

Beaverton Committee for Community Involvement  
Minutes of June 25, 2018 Meeting

Attendees: See Sign In Sheet

Visitors: Penny Douglas – Vose NAC Chair, Jered Lane – Beaverton City Arborist, Zander Doby – Beaverton Vector Control/Public Works, Jen Fife-Adams – Executive Director – Planting Seeds

Vice Chair Sharon Dunham called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm

Introductions were made

Minutes from May 28, 2018 were approved without change and without dissent.

City Councilor Lacey Beatty provided the Council Update, touching on several important topics. She noted that she had to miss the last BCCI because she was at a meeting of the Budget Committee. The proposed budget was 1600 pages and Councilor Beatty said she and her fellow councilors read every page and arrived at what they felt is a fair, tight, efficient budget that is fiscally conservative. There will be increases in property taxes, five cents per thousand dollars, and water rates, but Councilor Beatty said the increases approved by Council were less than had been proposed. She stated that the city is in good financial shape but challenges remain, such as the planned police facility already being over budget by \$6 million due to increased costs going in. Councilor Beatty is confident the challenges ahead can be dealt with accordingly.

Councilor Beatty also detailed the on-going situation at the Bottle Drop site which is in the city but is surrounded by residents in unincorporated Washington County. Nonetheless, the situation there is generating a lot of attention and creating a concern for the city and nearby neighbors. A Land Use Board of Appeals decision on the Bottle Drop site has been remanded back to Council and Councilor Beatty says she hasn't decided which way she will vote nor does she think her fellow councilors have either.

Councilor Beatty was asked about the proposed city parking ordinance, and its impact on people who sleep in parked vehicles. Councilor Beatty said she is working behind the scenes to prevent criminalization of homeless people. She said the poverty rate in Beaverton has gone up 5% in recent years and the time has come to discuss homelessness, poverty and the lack of economic security among a growing number of city residents.

Councilor Beatty was asked to address the increase in property taxes, which said had to be done because of a lack of resources for city programs. It was noted that garbage rates are also going up, and Councilor Beatty noted that City Council has no power over those rates, but that a big reason those rates are going up is because of the difficulty in recycling some materials.

Another question concerned Beaverton's policy of having 1.4 police officers for every 1000 residents and if there is a limit on the number of officers. Councilor Beatty said there is no limit, but this City Council is not going to issue a blank check and is planning to ask a lot of questions about the police budget going forward. She urged BCCI to continue to hold Council accountable for the budget. In a brief aside, Councilor Beatty said Beaverton is becoming more and more inclusive and diverse, and called out the recent Pride parade, the first ever.

Jered Lane, recently appointed as City Arborist and Landscape Supervisor in the Public Works Department, addressed BCCI about his promotion and what he hopes to accomplish. He used a power point presentation to show the Mission of Urban Forestry program, which involves planting more trees, managing the trees we have and trimming trees. Mr. Lane said he holds himself and his staff to a higher standard, noting that Beaverton has been a Tree City USA for 24 years. He pledged to continue to provide excellent customer service, but said there will be priorities set when significant weather events occur. Mr. Lane discussed pruning and its importance to tree health. He addressed basic duties of his department which include replacing trees due to accidents and vandalism and permitting that controls where trees are planted.

Zander Doby, Program Coordinator – Vector Control in the Public Works Department, discussed a wide area of duties he is responsible to deal with – including graffiti, vector control, shopping carts and more. Shopping carts are a constant problem, he says and he said he has found some of them in pretty interesting places. Graffiti is an on-going problem, but he works with the police department in finding the culprits. Vector control is focusing on mosquitos, treating some 3000 basins every year to keep them under control. Mr. Doby urged everyone to limit the amount of standing water they have in their yards to reduce the problem. He was asked about small animals, such as nutria. Mr. Doby says he doesn't deal with them very often but he is willing to work with home owners and property managers. Mr. Doby talked about the adopt a road program, which he is very interested in expanding. He urged BCCI to inform NACs and anyone interested in knowing more to contact him for details on how it works.

A question about the on-going health of trees required to be planted in new development areas prompted Mr. Lane to respond that the city usually has a two-year agreement to maintain those trees. He urged a call to his office in the event of a tree being damaged by vandals or accident. There is a three person crew who performs repair and clean up and Mr. Lane spoke quite highly of their skills. Mr. Doby mentioned that there is a landscaping crew who does similar work and does it well. Mr. Doby was asked about the graffiti problem and he said it isn't as bad as it used to be, but the taggers today are bolder and that there are probably around 150 to 200 tags that have been cleaned up every year. He noted that mural art on trash cans and other public areas, seems to deter taggers. Most graffiti is found at bus stops, under bridges, overpasses and other visible public areas, usually not in neighborhoods.

Jen Fife-Adams, Vice-Chair of the Sexton Mountain NAC and Executive Director of Planting Seeds detailed the origin of Planting Seeds. Planting Seeds involves engaging parents, their children, teachers and residents to solve problems relating to social needs, primarily hunger

and homeless issues. Ms. Fife-Adams noted that 1 in 3 children in Beaverton is food insecure and Planting Seeds is doing what it can to find adequate food for those children in need. She outlined how Planting Seeds works by engaging all the elements of the community in programs the community chooses. She asked for BCCI's assistance in getting the word out about Planting Seeds by inviting her or a representative of Planting Seeds to NAC meetings to explain the program and ask that it be implemented in other NACs and elementary school settings.

Lani Parr provided the City Update via a handout inasmuch as the meeting was way over time. Included in the handout, a note that the Neighborhood Program is the recipient of two Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) Neighborhood of the Year awards. Five Oaks Triple Creek NAC received a first place award in the Neighborhood of the Year Beautification category and Highland Park NAC received a second place award in the Neighborhood of the Year Neighborliness category. Both NACs utilized Neighborhood Matching Grants for the programs that led to the awards.

Summer Reading sign ups began June 1<sup>st</sup> for kids, teens and adults. This year's theme is "Libraries Rock!" Visit the library for more information and sign up.

As part of the Pre-Development Grant Program, Lani reports that staff kicked off a placemaking matching grant competition for new community events in the downtown area. 15 applications have been submitted, five awards have been made. More to come in the next 18 months.

Subcommittees met briefly and returned with their reports for the meeting:

Matching Grant Subcommittee – Chair Ellen Russell reported the subcommittee approved grants for the Vose Neighborhood Picnic, August 17 at Hiteon Park. She also reported the subcommittee's coffers are about to be empty. However, the new city budget contains a 10% increase for matching grants in the new fiscal year.

Events Subcommittee – Chair Lisa Stiller reported the group discussed finding a new venue for the Voter's Forum and asked BCCI members to email her with their suggestions. The Fall Forum date is tentative, but mid-October is the target.

Land Use Subcommittee – Chair Terry Lawlor said the group continued its discussion about a Land Use 101 training event. Dates are still being considered along with topics. Chair Lawlor noted that the subcommittee members want to be included in the overall planning of the event, especially with input on topics that will be presented.

Action items:

1. Suggestions for venues for the Voter's Forum
2. Inviting Planting Seeds to NAC meetings
3. Staying current on events surrounding the Bottle Drop site and monitoring Council action

Jose Esparza told the group that THPRD is holding its first ever Fiesta en el Parque, Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at Shiffler Park. It is open to everyone and will feature crafts, artists, music, inflatables and much more.

A brief discussion about NAC event requirements and the \$300 incentive developed at the end of the meeting. Lani noted that NAC events are an opportunity to involve neighbors in NAC activities, get people on mailing lists and provide a lot of information. She said her staff will follow up as needed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm