

JWN e-News :: February 8, 2007

Timely and concise news and announcements related to the **Jefferson Westside Neighbors**.

Visit the JWN Web site at: www.jwneugene.org .

===== CONTENTS (See details below) =====

***** Upcoming events**

- February 13 : JWN general meeting
 - ++ Regular business; Vote on bylaws amendments; election for Treasurer
 - ++ Program: Safe neighborhoods -- Focus on neighborhood crime and prevention; info and discussion with Eugene Police Dept. officers
 - ++ DOORPRIZES: \$25 Gift certificate from Cornucopia; Spa manicure from Mia Bella SalonMore information at: jwneugene.org/february
- February 19 : JWN Executive Board meeting. *** Note MONDAY date ***
- February 19-26 : Public access to the Fairgrounds will not be available due to annual Oregon Logging Conference
- February 20 : City Council public hearing on land use plan and code amendments to protect large area of Jefferson neighborhood.
 - For more information, see below and: jwneugene.org/jeffredes.html .
- February 22 : Neighborhood Climate Council program on commuter solutions.
- March 13 : JWN general meeting >>> [Mayor Kitty Piercy](#) <<<

***** JWN Executive Board actions at January 16 board meeting**

- Approved Neighborhood Matching Grant proposals.
- Action related to Eugene Neighbors, Inc. policy positions.
- Recommended approval of JWN bylaws amendments.
- Approved appointment of a JWN Planning Committee.
 - For more details, see below. For complete minutes, see: jwneugene.org/minutes.html

***** Neighborhood news**

- Reminder: JWN General Meetings have relocated.
- Council to hold public hearing on amendments to protect large area of Jefferson neighborhood.
- JWN Executive Board elections in April. Nominating Committee to be appointed.
- Stakeholders group forms on Willamette Street traffic planning.
- Neighborhood Matching Grants submitted.
- Thank-you: Erika Seiferling for handling the McNail-Riley House.
- City now responsible for McNail-Riley House scheduling.
- JWN wins split decision on appeal of code interpretation affecting Jefferson neighborhood.
- Land Use Code Amendments (LUCA) process continues.
- City to hold "Neighborhood Summit".
- Neighborhood Climate Council program series: Commuter Solutions.
- Trees for Concrete Project

***** How to contact the JWN Co-chairs**

THANKS TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS SUPPORTERS!

Cornucopia Restaurant & Catering
295 W. 17th Ave.
485-2300
www.eugenecatering.com

Mia Bella Salon
1311 Lincoln St.
461-5772

If you'd like to see your business listed here, please e-mail:
co-chairs@jwneugene.org

===== UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS =====

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*** **JWN General Meeting: TUESDAY, February 13**

When: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Where: **First United Methodist Church -- 1376 Olive Street**

*** Note the new location. ***

Parking and entrance are on the North side of the building.

More information: jwneugene.org/february

BUSINESS MEETING: Agenda Summary

-- **Regular business** (introductions, announcements, co-chairs report, etc.)

-- **Bylaws amendments.** The Executive Board recommends approval of proposed amendments to the JWN bylaws. The amendments are intended to encourage and facilitate more JWN members participating on the JWN board and to promote greater responsiveness of the board to the JWN membership. For an explanation and list of the specific amendments, see jwneugene.org/amendments .

-- **Special election** for JWN Treasurer. (Candidates must be present at the meeting.)

DOORPRIZES: \$25 Gift certificate from Cornucopia; Spa manicure from Mia Bella Salon

PROGRAM: Safe Neighborhoods -- Focus on neighborhood crime and prevention

-- Keeping parks safe this summer. Preventing burglaries. Fighting drug traffic. Get "real-world" information and practical advice on crime and safety in our neighborhood from Eugene Police Department officers.

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*** **Future JWN meetings**

The full agenda and schedule, as well as information on future JWN meetings is available at:
jwneugene.org/meetings

NOTE NEW MEETING LOCATION -- First United Methodist Church; 1376 Olive Street

Coming up!

- March 13, 2007 :: Mayor Kitty Piercy
- April 10, 2007 :: JWN Executive Board elections

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*** **JWN Executive Board Meeting: Monday, February 19**

*** **Note MONDAY date** ***

6:45 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
McNail-Riley House on the NW corner of W. 13th Ave. and Jefferson Street.

You can find the JWN board meeting information on the Web at:
jwneugene.org/meetings

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*** **Upcoming City Council meetings.**

7:30 p.m. Council meeting starts.
Council Chamber -- Eugene City Hall
777 Pearl Street

-- Tuesday, February 20 : Public hearing on Metro Plan, Jefferson/Far West Refinement Plan, and Eugene Code amendments to protect "Area 15" of Jefferson neighborhood.

For more information, see below and on the Web at: jwneugene.org/jeffredes.html .

-- Monday, March 12 : Council vote on plan and code amendments to protect "Area 15" of Jefferson neighborhood.

