

Highland Neighborhood Association Committee (NAC) Meeting

September 14th, 2017 6:30pm

Highland Park Middle School library

Members: Bernadette Le, Wyn Ward, Robin Senn, Alan Donaldsen, Jim Connelly, Carol Aquino, Robin Whitaker

Board: Lindsey Lewman, chair, Jeff Menzel, treasurer, Reggie Frumkin, recorder, Juanita Coparanis, Konnette Etheredge, Aaron Frumkin

Presenters: Officer Matt Matias of the Beaverton Police Department (BPD), Ranger Kyle Spinks of the Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District (THPRD), Victor Sin of the Office of the Mayor, City of Beaverton

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm by Jeff, with introductions. Quorum present

Presentations:

Officer Matt Matias, BPD:

*Car Seat Clinic at Kuni Auto Center September 16th 9am-12pm

*Distributed crime statistics for July 2017

-300% more thefts than July 2016 with mostly people breaking into cars and stealing packages off porches

-Keep car doors locked, sign up with mail carriers for package arrival alerts

*Distributed information on Community Watch Security Camera Registry

-Does not mean BPD can access camera whenever they want

-Just informs BPD that you have one, in case video evidence is needed for other crimes

*Distributed information on new Oregon House Bill 2597

-Effective October 1st

-Basic law requirement: It is illegal to drive while holding or using an electronic device (e.g. cell phone, tablet, GPS, laptop)

Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue: Absent

Ranger Kyle Spinks, THPRD:

Citizen science program:

*Distributed neighborhood map indicating amphibian surveys in Hyland Woods and restoration project in Fir Grove East property (approximately 12755 SW 22nd St.)

*THPRD Natural Resources is leading surveys of about a dozen frog and turtle breeding sites around the district, as well as of pollinator sites

*The headwaters of a Fanno Creek tributary in the northeast corner of Hyland Woods have a small artificial pond but have the most active breeding site for northern red-legged frogs in all of the district

*Monitoring specifically red-legged frogs because they are a sensitive species in Oregon (one level below endangered; the species is on decline, usually due to habitat loss, and are on watch list)

*Red-legged frogs are an indicator species for over-all wetland health

*One male to every three to five females

-Through counting egg masses, one can estimate population

*Volunteers surveyed multiple times over several weeks to determine peak breeding period and over-all population

*Data is shared regionally with Lower Willamette Turtle Working Group, Metro, and local groups to monitor health of amphibians regionally

*Comment made that pond is currently dry

-These frogs can breed in seasonal ponds, and juvenile growth speeds up as water level decreases

-Most of life spent out of water in the woods

*There is a training for volunteer surveyors - sign up on THPRD Natural Resources website

-Frog surveys in winter, turtles in late spring to summer

Fir Grove East property update:

*Habitat area is too small to remove competing trees that would allow the existing Oregon white oaks to fully flourish in full sun

*Focus on removing English ivy, Himalayan blackberry, English holly

*Native trees and shrubs to be planted in 2018

-All plant stock grown locally, with many donated from Clean Water Services for watershed health enhancement

-Open area near oaks has seemed to function as a natural gathering space and will not be as heavily planted out

*Question was asked about new trails being installed

-No plans at this time but remain a future possibility

*Question asked about choosing official park name

-Send formal memorandum from NAC to THPRD Board of Directors

*Most THPRD natural areas have remnant trees and wildlife from endemic ecosystems that have inspired other park names around the district

General news:

*Howard M. Terpenning aquatic center reopening in December

*Question was asked about who maintains Beaverton School District (BSD) grounds

-THPRD and BSD have intergovernmental agreement for field maintenance in exchange for use

Victor Sin, Office of the Mayor, City of Beaverton:

*NAC can receive assistance from him and the City in event planning

*Distributed information on Beaverton Welcoming Week, September 15th-24th

-Annual series of events bringing together immigrants, refugees, and U.S.-born residents to raise awareness of Beaverton's many cultures and the benefits of welcoming everyone

-Part of greater "Welcoming America"

*Beaverton Restaurant Week September 28th-October 8th

-Twenty local restaurants showcasing special dishes (beavertonoregon.gov/eat)

*Question was asked about new food cart pod at Rose Biggi Avenue and Millikan Way

-Currently 20 food carts signed up out of roughly 30 spaces, some of which also have brick-and-mortar restaurants

-Estimated completion is early October

*Farmington Road widening between 149th Avenue and Erickson Avenue is complete

-August 29th was the ribbon-cutting

*Question was asked about status of vacant lot(s) acquired for 141st Avenue realignment south of new signaled 141st-142nd Avenue/Farmington Road intersection

-Could still be private property, with eventual fate unknown

*Distributed information on joining a board or commission

-City seeking volunteers to serve as members

-Deadline to apply is Monday, October 2nd, 2017

-Terms begin January 1st, 2018

*Distributed information on the Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Summit, Saturday, September 30th at City Hall, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

-Interactive educational booths, learn essential prep tips from experts, refreshments served and family-friendly

