

City of Beaverton  
Neighborhood Association Committee Meeting Minutes

**NAC: Denney Whitford / Raleigh West**

Date: January 11, 2018

Board members present:

Co-Chair: Sherry Moore

Co-Chair: Ernie Conway

BCCI Rep: (vacant)

Treasurer: Sheri Struk

Recorder: Tracy Thornton

Quorum present?  Yes  No

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Meeting start time: 7:01

**Beaverton Police Department Report:** Officer Justin Haugen brought crime statistics for the neighborhood. There has been an increase in the theft of vehicles, particularly at dealerships on Canyon Road. He noted that the NextDoor app is a great way to connect with neighbors, but it can give a false representation of how bad crime is in your area; in general, crime is not on the rise.

Upcoming events:

- Document shredding event: Sunset Presbyterian on Cornell on Feb. 10, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.
- Car seat clinic: Kuni Auto Center on Cedar Hills Blvd., Jan. 20 from 9:00 am to 11:30 am.
- On any day during regular business hours, you can drop off prescription medications at the Police Department, right next to the records window inside the front door.

Work on the new Public Safety Center is progressing. Square footage for the new building will be similar to that of the current old City Hall building, giving the department room to grow. The courts will not be located in the new building. On Thursday, Feb. 1 from 5:30-7:30 pm, there will be a Public Safety Center Design Open House at the Bridge Meadows community room on Allen Blvd. Square footage - similar to current City Hall building; lots more room to grow.

The Police Chief is focusing on getting staffing levels up to where they should be among the patrol officers; other positions are not being filled right now until that's done. The department is seeing more vacancies due to retirements

**Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue Report (Station 53):** Lt. Mitchell described the facility and services for their station (which is our local neighborhood station on Scholls). In 2017, they ran over 60,000 calls in the district. He reminded everyone to be careful and drive safely when it's dark during your morning and evening commute. He passed out some handouts with general safety tips for your furnace. He recommended that everyone have a carbon monoxide detector. If you have questions about the codes on your detector, don't hesitate to call TVF&R. He also recommends smoke detectors (remember to change your batteries when you change your clocks in the fall and spring!); these devices actually save lives.

The district has picked up some new areas, which gives them more staff to cover areas that are busier (like Beaverton). Some stations are staffing shifts with paramedic-only people who can be first responders to smaller incidents and then decide whether and what kind of additional resources are needed. This allows them to deploy resources more effectively across the area.

Homelessness is a big issue now; an empty building can no longer be considered empty as they often find homeless people living in them. The homeless population is also a heavy user of their services. When responding to a call, TVF&R can point the person to available services. For example, they have a

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list of shelters to send people to, but they're often full. On any given night there's only one shelter open for the entire community. TVF&R track the time spent on calls very closely to determine how to structure their services across the district. The TVF&R Records Specialist may be able to provide statistics about calls to help homeless people.

**Tualatin Hills Parks & Recreation District Report:** Heath Wright passed around a brief survey to help THPRD NAC reps know what sort of information we need at our meetings.

The Aquatics Center at 158th and Walker is set to open on Jan. 16. Facebook has pictures from the entire project. Veteran's Memorial Park is getting some ADA enhancements, due to be completed by March. The Garden Home Rec Center Library is being expanded, and maintenance is doing a lot of upgrades to the facility.

The next women's only swim will be on Feb. 4 at Sunset Swim Center from 5:30-6:30 pm; the next one will be at the Aloha Swim Center from 3:00-4:30 pm on Feb. 10. Free open swims continue on the first Friday of each month; THPRD has seen an uptick in attendance at those.

In case of inclement weather, THPRD has a 24-hour hotline at 503-614-4018, and their webpage and Facebook pages are updated in the event of a closure.

The sewer repairs along the Fanno Creek Trail are complete and the trail is open again.

**City report:**

Holly Thompson gave the report in Lani's place. The State of the City event was held this morning. It was very successful with about 300 people attending. It had less of a traditional speech and more time for networking. A fun video is on the City's website along with a transcript of the Mayor's speech. The City will be brainstorming about the "meet the Mayor" events; he used to go out to a few NAC meetings but they're looking for new approaches this year.