City Council meeting dates and topics are available on-line here:

www.eugene-or.gov

(On left) Quick links: Mayor and City Council

(On left) Navigation: Meeting Information

(On right) Tentative Working Agenda

===== JWN EXECUTIVE BOARD ACTIONS =====

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***** January 16 board meeting**

For more details on the following items, see draft minutes posted at: jwneugene.org/minutes .

- Approved two Neighborhood Matching Grant proposals:
 - ++ For landscaping public areas following changes to the intersection at 8th and Blair. (Submitted by Phillip Carroll)
 - ++ For "JWN PlanJam 2007" (submitted by JWN board)

- Took action related to Eugene Neighbors, Inc. policy positions.
 - Motion: The JWN membership in the Eugene Neighbors, Inc. shall not be renewed without a prior vote by the Executive Board.*

- Recommended approval of bylaws amendments at February 13 general meeting.

- Approved appointment of a JWN Planning Committee.

===== NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS =====

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***** Reminder: JWN General Meetings have relocated**

The fire code limit on capacity, poor accessibility, and an unsatisfactory general meeting environment led the JWN board to decide the McNail-Riley House was no longer suitable for the increased attendance at JWN meetings. JWN general meetings are now held at:

First United Methodist Church
1376 Olive Street

Parking and entrance are on the North side of the building.

JWN Executive Board meetings will continue to be held at the McNail-Riley House.

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***** Council to hold public hearing on amendments to protect large area of Jefferson neighborhood.**

At long last, the public process is moving ahead to fix the "redesignation" that exposed a fifteen block, single-family area of the Jefferson neighborhood to R-2 rezoning and grossly incompatible infill.

On January 8, the Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend City Council adopt amendments to the Metro Plan, Jefferson/Far West Refinement Plan, and Eugene Code to designate this area as "low density residential", which will prohibit zone changes to R-2. (This provision has a "sunset" date of July 1, 2008, by which time Council has expressed the intent to adopt infill compatibility standards.)

The City Council public hearing on the amendments is scheduled for:

February 20, 2007
7:30 p.m.
Council Chambers
777 Pearl Street

You can e-mail written testimony to: Terri.L.Harding@ci.eugene.or.us .

**** Please submit testimony and attend this hearing to show support for the amendments. ****

See more details at: jwneugene.org/jeffredes.html .

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***** JWN Executive Board elections in April. Nominating Committee to be appointed.**

Be sure to put April 10 on your calendar because that's the date for JWN Executive Board elections.

The current Executive Board will designate a nominating committee at our February 19 board meeting. The committee will be comprised of one board member and two non-board members. If you'd like to serve on the nominating committee or volunteer to serve on the Executive Board, please contact either JWN Co-chair (see below).

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***** Stakeholders group forms on Willamette Street traffic planning.**

The City is forming a stakeholders group to study what, if anything, to do with the remaining one-way section of Willamette St. just south of W. 18th Ave.

Although this area isn't in the JWN, changes to the traffic flow (e.g., changing this segment to two-way traffic) might impact traffic on JWN streets that are near the W. 18th Ave and Willamette St. intersection.

If you would be interested in participating, please contact either JWN co-chair (see below).

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***** Neighborhood Matching Grant applications submitted**

Three neighborhood matching grant applications were submitted for projects in the JWN:

-- The JWN board proposed holding "JWN PlanJam 2007," a one-day interactive and educational workshop to inform and engage residents of the Jefferson and Westside neighborhoods to create a vision for our neighborhood community.

-- David Babcock proposed creating a 200 meter running track for the community on Cesar Chavez School property.

-- Phillip Carroll proposed landscaping public areas following changes to the intersection at 8th and Blair.

Preliminary reviews have been completed and applicants must now complete and submit their final applications. If you're interested in any of these projects, please contact either JWN co-chair.

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*** **THANK-YOU: Erika Seiferling ...**

We'd like to extend a BIG "Thank-You" to board member **Erika Seiferling** who, over the summer and fall of 2006, spent many hours getting the McNail-Riley House scheduling back in order and working with the City to take care of much needed maintenance and to get new chairs and tables for groups using the facility. Erika handed over a well-documented and smooth running scheduling system to the City at the end of January (see next item).

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*** **City now responsible for McNail-Riley House scheduling.**

As of the end of January, the City assumed all responsibility for scheduling the McNail-Riley House. For more information, contact:

Richie Weinman
Community Development Division
Eugene Planning & Development Department
99 W. 10th Ave., Eugene, OR 97401
Richie.D.Weinman@ci.eugene.or.us

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*** **JWN wins split decision on appeal of code interpretation affecting Jefferson neighborhood**

On November 15, the previous Interim Planning Director issued an extreme interpretation of local refinement plan policy for "Area 15" which includes the redesignated area of the Jefferson neighborhood. This interpretation would have allow unlimited R-2 level, large-scale, multi-unit development throughout that part of the neighborhood neighborhood.

The JWN appealed the decision, and the hearings official ruled in favor of the JWN's claim that the Interim Planning Director had erred in stating the policy provided no limitations on development.

