

City of Beaverton
Neighborhood Association Committee
Meeting Minutes

NAC: Denney Whitford / Raleigh West

Date: 25 March 2010

Board members present:

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

Treasurer: Martha Schaufler
 Recorder: Tracy Thornton

Quorum present? Yes No

Meeting start time: 8:04 pm.

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue Report: No report.

Community Policing Report: Officer White substituted for Officer Walbaum. He reported that crime in our NAC is about average. He discussed two new scams that the Police Department has been dealing with: 1) a rental property owner is contacted by a potential renter, the renter either sends a check for more than the agreed amount and requests a refund for the difference, or claims to have found a place elsewhere and needs a full refund, but the original check is fraudulent; 2) A company claiming to represent Secret Shoppers tells someone to go to specific retail stores and spend a certain amount of money and then fill out a survey; then the person is asked to test Western Union by wiring large amounts of money (say, \$1500 two different times); the person is then reimbursed, but again the check is fraudulent.

Officer White also cautioned people to be wary of Haitian relief charities and suggested people stick with known charities. Officer White was asked whether the Washington County Police Association was a real charity, and he believed they did solicit money for a charity event each year, but he noted that Beaverton Police Department is not asking for donations.

If you are aware of a scam like this, you should contact the FBI since almost all scams are outside the City's jurisdiction because they involve people outside the city. Any scam involving the US Postal Service (such as with checks sent through the mail) can be reported to the US Postal Inspector. If you are a victim of identity theft, one way to protect yourself is by contacting credit reporting agencies (like Equifax) and putting a freeze on your accounts; then you will be notified any time someone requests a new credit report.

Another possible scam is from a company contacting people and offering to have their property taxes reassessed for a fee of \$189. Mayor Doyle noted that anyone can have their property taxes reviewed by the county for free upon request.

Neighborhood Issues / Concerns:

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Mayor Denny Doyle gave an abridged version of his State of the City address. Some good things to note: The City finances are stable; the Library saw 790,000 visitors last year, and is already 20% over last year to date; a new Library branch in Murray Scholls is due to open in June of 2010; the new chief of police, Jeff Spaulding, has visited with every officer and Beaverton was ranked as the safest city in the Northwest; an investigation into counterfeit goods started by a Beaverton police detective resulted in over 60 arrests in Los Angeles County with \$18m in merchandise recovered. On the less positive side, Mayor Doyle noted that unemployment has doubled in the last year, with 21% of people who could be working in Washington County not working (even if all of them are not drawing unemployment benefits).

The City has been working through the Beaverton Cares program to offer tax tips to seniors and to teach people living at the poverty level about the Earned Income Tax credit. Only one out of three eligible seniors applies for food stamps, so the City is trying to educate people about that. The City worked with St. Matthews church to turn some unused property into a community garden. The Service Employees union volunteered their time and produced over 1500 lbs. of fresh produce, which was distributed to various groups. The Oregon Food Bank held three events at the Beaverton Resource Center at Allen and Hall, feeding over 4500 people.

Hunger is a problem in the City, but another surprising problem is the number of homeless youth. There are over 1200 students in the Beaverton school system who are homeless for a variety of reasons. Many local groups including faith-based organizations are working to address this problem.

City Planning staff worked with developers and builders to streamline the City's planning code, cutting the largest section (Chapter 20) from 200 pages to 100 pages. City inspectors are using laptops now and trying to save paper. There has been a freeze in development fees to encourage development, and the City is waiving fees for reapplications where the original permit expired. The City is hoping to get federal funding to pay for half of a new adaptive signal control system, that will sync up traffic lights on Canyon and Farmington, which would save 15-20% travel time on those roads. The City is looking at places downtown for low-income housing, something we have not had. The Mayor noted that City employees chose not take a cost of living increase last year, which meant the City did not have layoffs.

The Mayor then went over his 10-point plan, which includes the following areas: local investment, such as putting money into local banks to encourage lending; sustainability, running the City greener and cheaper; business funding, to help grow local business; the Round and annexation, developing a master plan; micro-lending which is also known as emerging business lending, to create jobs; federal and state funding, as the City now has a lobbyist at the federal level and is about to hire a state lobbyist to bring money back to the City; visioning as the first step to creating a Civic Plan and looking at Urban Renewal; land acquisition and redevelopment for civic facilities such as a performing arts center; marketing

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and a rebranding of the city, to change how Beaverton is perceived in the state; and keeping property taxes as the same rate.