Holly noted that the Public Safety Center Design Open House is an opportunity for the public to provide comments on how to make the center a good neighbor and to give feedback on design and accessibility.

There will be a Downtown Design Project Open House on Monday, Jan. 22 at Main Library from 6:00-8:00 pm. The City has done a lot of visioning work about downtown, and this project is getting into the details of what the downtown is going to look like and what codes or standards need to be in place.

The City will again be hosting a volunteer fair on Saturday, March 17 from 10:00 am -1:00 pm at the Main Library. More than 40 local non-profits will participate and it's a good place for people to find ways to get involved with these organizations.

Holly provided background and context for Beaverton's homelessness issue. The number of homeless people in Beaverton has been fairly stable. However, visibility is increasing due to more people camping in their RVs and cars, such as at 5th and Western.

Holly handed out some statistics. It's hard to know precisely how many homeless people we have, but the number is estimated to be about 800 people living on the street without shelter. In addition, the Beaverton School District counts students who are living in unstable or unsafe housing, who may resort to couch surfing and moving from home to home; that number is higher. The Mayor and City Council have been talking about this issue. Part of the difficulty in addressing the problem comes from the specific roles and responsibilities normally held by various government entities. Traditionally, human

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service needs (that would address the issue of homelessness) are handled at the county level. So the City is considering how to play a supporting role in this issue. The City doesn't have social workers, so there's no existing structure in place.

Because of the need, Mayor Doyle put together a task force in 2016. One of their recommendations, which City Council had already recommended, was to open a severe weather shelter. The City's shelter is managed as part of a county-wide system and operates out of the Beaverton Community Shelter; it can host up to 30 people per night. Most shelters are in churches, but we were not able to find a faith-based center willing to take this on, so the City took it on and contracts with a non-profit to run it, along with volunteers. The shelter is open on Thursday nights, although it may be open more in special circumstances, like during last year's "Snowmageddon." The shelter is able to open extra nights thanks to volunteers stepping up. The shelter always needs more volunteers, especially people to stay overnight; see their website for details.

The shelter averages about 22 people per night but has hit maximum capacity on a couple of nights, at which point the shelter must turn people away. It is adults only for safety reasons; it doesn't have the ability to separate people and has no capacity to host families with children, and that's a need that also has to be addressed. On the agenda at next Tuesday's Council Meeting is a request to fund Beaverton Family Promise, which follows a national model with great success rates (around 70%) in taking people from homelessness into stable housing by providing transitional housing.

Because it's very difficult to find a single building to dedicate to transitional housing, this organization works to find 13 different organizations to each take four weeks a year (they don't have to be consecutive), set up a safe place for people to spend the night, and provide a different location where they can stay during the day. A case manager works with each family on their obstacles for permanent housing. Holly is optimistic that Beaverton Family Promise will be up and running in February. The proposal before Council is to fund Beaverton Family Promise for about \$50,000 for the first year. THPRD will be hosting a couple of weeks a year, and the City will as well. Traditionally this has been a faith-based activity; we're seeing interest at a national level because most places haven't seen a city provide this sort of coordination and participation. This can serve up to 5 families, 14 individuals at a time, which is an almost a perfect match to what the actual need is in the school district.

Holly also noted that our library is essentially functioning as a day center for many in our homeless population. The nature of libraries has changed, but librarians aren't social workers; they are having to learn new skills for referring people to social services and dealing with mental health issues. She is working with Abigail Elder, Library Director, on having a dedicated information referral person at the library who understands that spectrum of services. They will be taking a field trip to Eugene Public Library in February to talk about their approach to homelessness.

