

City of Beaverton
Neighborhood Association Committee Meeting Minutes

NAC: Denney Whitford / Raleigh West

Date: 23 Sept 2010

Board members present:

- Chair: Ernie Conway
- Vice Chair: Andrew Bynum
- BCCI Rep: Julia Sathler

- Treasurer: Martha Schauffler
- Recorder: Tracy Thornton

Quorum present? Yes No

Meeting start time: 7:05 pm

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue Report: Capt. Derek Weiss reported that the crew have moved into the new station. The Fire Engine, Medic, and Hazmat groups have also moved back to the local station, after being reassigned during construction. There will be an Open House on Oct. 2 from 10 am to 1 pm, which will give the public a change to tour the facility.

TVF&R has a new fire chief, Mike Duyck. Jeff Johnson, who has been the chief since the mid-1990s, has retired. TVF&R has two smaller FJ Cruisers, which allow a single person to take smaller calls. One is based at the Beaverton station on Farmington; the other is at the Walnut Street station.

There were three fires in our area in recent months: an apartment fire on Greenburg Road, a fire in a house under construction, and a fire in a business on Canyon Road. Call volume has been up since the crew moved into the new station. Chimney fires are a problem early in the season, so Capt. Weiss suggested you have your chimney checked if you use your fireplace.

Q: Should chimneys have inserts?

A: The fire department can't answer that; it's a question for code enforcement.

Community Policing Report: Officer Corning reported that we had two stolen vehicles in our NAC in August: One off Jamieson Road, and one off 5th Street near Maple. He recommended keeping sensitive documents out of your car, even insurance cards, because many thieves are looking for ways to commit fraud. There were six miscellaneous thefts in August as well.

The department will sponsor another car seat clinic from 9 am to 12:30 pm, Sept. 25 behind City Hall. Also on Sept. 25 is a Prescription Turn In event, from 10 am to 2 pm in the City Hall parking lot. Bring your expired medications to this event; don't flush them down the toilet. At back to school time, be sure you know the paths your children are taking to and from school or the bus. There are more tips online at the National Crime Prevention Council website (<http://www.ncpc.org/>).

Around July 4th, the West Beaverton NAC reported six or seven Drano bombs. Two incidents were reported in South Beaverton as well. These are made from 2 liter bottles or other plastic beverage containers. The container is filled with Drano, then stuffed with tin foil; if you replace

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the cap and shake it, it gets very warm and eventually explodes, spewing chemicals everywhere. If you see a beverage container that contains grey liquid or is otherwise suspicious, call the police and they will investigate, and hopefully take some evidence that will help them find the culprits. The number of reports has dropped of in recent weeks, perhaps because it has been in the news.

Some citizens have asked how they can find out about police activity in their neighborhood. In response to this, the Department is opening up a Twitter account and creating a Facebook page where they will report what has happened. The posts will appear after the activity is over, obviously, but you'll be able to keep up on what's happening.

Q: When you call 911 about an incident, how do you find out what happened?

A: If you spoke to an officer, he or she should have left a card with you. You can call that officer directly. If not, you can call the police's non-emergency number and ask what happened.

The City of Beaverton website has crime statistics broken down by neighborhood.

Guest Speakers:

The presenter from the Library was unable to attend the meeting, but left information about the upcoming vote on the library levy. This ballot measure continues the existing levy; no change in funding is being requested. If you want more detailed information, you can go to the City website and view the City Council meeting (about three weeks ago) where this information was thoroughly presented.

Barbara Fryer, Senior Planner in the Community Development Department, gave a presentation on Urban Renewal. Urban Renewal is a funding plan to fund projects that started in the Visioning Committee and then made it to the City's Civic Plan. The Visioning Committee determined that having a vibrant downtown core is important to citizens. An urban renewal feasibility study determined that there is "blight" in this area; blight is a broadly-defined term that indicates whether an area is suitable for the funding structure used in an urban renewal district.

The purpose of urban renewal is to remove blight from designated areas. Blight often means areas with bad traffic, or poor planning making them difficult to use. We want to attract and catalyze private investment; land can be acquired from willing sellers only (this is very different from eminent domain, which is for public use). The ultimate goal is to gain future tax revenue that would not otherwise be generated.

The project started with an area representing 52% of the acreage in the city, equating to 20% of the assessed value; however, that area was too large, so it was cut down. Barbara handed out maps showing the smaller area, and we were asked to place dots in areas we felt needed improvement. The area represented on that map is probably still too large, so more changes are likely, but we need to make sure there's enough land to generate the necessary incremental tax revenue.

