

Denney Whitford / Raleigh West NAC Minutes – Sept. 24, 2009

Ray Bowman, NAC Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue report: Lt. Gately from TVFR reported that the new fire station started framing about a week and a half ago. The projected finish date is now April 2010, a bit later than first planned.

Call volume at the station is very busy; 80-90% of calls are medical, for injuries, car accidents, home health issues, etc. During the summer, they had some calls for minor fires such as in bark dust. With fall coming, the concern will be chimney fires. Lt. Gately said that if you use your fireplace regularly, it is recommended that you get your chimney serviced annually.

Leonard Conwery brought up the Chasse investigation in Portland, where a mentally ill person sustained severe injuries from law enforcement. He wanted TVFR to be aware of people who need extra help. Lt. Gately said that their role is as a first responder. The fire department, with an EMT or paramedic will respond to a call, and a private ambulance will be called if transport is needed.

Community Policing report: None.

Neighborhood issues/concerns:

- George Fetzer, code enforcement officer for the City of Beaverton, rove by the house at 7465 SW 101st within the last month, and it has been cleaned up. However, the case is still open.
- The U-Haul on Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway is now gone.
- The NAC earned \$292.17 for 5 hours of work at Beaverton Recycling Day. The event was very successful and will continue next year. It will again be a recycling day, not just a neighborhood clean up day as in the past.

Storm sewers and leaf pick up

Mel Schultz, Public Works Lead from the Public Works Department came to address past issues with storm sewer runoff due to storm drains not working very well and backing up, and also to discuss the fall leaf program.

Some adjustments have been made to the leaf vacuum and street sweeping schedules this year. A map will be posted on the City of Beaverton website. There are four areas on the map, with one area covered by the leaf vacuum every week. This year, leaf vacuuming starts a bit earlier, on Oct. 12. In heavier leaf areas, the leaf vacuum's schedule will be two sections ahead of the street sweeper, so that those streets are covered every two weeks.

Free leaf disposal events are planned for Nov. 7th, Nov. 21st, and Dec. 5th. The City will look into adding an extra leaf disposal event on Oct. 24.

Mel explained that the leaf vacuum and street sweeper will clean up leaves that naturally end up in the street. Homeowners should not blow or rake their leaves into the street; instead, use your

yard debris container (yard debris is picked up weekly in the fall; Ray said that the garbage service will allow one extra bag of leaves for free, with additional bags costing \$3.00 per bag). If that's not enough, plan to attend one of the leaf disposal events.

Mel noted some tips to help the Public Works Department with street sweeping and leaf disposal:

- Keep garbage cans off the street; place them on the curb.
- Be aware of low hanging branches on your property. The street sweeper needs ten feet of clearance. If you notice the sweeper swinging away from the curb, it could be due to low hanging branches.
- When you know the street sweeper is coming, keep parked cars out of the street if possible.

Ray commented that in a previous NAC meeting, people had claimed that the storm sewers were not draining properly, and Fanno Creek was flooding. Mel said that it is an old storm sewer system; however, a vacuum truck went through last month to make sure the system is flowing well, and any back up at this point will not be due to storm drains.

The City is planning upgrades to the sanitary sewer system and storm drains in some areas in our NAC, such as the Royal Woodlands neighborhood. Water lines are also reaching the end of their useful life. In the next 5-10 years, there are plans to upgrade all utilities.

2010 Census

Bob Washburn, who is in charge of raising awareness of the US Census in Washington County, reported that the preparation for the 2010 Census began in June 2008. The focus now is on the need to find hard-to-count populations. The Census gets a 64% response on questionnaires; they then send people out to try to track down everyone else. For every 1% of those hard-to-find populations who can be located, it saves \$90 million. 304 new employees are just completing training and will focus on OLQs (other living quarters) to locate these hard-to-find populations.

The Census is required by the US Constitution and it has been taken every 10 years since 1790. The results of the Census are important as they determine things like the allocation of federal funds and Congressional districts. Bob encouraged the NAC to raise awareness by talking to friends and family so that everyone gets counted. The biggest issue Census takers face is fear. Bob explained that Census workers are sworn to confidentiality; they are not acting on behalf of law enforcement and are not required to act on anything seen in a house. There is nothing to be afraid of. The Census consists of 10 questions, the shortest questionnaire ever.

