

City of Beaverton
Neighborhood Association Committee
Meeting Minutes

NAC: Denney Whitford / Raleigh West

Date: 24 June 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: Lt. Gately reported that the crew is due to move into the new fire station building on July 7th. They expect to have a public event about a month after they move in. Lt. Gately reminded us that the weather is drying out, so we should be careful where we throw combustibles. He explained that recreational fires in a residential backyard, contained in a firepit or other container, are allowed, but no open fires are allowed. DEQ requires that such backyard fires burn clean fuel, such as logs; you can't burn yard debris. July 4 is around the corner; every year TVF&R sees a couple of house fires as the result of fireworks. Remember to put used fireworks in a bucket of water first, not directly into the garbage.

Community Policing Report: Officer White from the Beaverton Police Department reminded us of the laws around fireworks: anything that flies, explodes, or travels more than 12 feet along the ground is not allowed, and is a class B misdemeanor. Manufacturing your own fireworks is also illegal, as it's the equivalent of manufacturing explosives or bomb-making. Besides being dangerous, it's punishable with a \$500 civil fine from the fire marshall. BPB has three extra people on July 4th who take fireworks calls. Neighbors should feel free to call if they see something dangerous.

Officer Warren discussed two new moving radars that will be used by motorcycle officers. BPD purchased these with a \$10,000 grant from the federal government. The grant requires that BPD keep track of the use of the radars, such as how often their used and how many tickets are issued. The new radar machines can read several cars at the same time and can pick out the fastest car in a group of cars, which is an improvement over existing radars. The new radars automatically switch between stationary and moving use; existing radars require that to be done manually.

At the recent shredding event, people who arrived early were directed to a parking lot, and then they had trouble getting back in line once the event opened. Officer White said that this was the first time in the new Tektronix location, so there are issues to be worked out, and he would take this feedback to the appropriate people.

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Guest Speaker: State Representative Tobias Read discussed the economic struggles the state faces. For the 2009-2011 biennium, the latest forecast shows revenue below forecast, so more cuts will be required. The governor can make only across the board (rather than targeted) cuts, and he has proposed a 9% cut. The legislature is looking into making targeted cuts so that some areas can be protected. With one year left in the biennium, there is concern about the economy, and the legislature is looking at incentives for businesses and making sure credit is available to small businesses. Unemployment in Oregon drooped 0.9% last month, which was a good sign.

Q: Can you explain the kicker?

A: The state economist calculates projected revenue for the biennium, and expenditures are based on that. If receipts exceed projections by more than 2%, the state sends all the excess money back as checks (at a cost of about \$1m for the state). Oregon is very dependent on income tax, which is a highly variable form of income. That often creates a situation of short-term crisis rather than longer term thinking; the state must have a balanced budget. Projecting revenue two years out is very difficult; the average standard deviation on personal income is 5.6%, but for corporate income it's 34%. Rep. Read (who is a member of the revenue committee) is in favor of putting the kicker inot a constitutional rainy day fund. The kicker is in the constitution (via a ballot initiative); changes to the constitution require a simple majority vote.

Q: State employees are on unpaid furlough; what does that do for morale?

A: Rep. Read said that this isn't politics; it's arithmetic. It is no doubt difficult for employees. We have to make cuts, and the legislature is trying to avoid cutting something that will just have to be rebuilt later, or anything with larger ramifications (such as programs that bring in matching federal money), or cuts that would cause more expenses later. Furloughs are preferable to layoffs; we are trying to manage that with attrition and minimize impact. The state cannot operate in a deficit, and we're still paying off debt created as the result of borrowing during the last recession. Education is the largest component of the state budget. Funding for education used to come from property taxes at the county level, but as property taxes have gone down, state support had to go up. But governance of those funds is still at the district level. This can lead to inconsistencies across school districts. So how do we create a stable level of funding? Rep. Read supports a full-year school schedule, and he thinks we must reform the kicker law. The kicker is understandably viewed as a restraint on the state, but it's not working. The initiative process in Oregon is powerful, and it has resulted in the legislature making decisions with the thought of referring decisions to voters always in their minds, which can slow progress.

Q: People want all the services but don't want to pay for them.

A: Rep. Read explained that 93% of the state's budget goes to three main categories: education, human services, and public safety. If someone says we need to cut, Read suggested asking where we should cut. Many people don't fully understand all the services the state provides.

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Neighborhood Issues / Concerns:

Conditional use permit requests:

Pizza Hut was allowed to use the minutes from our February meeting and did not have to attend the NAC meeting again.

Beirut Lounge, a hookah bar located on Hall Blvd near the Scholls Ferry Road intersection, would like to extend its hours of operation from 10 pm (the closing time required by city ordinance) to 4 am. They are mainly a night business. They formerly had a location in downtown Beaverton, but were required to move when a new law went into effect in 2009 requiring smoke shops to be in stand-alone buildings.

Rami Jouni, the business owner, explained the nature of the business. Customers come to socialize, play Xbox, meet people, study, and so on. They rent hookah pipes with flavored tobacco. Customers may also purchase beverages (soda, juice), but no alcohol or food is served. Customers must be 18 years old or older, and Jouni said that they do check IDs. There is no lottery or social gaming on the site.

Q: An increase in the noise level has been noticed by neighbors living in the condos behind the Beirut Lounge building; some sort of rotating equipment on the building rumbles and resonates in the buildings. This is okay up to about 11 pm, but beyond that it's a problem.

A: The air conditioning was recently turned on. There is music inside the building, but it is set at a level so that it cannot be heard outside the building or off the property; Mr. Jouni has tested this himself. Cars and motorcycles are outside his control.

The Beirut Lounge's current hours are 3 pm to 2 am; however, it closes most days at 12 am, sometimes 1 am-2 am (it varies). A special certificate is required to allow people to smoke in the building, and this has been attained. The building can hold a total of 70 people (by fire code). Beirut Lounge is requesting hours from 3 pm to 4 am; if forced to, they would accept a closing time of 2 am.

It was suggested that the NAC board send someone to check out the establishment and give feedback to the NAC. No official opinion about the change in hours was put forth by the NAC at this time, although specific opinions and comments can be directed to the Community Development department at the City.

Business Meeting:

Approval of minutes from previous meeting: A motion to approve the minutes from the May NAC meeting as written was accepted and seconded

Treasurer's report: Our one outstanding check cleared. Account balance is \$3,549.22.

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BCCI report: The City Council is changing its weekly meetings from Monday night to Tuesday night in September. This will cause a lot of conflicts with other city-related meetings (such as the BCCI meeting). IBM is bringing 400-500 jobs to Oregon. The visioning process has had over 150 meetings and received input from over 5,000 people. They are now starting the Civic Plan phase. They've created a flyer for doing business in Beaverton.

A neighborhood stability study will be conducted. Metro Neighborhood Grants offer sizable grants for "nature in the neighborhoods"; they fund capital projects only. They fund 1/3 of the project, and we'd have to raise the other 2/3.

Last Tuesdays are starting June 29; the next one is July 27. Tuesday, July 13, is the Picnic in the Park at Camille Park for our NAC. Also at Camille Park is a movie night August 11.

At the August 9 City Council meeting, urban poultry will be discussed. The closure of the Denney Road/217 interchange is still being considered as part of the 217 traffic study. There will be a THPRD meeting to approve equipment from the Camille Park study.

Other business: None.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

None.

Meeting end time: 8:50