For anyone who may be unfamiliar with this appeal, you can get the full story at: jwneugene.org/jeffredes.html (see especially the second page)

The appeal decision is posted as a PDF file at: jwneugene.org/documents/JWNAppealPDInterpretationDecision.pdf

The short story can be found in these two quotes from the appeal decision:

-- Good: "The Hearings Official concludes that the planning director erred when he concluded that that portion of the policy does not provide any limitations on applications to which [the policy] applies." (page 5) (Note the "planning director" referred to here is actually, Steve Nystrom, who was Interim Planning Director when the decision was issued, not Lisa Gardner, the new (permanent) Planning Director.)

-- Bad: "it is reasonable to interpret [the policy] as allowing the highest level of R-2 density the zone affords." (page 4) I.e., the policy allows 28 dwelling units per net acre (du/na).

There are no plans to appeal the hearings official's decision to the Land Use Board of Appeals.

The ruling itself provides a basis for imposing restrictions on any R-2 zone change application, and issues that were not favorably resolved in this appeal can be raised again in an appeal of any R-2 zone change that might be approved.

This decision is another in a string of appeals decisions that have found significant errors in the way the Land Use Permits section of the Planning Division (under Steve Nystrom) has applied the land use code in the JWN and other neighborhoods. The negative impacts of such errors makes it important that ambiguities and deficiencies in the land use code be fixed without delay. See the next item for more on this.

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*** **Land Use Code Amendments (LUCA) process continues**

The City Planning staff and consulting team held their second public meeting in the LUCA process to make "key" changes to Eugene's land use code.

The basic plan for the "LUCA" process is that citizens and organizations can propose changes to the land use code; and, through some as-yet-not-clearly-defined process, these amendments will be prioritized and considered by the Planning Commission this Spring. The Planning Commission will then recommend to City Council specific code amendments from this collection of suggested changes.

The JWN co-chairs submitted a preliminary list of potential code changes that would help protect the neighborhood character. For example, a number of these changes would fix the ambiguities and inconsistencies that led to the expensive -- but successful -- opposition to the former Planning Director's incorrect approval of the lot partition at 933 W. 10th Ave.

Unfortunately, the LUCA process thus far reflects a serious lack of transparency, clarity, and coherency in how decisions will be made, and the process to-date has failed to provide adequate opportunities for citizens to become educated about and discuss potential amendments. The JWN co-chairs and other neighborhood leaders will be raising these issues with the Planning Director in the next two weeks.

We'll be posting a full report on the JWN Web site shortly, so check www.jwneugene.org for more information.

The "official" City information can be found by going to www.eugeneplanning.org and select "Code Amendments" from the left-side navigation list.

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*** **City to hold "Neighborhood Summit"**

On February 17th, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the City will hold a "Neighborhood Summit". Each neighborhood association is invited to have eight members attend. The goals of the event are to learn more about, recommend priorities, and develop next steps for the "Neighborhood Association Initiative Action Plan" which is a list of steps for the City to strengthen neighborhoods. The event will also provide an opportunity for neighborhood residents to build relationships with elected and appointed officials. The Mayor and City Councilors, as well as other local officials and staff will participate.

Participants from the JWN are: Rene Kane, Paul Conte, Kyle Burns, Garrick Mishaga, Charles Snyder, Ilona Koleszar, and Cialin Mills-Ostwald.

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*** **Neighborhood Climate Council program series continues with commuter solutions**

The Climate Leadership Initiative continues their series of monthly events, designed specifically for Jefferson Westside Neighbors residents. The next program is described below. For more information contact Sarah Mazze: 346-0786, climlead@uoregon.edu

"Commuter Solutions" shares tools for getting around town without polluting our environment and emptying your pocketbook.

Date: Thursday, February 22
When: 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Where: McNail-Riley House

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*** **Trees for Concrete Project**

Help plant 15-20 new street trees.
April 7 (Arbor Day)
Meet near East 16th Ave. and Willamette St.

For further information contact:
Rick Olkowski, City of Eugene NeighborWoods Coordinator at 682-4831
Jeff Lanza, Eugene Tree Foundation

===== PLEASE LEND A HAND =====

*** **JWN needs YOU!**

Give a little time and talent and gain a lot in return. Great neighborhoods happen because people who live in them care.

Come join your neighbors and help maintain the Jefferson and Westside neighborhoods as safe, vital places to live.

Some of the volunteer spots that are available include: attorney, publication distribution coordinator, urban planner/architect/zoning specialist, Web wizard, fund raiser, outreach activist, parliamentarian, business relations developer.

For a description of these and other volunteer openings, please see: jwneugene.org/volunteer

Remember, YOU are the Jefferson Westside Neighbors!

===== CONTACT THE JWN CO-CHAIRS =====

You can send your e-mails to co-chairs@jwneugene.org .

Or contact either one of us directly:

Rene Kane
rkane@highstream.net
343-4309

Paul Conte
pconte@picante-soft.com
344-2552

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