In January and February, Bob will come back to the NAC to continue raising awareness. April 1 is Census Day, and April 15 is when non-response follow up begins. Bob emphasized the importance of the Census to Oregon in particular, as we have an opportunity to gain a Congressional seat if we have enough people. For more information, visit the Census website: www.census.gov

Approval of June minutes: A motion to approve the minutes from the NAC meeting on June 25, 2009, was accepted and seconded as written.

BCCI report: Jim Yasutome reported that there will be some test explosions to blast rocks from 11 pm to midnight tonight on northbound Highway 217. These tests are in preparation for the real thing on the evenings of October 6, 7, and 8.

There will be a rate hike for garbage collection fees of \$3.00 per month (or \$6 per billing cycle).

Some upcoming community events:

- There will be a car seat clinic on Saturday, Sept. 26, from 9 am to 12:30 pm behind City Hall, 4755 SW Griffith Drive. Another clinic is scheduled for the same time and place on Saturday, Oct. 17. Both are sponsored by the Beaverton Police Department.
- On Wednesday, Oct. 7, at 6:30 pm there will be a monthly landlord forum. This is also sponsored by the Beaverton Police Department. The meeting will be held in the first floor conference room at City Hall.
- On Saturday, Oct. 10th, there will be a visioning meeting from 9 am to 2 pm at the Beaverton City Library, 12375 SW 5th Street. This is an opportunity to see what was said at the Beaverton Community Vision Celebration.
- On Saturday, Oct. 17, there will be free document shredding from 10 am to 1 pm in the City Hall parking lot. There is a limit of three boxes per vehicle, and participants are encouraged to donate canned food to the Oregon Food Bank.

Jim said that the City is now reconsidering its policy on keeping chickens within the city limits. Kenneth Rencher, City Planner, is putting together a website to disseminate information and to allow the public to make comments and suggestions online. Some issues to be considered are that chickens, like any animals, can be a nuisance, and they could be a problem for code enforcement, which already struggles to handle all the cases they have now. Before a final decision is made, the City will solicit the opinion of all the NACs.

A marketing consultant has been hired to work with the city on “branding” Beaverton. Anyone with thoughts on this subject should contact City Hall.

Treasurer’s report: Julia Sathler deposited \$292.17 from the Beaverton Recycling Day, for a new total of \$3,899.22

A motion was made to express thanks to the four volunteers at Beaverton Recycling Day: Franl Oulman (who worked twoshifts), Andrew Bynum, Ray Bowman and Steve Valery. The motion was seconded and approved.

Old business:

The NAC received a letter from THPRD thanking us for our grant application regarding improvements to Bauman Park. However, at this time Metro will not be funding any improvements, although THPRD will continue its ongoing enhancement work.

The Denney Whitford/Raleigh West, Vose, and West Slope NACs had their Picnic in the Park on August 10. Mayor Doyle attended. There were several leftover t-shirts from the Neighborhood Office, and they were offered to the meeting attendees.

Julia Sathler gave us an update on the work she's doing to welcome new residents within our NAC boundaries. She contacted Jason, Beaverton Neighborhood Program Coordinator, for a list of names of new residents, but he reported that his office only creates that information once per year, so Julia used a list created several months ago. Julia put together a packet that consisted of a one-page letter she composed plus some other City information. She delivered these to 9 homes, leaving them on the doorknob if no one was home.

New business:

The Willamette Pedestrian Coalition has put together a survey for NAC residents to give feedback on barriers to getting around on foot in our neighborhood. The online survey can be accessed at: <http://cts.vresp.com/c/?WillamettePedestrian/52af941140/7a83115b027/4fa89721fb>

Up to three locations can be identified on the survey. The survey will help them identify projects to improve pedestrian areas. Surveys need to be completed by October 15th.

We will need a nominating committee for 2010 officers prior to the October NAC meeting. Ray, Julia, Jim, Martha, and Tracy volunteered to be on the committee.

Ray has been nominated to be the chair of the BCCI next year. He will be unable to be the chair of that committee and the NAC, so we will need to find a new chairperson for the NAC. The recorder position will also need to be filled.

Announcements:

The next NAC meeting will be Thursday, October 22, 2009, at 7:00 pm. Nominations for officers will be read at that meeting by the nominating committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Thornton
Substitute Recorder