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Urban Renewal must go before the voters. If it's approved in 2011, it will go into effect in 2012; it then has a 20-25 year timeline for completion. The City, County, and special districts (TVF&R, THPRD, Beaverton School Districts) will split the money. The money comes from tax increment financing, so we don't start with all the money up front; we will have to start with smaller projects, such as pedestrian improvements, and then take on other larger projects over time. The money can be used within the designated boundaries to buy land from willing sellers, to offer loans and grants to business owners for storefront improvements or capital improvements such as traffic signal synching. The money cannot be used for operational expenses. Property cannot be condemned for private use.

BURA (Beaverton Urban Redevelopment Agency) has a board made up of our elected City Councilors plus three community members. It has public meetings, which allow opportunity for citizens to comment. The next meeting is Sept. 30 at 5 pm. Meetings for the rest of the year are Oct. 18 at 5:30; Nov. 15 at 5:00; and Dec. 13 at 5:00. The group hopes to have a plan in place by the Dec. 13 meeting.

The next steps will then be to talk to partner agencies (THPRD, TVF&R, Beaverton School District, TriMet, Port of Portland) and take their comments to the City Council. A public hearing will happen at the Planning Commission meeting, and they want to hear your comments. The City Council will then decide whether to go forward with the plan. If the Council agrees, then it will go before the voters.

Voters will vote once for the whole 20-25 year project. The plan will list projects such as "storefront improvements" and dollar amounts, but it will not list which businesses are getting that money; that will be determined later. A second Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) will be developed to determine which projects will go forward, and each year a new budget will have to be passed by the CAC and BURA board.

Hillsboro used Urban Renewal in a very similar-sized area, about 1,000 acres. They used the money generated to revitalize their downtown area. In fact, Beaverton is the only city in the Metro jurisdiction that has not used Urban Renewal, which puts us at a disadvantage for attracting business. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Barbara Fryer directly.

Esther Griffin is the vice chair of Beaverton's Human Rights Advisory Committee (HRAC). HRAC was founded in 1993 by Mayor Drake and Councilor Betty Bode in an effort to bring our diverse community together. Problems were starting to come up at that time, and they felt it was important to be proactive with those problems between groups. HRAC worked to help pass the Civil Rights Ordinance in 2004, which added sexual orientation and gender identity to the list of classes protected against discrimination in the City Code.

The committee serves as a place to bring complaints or concerns about discrimination throughout the City. Although the committee doesn't have the power to solve many of the problems it hears about, it is able to redirect people to the appropriate agencies. They have guest speakers every other month, and their meetings are open to the public.

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HRAC is currently seeking nominations for its Diversity Award. This award is open to any individual, business, or non-profit group that has done something good to promote diversity, harmony and bringing people together within the last year. If you would like to nominate someone, please download a nomination form from the website: <http://www.beavertonoregon.gov/departments/HR/HumanRights/diversityAward.aspx>. HRAC also supports a Creative Expression Contest for school children. The honorees present their work to the City Council, and the winner of the contest presents his or her work at the City's MLK Day celebration.

Ernie reminded everyone that now is the time to apply to be on a board or commission. There are application forms on the City's website.

Neighborhood Issues / Concerns:

The Beirut Lounge continues to seek approval for a conditional use permit for extended hours. They would like to stay open until 4:00 am. They will go before the Planning Commission's September meeting.

On Wednesday, Oct. 13, the Planning Commission will review THPRD's request to adjust the right away in order to complete the Fanno Creek Trail behind the Rollingwood neighborhood. The deadline for submitting written material to the Planning Commission is Friday, Oct. 8. For those wanting to make additional comments at the Planning Commission meeting or at the City Council meeting the day before and needing help with the process, please contact Ernie for more information.

Several Rollingwood neighborhood citizens submitted a three-page document listing their concerns with the plans for the Fanno Creek trail. That document will be submitted with the minutes of this meeting. A 30-page document has been prepared for the Planning Commission.

Business Meeting:

Approval of minutes from previous meeting: Minutes from the June meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's report: None due to time constraints. Per Martha's written report: At the end of the June meeting, we had \$3,549.00 in our account. We received \$217.82 for the NAC's participation in Recycling Day in June. As of Sept. 23, our balance is \$3,767.04.

BCCI report: None due to time constraints.

Other business: None.

Meeting end time: 8:45 pm