither the City nor the applicant would agree to this process.

Scott explained that there was no requirement for a public hearing because the usage was not changing. This is City law. OBRC is going into an existing building. They are remodeling the building and doing some minor landscaping. They will have to meet specific design and lighting standards, but all of this is handled, by law, through an administrative review process at the City. This facility falls under the permitted use for its zone (commercial), so they must be treated the same as any other facility that would fall under permitted use. One person questioned how this could be considered permitted use when this is the first facility of its kind to be located in Beaverton. Scott noted that this usage is already done in commercial use areas, such as the stand-alone bottle return area at Fred Meyer. Businesses change owners all the time in Beaverton; when the usage does not change, no notification or public hearing is required.

OBRC's attendance at this NAC meeting was something they chose to do, not a requirement like other types of public meetings (as Ernie had noted at the beginning). Cherilyn noted that applications for these facilities go through OLCC, and those applications are always open for public comment. Comments are reviewed and considered by OLCC before they approve a site. Once a site is approved, OBRC follows the process outlined by the city in which they are locating the facility.

Ernie noted that if one has a concern about the City's development code, which is currently under review, contact the City Planning Department or Traffic Department for more information.

Useful links:

Washington County and City of Beaverton Community Development Needs questionnaire:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CDBGNeedsSurvey>

City of Beaverton
Neighborhood Association Committee Meeting Minutes

NAC: Denney Whitford / Raleigh West

City of Beaverton Development Code:

<http://www.beavertonoregon.gov/463/Development-Code>

The City's survey about the development code is now closed, but this link gives you more information and an e-mail address to send more feedback:

<http://www.beavertonoregon.gov/1165/Custom-Survey>

Guest Speaker: Holly Thompson, candidate for THPRD Board of Directors. Holly lives in Beaverton and is a heavy user of THPRD facilities and parks; in fact, this was part of the reason she chose to move to Beaverton. She is running for the board because she noticed that no one looks like her on the board; there are no women, no moms. She believes that we have an amazing park district, but wants to spotlight some issues, particularly affordability and equitable access. She works for the City of Beaverton and wants government to be open, transparent, and good at communication and will bring that perspective to the THPRD board. She does not have a passion for only one particular area (such as nature parks or rec centers); she wants to represent all areas, all age groups. She will be part of the special election held on May 16th. She noted that these special elections can be neglected but encouraged everyone to vote, even if they're not voting for her. More information about Holly can be found at <https://ThompsonforTHPRD.com>.

Treasurer's Report: We had one deposit from the City: \$545.00 for volunteer activities. Our current checking account balance is \$6,306.85.

BCCI Report: The last BCCI meeting was an update to City Council, where they presented a review of what they did last year. They sponsored and/or organized several different events, including the Voters' Forum, three meetings about the new Public Safety Center, two neighborhood cleanups; they and partnered with Visioning Committee to adopt their priorities; and they continue to support the community booth at the Farmer's Market, which allows groups to create awareness and earn some money. BCCI is taking over matching grant program; with this program, the City will match volunteer hours for improvements in your neighborhood. Contact your NAC leaders if you have any ideas for improvements.

Old Business:

McKay Elementary book club update: Sherry procured over 75 books, with some more at the Harmon Swim Center. Books or gift cards are accepted.

Consent Agenda

Approval of minutes (October and February (January was canceled due to weather)): Sherry moved to accept the consent agenda. Michelle seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

New Business:

Ernie proposed that the Denney Whitford/Raleigh West NAC will take over sponsoring a ten-gallon garbage can at two TriMet bus stops on Scholls Ferry Road near Harmon Swim Center. Ernie and Tracy both use these stops regularly and there is no trash can and a trash problem there. TriMet will put out the cans, but they must be sponsored by a group, who agrees to empty them. Because an individual cannot sponsor them, Ernie would like the NAC to be the sponsor, and then he will take on the responsibility of emptying the can. (There was no vote taken on this; we will revisit at the next meeting.)

Miles suggested a matching grant for an iPad with a data service package and upgrade to the WebEx account so that we can establish the process for allowing people to attend NAC meetings remotely (or

City of Beaverton
Neighborhood Association Committee Meeting Minutes

NAC: Denney Whitford / Raleigh West

watch recording after the fact). The grant should cover the cost of equipment and one year of data; after that, we will need to decide whether to continue the program or not.

Sherry asked whether any NAC was using a PO box so we don't lose mail when the person on our bank account moves. Miles said that we could have checks held at the City, but someone would have to go pick it up.

Question: Why there are sidewalks on Denney Road west of Hwy 217 and the speed limit is 35 mph, while east of 217 there are no sidewalks and the speed limit is 30 mph; the east side is considerably narrower. Ernie explained that speed limits are set by ODOT; the City technically can't change speed limit. However, concerns about speed limits can be brought before the Traffic Commission; if they agree that there are good reasons to change the speed limit, then they will make a recommendation to ODOT. Ernie also noted that the area from BelAire east to Scholls Ferry Road is on the capital improvement plan and may eventually get sidewalks or other improvements. The work is not scheduled for 2017-18, but it's on the radar.

Question: Does the City have an input on the route TriMet chose for its new bus line from Washington Square down Denney Road to the Beaverton Transit Center? Scott Whyte (noting this was not his area of expertise) commented that usually TriMet and the City work together. They gather information from surveys and other community feedback but also consider that the City has made getting around without a car is a key issue. Ernie noted that this new bus line addresses TriMet's "last mile" program; TriMet has found that if someone has to walk more than ½ a mile to transit, they won't use it. So TriMet is reviewing areas without service (such as the Vose neighborhood along Denney Road) and trying to fill in those gaps. This new bus line is not a direct line from Washington Square to Beaverton Transit Center; there will be stops along Denney Road. This may create traffic backups. People were encouraged to contact TriMet with their concerns.

Meeting end time: 8:34