

City of Beaverton
Neighborhood Association Committee
Meeting Minutes

NAC: Denney Whitford / Raleigh West

Date: 27 May 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: 8:05 pm

Community Policing Report: Officer Christian Corning has taken over for Officer Wallbaum as our NAC officer. He reports that crime in our NAC is very low; there was one theft and other minor property crimes. The City's shredding events have moved from City Hall to a larger area at Tektronix, 13550 Karl Braun Drive, which should improve service and traffic flow. The next event is June 19th at 10:00 am. There will be a car seat clinic on June 5th from 9 am to noon at City Hall.

Officer Corning discussed two area scams. In one case, someone receives an envelope, usually with a Canadian stamp but no return address, with a very realistic-looking check enclosed. The accompanying letter asks the recipient to send in a check for the taxes, and then the (fake) check is theirs. It is, of course, a bad check, and a bank can prosecute you for fraud for trying to cash it. Officer Corning reminded us that if something sounds too good to be true, it is.

A phone scam, seemingly aimed at seniors, involves a middle-of-the-night phone call to "Grandpa." The caller says that he is in jail in Canada, and asks that money be wired so that he can be released. There is not much local police agencies can do about scams like this, but you can report them to the FBI or, in the case of mail fraud, to the Postal Inspector.

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue Report: (This report actually followed the report by Green Stump Solar, below.) Lt. Jeff Miller reported that the new station is nearly ready, and they expect to move in around the middle to the end of June. The new station will have FJ Cruisers with a paramedic, 4 units total, to handle a lot of non-emergency calls. This will save fuel and resources. A medic unit will also move into the new station and will be able to transport if necessary. The Hazmat unit for this station is currently at the Walnut Street station, but that will be moving back once the new station is complete. On the public safety front, Lt. Miller reported that they have seen some incidents of norovirus in care facilities in West Slope and Wilsonville, so take care to wash your hands and avoid this nasty bug.

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The station plans to have an open house, probably in late July, and there will be publicity for it. If you are interested in scheduling a tour for a group, contact the TVF&R administration offices.

Guest Speakers:

Donald Shaw from Energy Trust of Oregon explained that his organization can provide a no-cost home inspection or “energy audit” to identify areas for improved energy efficiency. It’s not called a “free” inspection because Energy Trust is funded through a public purchase charge on your energy bills. During a home inspection, the inspector will install up to 10 compact fluorescent light bulbs and a water-saving showerhead. The average inspection takes 45 minutes to an hour, and the inspector will make recommendations. They are not trying to sell you anything.

Energy Trust offers rebates for certain energy improvements. They also have a list of certified contractors that will work with you on rebates and tax incentives. They are currently scheduling about one month out for energy audits.

Bruce Warner of Green Stump Solar Power provided information about using solar energy. He explained that the Portland area has an average of 4 hours of peak sun each day, which is equivalent to that in Germany, currently the largest consumer of solar energy products. The most common system for residential use is a “grid tied” system, meaning that it works only when the rest of the power grid is functioning. However, the average grid down time each year is approximately 15 minutes. True “off grid” systems are more expensive and require battery backups, and are thus more useful for people living way out in the country rather than in urban areas.

There are three ways to set up a solar array for your home: a roof mount system, which is the most common; a pole mounted system; or a ground mounted system, which requires a lot of land area (which why you’ll see wineries, for example, using this type).

The solar modules send solar energy down to an inverter, where DC current is converted to AC. A solar array has no moving parts—except the electrons—and they’re pretty maintenance free. For PGE customers, solar power is now very affordable. Energy Trust of Oregon is offering a rebate incentive that will pay about \$1.75 per watt; the State Department of Energy is offering a \$3 per watt tax credit up to \$6000 (spread out over 4 years); and the federal government is offering a 30% tax credit, so that you end up paying less than 10% of the true cost.

Green Stump uses Solar World modules made in Hillsboro, and inverters made in Bend. For a typical 2.3 kilowatt system, the initial cost is about \$13,150; with all the incentives and rebates, your total out of pocket cost to purchase that system today would be \$388. (Some of that is recouped over future years.) Also, the system will save you energy costs in the future; as the cost of energy goes up, you will not be paying extra for the energy generated

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by your system. The average solar array will not cover your total home's energy needs; 20-50% is more typical. Your first year's energy savings is estimated at around \$200.

Question: are there permitting problems from the City for large solar arrays? Mr. Warner was not aware of any. He noted that the upfront paperwork for an installation can take a couple of weeks, but contractors do that paperwork and know what needs to be done.

Green Stump Solar is currently only offering photovoltaic (PV) energy systems, not solar thermal, but incentives for that type of system are good as well. Julia suggested contacting the City's Sustainability Coordinator, Cindy Tatham, with questions about low-interest loans for all types of energy improvements (including solar).

You can request a free site evaluation for your home. Ideally, you want a southern facing roof with a 30 degree tilt, but that's not required.

John Klotzly from CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) spoke about emergency preparedness. It's important that we are able to sustain ourselves for a few days in case of a major emergency. He reminded us of Mt. St. Helens, which caused people to be homebound because they couldn't get around due to the ash in the air. We can't predict what will happen when a disaster hits, but it will probably be different, or even greater, than we thought. He said we should not think about "if" with regard to a major earthquake, but "when."

He noted that many people think they'll be able to depend on police and fire departments in the event of major disaster. But the City of Beaverton has about 1.5 police officers for each 1000 citizens, and TVF&R has 0.9 firefighters per 1000. That means about 2.5 professional responders per 1000 residents, and they don't have enough food and water to serve everyone, assuming they could even get to everyone. He said that everyone should be prepared to take care of themselves for three days (72 hours). Create a 72 hour kit with enough food, water, blankets, etc. to survive; think of camping for 3 days.

The simplest thing you can do right now is put a flashlight and sturdy shoes next to your bed. If an earthquake hits, you don't want to be walking on glass in your bedroom slippers. Next, go to the City of Beaverton website and check out all the information there to help you be prepared, including a list of what goes in a 72 hour kit. Finally, get CERT training; this training is offered twice per year, in the spring and the fall. Training consists of 8 classes, and it's designed to give you good information for taking care of yourself. You are under no obligation to help others during a disaster just because you have CERT training (you're not "joining" anything), but you will have the skills to help out once your own situation is stable. He showed an earthquake map, and noted that much of the Beaverton area is in the solid red high impact area.

Question: is there a CERT team that goes to schools? CERT is now forming a public team; if you have an organization that's interested in having a CERT representative visit, go to the website and enter your information there, and someone will get back to you.

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Neighborhood Issues / Concerns: None.

Business Meeting:

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

Treasurer's report: Martha reported that our current balance is \$3,549.22. We're still waiting for one check to clear, and we wrote one check for \$100 to the City of Beaverton for the Blind Side fundraiser for homeless students.

BCCI report: Julia reminded everyone that the NAC earns money by working during Beaverton Recycling Day, which is Saturday, June 5th. It will be held at the old Westgate site again, but note that entrance is from Millikan Way this year.

The City of Beaverton is doing a pilot program for solar energy with Solar City (a California company, not to be confused with Green Stump Solar). The first 50 houses who participate will receive a substantial discount on a solar energy set up. Julia noted that Bruce Warner from Green Stump had told her that they offer similar pricing.

The Beaverton History Center is having a grand opening block party this summer on Saturday, July 31, from 10:00-3:00. The new Center is located in the old blueprint shop on Broadway.

The City is having an Urban Poultry Forum on Tuesday, June 8, for up to three hours. They want to know how people feel about the issue of urban poultry (i.e., keeping chickens as pets or for eggs).

The City's land use process has been under review and there have been changes to the zoning code; however, those changes were not significant, but rather tweaks to make it more systematic.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Meeting end time: 8:40 pm