Mayor Doyle's presentation was followed by a question and answer session:

Q: Is the Round public or private property?

A: Mostly private; the only public property is the round shape on the north side of the Max tracks. It is owned by too many different people to work well.

Q: Why can't I easily park my car when taking Max?

A: Tri-Met's policies want to discourage car use at all; for example, you can't put a gas station near a Max station. This is an area where the City could look at obtaining grants to buy land near Max stations for more parking options.

Q: The number of homeless kids in Beaverton is staggering. What is the City doing about it?

A: The faith-based community is doing a lot of work on this. The Beaverton school district has two staff members dedicated to homeless students. If the number of homeless kids is not going down by next year, the City will need to get involved.

Q: Why is this issue worse in Beaverton than other areas?

A: We don't really know. However, it could be that we're just doing a better job of identifying these kids. Hillsboro has identified 403 homeless students; Tigard/Tualatin has 170.

Q: How does the City work with NACs, and what does the City expect of them?

A: (Lani from the NAC Program responded:) There are 11 NACs in the City. Many of the NAC meetings focus on land use issues; that's your chance to provide feedback before an issue goes before the City Council. Different NACs take on different issues unique to them. Hillsboro doesn't have a neighborhood program, and they've received some criticism for that.

Q: Thanks for the free shredding day. Is this going to be a regular occurrence, and can you bring a bigger truck next time?

A: There is a shredding event every other month; check the City website for details. The events are staffed by volunteers, and a donation to the Oregon Food Bank is requested.

Q: What are some other areas that could be used for community gardens?

A: You tell us....if you know about land that would be good, let the City know and they will ask the property owners. At our sister city in Germany, many people have turned their front yards into gardens rather than growing grass.

Q: Is the Canal Project that was mentioned in the Beaverton Valley Times a done deal? And do you have an update on the urban poultry issue?

A: The Canal Project is just a concept at this point; it will go forward if it looks like it will work for the Civic Plan. No new information on urban poultry issue.

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Q: As someone who fosters children, do you know if the foster care numbers are higher here?

A: Don't know, but there are an astounding number of kids without homes. We don't have orphanages any more, so we need other options.

Mayor Doyle thanked the NAC and left. NAC Chair Ernie Conway reminded people that they should bring questions to the NAC; even if you can't attend, send in your questions so that we can get them answered.

Ernie also noted that we're trying to save resources by no longer printing out the minutes from the previous meetings. They are available online.

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 Schaufler reported that our balance is \$3649.22; no change from last month.

BCCI report: Julia Sathler explained that the BCCI is like a "super NAC"; it serves as a conduit between individual NACs and the City. She mentioned several upcoming community events:

Saturday, March 27th: free tax assistance workshop at the Beaverton City Library

Wednesday, April 7th: a showing of "The Blind Side" at Valley Cinema will be a fundraiser to help homeless students in Beaverton; a \$10 donation is suggested.

Saturday, April 10th: Living Greener neighborhood summit at City Hall.

Saturday April 17th: free document shredding at City Hall.

Monday, April 19th: the second of three Community Vision coffee talks at Krispy Kreme.

Tuesday, May 4th: The BCCI and the City sponsor a Voter's Forum at City Hall.

Saturday, June 5th: Beaverton Recycling Day at the former Westgate Theater site.

Other business: None.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Beaverton Recycling Day is where our NAC earns its money; we get money based on the number of volunteer hours we contributed. The City has a matching grant program that allows us to get funds for neighborhood projects, and our portion of the cost can be paid in volunteer hours.

The next NAC meeting will be chaired by Andrew Bynum, and we will be inviting all the City Council candidates and possibly some Washington County candidates to speak.

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In May, we will have people from CERT, Citizens Emergency Response Team plus another group to talk about emergency preparedness and safety.

Minnie Stoumbaugh from the Beaverton Senior Citizens Advisory Committee talked about their mentoring program; the goal is to find seniors who have time to share their knowledge and skills with others (some ideas: needlework, photography, woodworking, art work, etc.). Please contact Minnie if you are interested (971-221-5832).

A suggestion was made that Chamber of Commerce members in the neighborhood be contacted prior to the NAC meetings, perhaps by e-mail to let them know about it. Also, when visiting local businesses, let them know you're part of their NAC.

Meeting end time: 8:32 pm