One of our county-wide challenges is that we simply don't have enough street outreach workers; we have five people for the whole county, and they must work in pairs for safety reasons. These people go out into the community, make contact with homeless individuals, build a relationships, and then work to get them into resource referral. 80% of people who are homeless at any one time are put in that situation because of an event in their life (e.g., domestic violence, substance abuse); if we can help them solve the situation in front of them, they can get into stable housing. For another 10% of people, homelessness is a cyclical issue; they're in and out of stable housing. For the last 10%, their homelessness is chronic, and often this is the category where we find the bad actors that get a lot of attention but we can't help them because they don't want to be helped. So the city's focus is on the 80%: figure out how to get them the right resources and programs to address their barriers. So we don't want to invest more in shelters; the goal is to get people into stable housing and stopping homelessness in the

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first place. We want to spend more money on the preventative pieces, things like emergency rent or utility payment assistance.

The City gives over \$1 million a year to different social service functions, including about \$250k to the Social Services Funding Committee.

The City has definitely seen a spike in people camping on the streets (e.g., the 5<sup>th</sup> and Western issue). The Police Department has focused bike officers on the issue. Our bike officers, Ben and Mark, are becoming front line social workers. Helping these folks is not as simple as walking up getting them to accept your help. They're living on the street and have been stripped of their dignity; it takes a lot of trust to believe someone can actually help them. Ben and Mark have become the department's experts on how to work with homeless campers and how to refer them to services. They do this work one person at a time by getting to know people, figuring out what their issues are, and figuring out where they need to go.

The overnight camping issue is difficult to address. The City currently has no prohibition for overnight camping. There are lots of calls coming in asking the City to please do something about it, but the City doesn't have the power with current rules to have much impact on the issue. City Council had a session to discuss an ordinance that would prohibit overnight camping, which is defined as using your vehicle for living /camping in the public right of way. But if we're going to prohibit it when there's not enough housing and shelter space, what more can we do? The Police Department has no interest in overutilizing such an ordinance, but they do want a tool in their toolkit to address those bad actors in the last 10% described above, those whom we've tried to help but they don't want the help. Council was working toward a public hearing, but took a step back to allow the City to line up more social services and to leverage Beaverton's participation to get more cities in Washington County involved.

The City is also looking at a safe parking program, which finds parking lots that can be managed with a permit system so that those without stable housing could safely park there overnight. There would be conditions and time conditions; while you're there, you would have to agree to work with a case manager to work toward stable housing. Eugene's model for this is based on using carefully controlled church parking lots; no such program exists in Washington County right now.

Councilor San Soucie suggested that the NAC ask a representative from Washington County (such as an assistant county administrator) to come to a NAC meeting to talk about what the County is doing to address this issue.

**Treasurer's Report:** Sheri reported that we had a \$1.36 dividend deposit on Dec. 31, and we now have \$6,425.22 in our account.

**BCCI Report:** Michelle has left the board, so we the BCCI Rep position is now vacant. (We're looking for a volunteer to take over!)

**Consent Agenda**

Ernie moved we approve the minutes as written, and Sherry seconded. The motion passed 3-0; Sheri abstained because she was not at the meeting.

**New Business:**

As discussed in our November NAC meeting, Chick-fil-A wants to extend their operating hours (but not open hours); there will be a public hearing for a conditional use permit before the Planning Commission on Feb. 7, 2018. Written comments are due to the City by Friday, Jan. 26, 2018, no later than 4:30 pm.

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Bank of America held a neighborhood meeting for a conditional use permit for a 24-hour ATM. Ernie was the only one who attended the meeting and he suspects the conditional use permit will be approved.

Ernie reported that the NAC received a request by a lawyer who represents families who live behind the Oregon Bottle Return building on Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway; the lawyer has asked the NAC to facilitate a meeting. The neighbors he represents are arguing that the bottle return facility is a recycling center and should be located in an industrial zone rather than a commercial zone; the City considers the facility a collection center and thus it is allowed in a commercial zone. The neighbors appealed the City's decision to LUBA (Land Use Board of Appeals), who remanded the issue back to the City (that is, the neighbors lost their appeal). Now the group wants to have a meeting to reopen discussion on the issue. Tracy was unclear why the NAC would be involved, as the City's decision has been made. Ernie will contact Scott Whyte in the Planning Department to determine if it is appropriate for the NAC to facilitate such a meeting and find out the appropriate process for the neighbors to try to change the City's decision.

**Meeting end time:** 8:45 pm

Next meeting is Feb. 8, 2018.