Treasurer's Report

*Current balance: \$3964.72

*Checks will be written for reimbursement of personal expenses for June history/architecture tour and August work party

Ideation

Fall photo contests (Lindsey):

*General fall theme contest to be rolled out immediately with winner decided by mid-October

-Photos of scenery taken within NAC boundary that exemplify autumnal qualities

*Halloween contest to be announced mid-October with winner decided just before Halloween

-Photos of decorated houses or yards (avoiding people in costumes due to privacy)

*Winners receive \$25 gift card to a neighborhood business

*Contest promotion to be done on Facebook and Nextdoor websites and with a yard sign

*Konnette mentioned she went to Ace Hardware and they are willing to donate

*Lindsey moved to approve two \$25 gift cards from local businesses, Konnette seconded, no discussion, passed unanimously

-Lindsey moved to amend motion to approve \$75 for prizes and a two-sided contest sign, Jeff seconded, no discussion, passed unanimously

Fall neighborhood walk (Lindsey, Reggie):

*Lindsey suggested a "Turkey Trot" around Thanksgiving

-Date to be determined at next meeting

*No informational hand-outs, just a neighborhood walk

Hart Roundabout mason bee hive (Jeff):

*Jeff will check the status and report back

-Indicated that own personal hive had some bee retention after stocking, likely similar case for NAC's hive

New neighbor welcome packets (Lindsey, Jeff):

*Ace Hardware donated keychains

*Need to identify businesses to partner with

*Victor indicated that the City GIS department could provide cartographic assistance

-Aaron suggested that the City could make future walking tour maps

*Question was asked about availability of small-scale neighborhood maps for emergency preparedness

-City has many maps available on website, including individual NAC maps with taxlots

Review of August 5th work party at Highland Park southeast hill restoration site (Reggie):

*Eleven volunteers dug out Himalayan blackberries, weeded and watered new plants, and removed litter

*88% survival rate of the new plants (100 total were planted)

*Reggie moved to approve up to \$120 for up to 12 native replacement plants

-Jim suggested the NAC first ask Clean Water Services (CWS) for replacement donations

-Reggie amended motion to ask CWS first, and if the response is negative the

NAC will be prepared with an alternative replacement plan

-Lindsey seconded amended motion, unanimously approved

Cut-through trails matching grant (Konnette):

*NAC could submit grant to maintain and beautify neighborhood pedestrian trails

-The trails are meant to accommodate bicycling but tree roots are impacting smoothness of pavement

*Victor mentioned that the City has a priority list of trail repairs, and trails in Highland are most likely on that list

- *Suggestion was made to have a clean-up, either by City staff or volunteers, with pruning, litter removal, and blackberry trimming
- *Bernadette mentioned that trail repaving itself might be best suited exclusively for City public works staff
- *Victor suggested that NAC members walk the trails and take photos to send to the City
- *Jeff suggested a maintenance event could tie in with a fall leaf clean-up that already happens at Highland Park Middle School

New trees along north Highland Park Middle School property boundary (Wyn):

- *Mature shore pines were removed between the path and fence in last year or so, and over two dozen replacement columnar maple and oak trees were planted along north boundary of the school grounds behind her house
- *Mentioned her husband and some neighbors do not want the new trees behind their houses
 - Concerned that the shade will affect their backyard gardening and that trees are too close together and to pre-existing trees
 - Said that they did not have a say in the replanting
- *Seeking solution and a point of contact
- *Reggie indicated that the trees likely may have been a mitigation for the removal of the shore pines, and that while THPRD mows the athletic fields, BSD is most likely responsible for the planting and establishing of the trees - there are BSD groundskeepers who manage the over-all school landscaping who may be able to help
- *Reggie suggested that if any of the new trees do not survive, alternative locations on the school grounds should be explored for replacements that minimize potential conflict with neighbors, high-voltage wires, and existing trees

Work party tools (Konnette, Reggie):

- *Ace Hardware willing to donate tools for recurring NAC work parties
 - Wyn mentioned the NAC would need a long-term storage location and to ensure neighbors don't borrow tools and not return them
- *Alternative options are borrowing tools from public works or continuing to ask attendees to bring personal tools

Round robin:

- *NAC leadership meeting, 6pm at Griffith building (old city hall), September 28th
 - Open to all NAC residents
- *Beaverton Committee for Citizen Involvement (BCCI) meeting, September 30th, 10-1
- *Reggie seeking volunteers to help plant replacement trees provided by the City at the Arbor Week 2017 planting site in October when the soil is workable
- *Konnette suggested a city arborist come to the next NAC meeting and present on preserving and replacing aging trees
 - Indicated that the Highland neighborhood was built around existing mature trees and new neighbors, many from out of state, may not be used to living among large trees and appreciate their environmental and community benefits
 - In recent winter storms, ornamental trees in neighborhood were most affected
 - Native trees are more resilient and adapted to the climate
 - Victor or Lindsey could look into options for next meeting
- *Victor offered assistance from the City for event planning and business sponsorship outreach

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm