

MINUTES

JWN Executive Board Meeting – November 16th, 2021

Board Members Present: Ted Coopman (Chair), Vanessa Wheeler (Vice Chair), Sue Cummings (Treasurer), Stephanie Coopman, Susan Connolly, Duncan Rhodes, Eric Dil

Absences: None Guests: None

1. Meeting called to order

Chair called meeting at 6:34 to order. Agenda adjustments: None.

2. Brief reports from Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and NLC rep

Chair (Ted) – Concerning HB2001 following. Board comments were submitted. Several members of Eugene Planning Commission have expressed their displeasure at JWN’s efforts at organizing public input to HB 2001 code revision process. Commissioner Edwards submitted testimony on November 2, 2021, stating: “Colleagues, the efforts stated in this email to turn out JWN neighbors to engage in the public process AFTER the Planning Commission has deliberated and provided a recommendation to Council, is disheartening and outright disrespectful of all of the work the Planning staff has put into the public engagement process.” It is worth noting that this call and subsequent feedback was within timeframe set for public comments and well before November 16 EPC public meeting. Commissioner Isaacson circulated email attacked Paul Conte and accused him of “assault” and harassment of female Planning staff members, stated he would no longer read any submissions by him, and urged others to no longer work with him. He provided links to public testimony that he says proves his case – but while Paul is certainly confrontational on staff errors and process issues, there is no evidence of gender-based harassment. He also was confrontational with anyone who emailed him to complain about his attempt to silence a member of the public. Based on their statements, it appears that some members of the EPC are simply ignoring any public comments that do not support staff proposal.

Concerning Crosswalks following. Based on what Reed Dunbar told us about requesting crosswalks, here is an overview. There are signals on W. 11th and 13th: Washington, Jefferson, Monroe, Polk, and Chambers. So perhaps crosswalks at:

W. 11th only Adams (direct line between Monroe Park and LEC)

W. 11th and W. 13 at Tyler (through access that services Keystone Apartments as well as LEC)

W. 11th only Almaden (Leads to both ECCares and Looking Glass)

W.8th at Van Buren

I suggest we put out these suggestions in the December eNews.

Treasurer (Sue) – Sue reports following totals: OCCU Savings Account: \$ 805.32. Neighborhood Investment / Outreach Funds: \$ 3575.28. Petty cash: \$ 58.03. ENI Account: \$ 176.20.

Secretary (Eric) – Board approved Minutes of September 21th, 2021 board meeting on condition that one mistake is corrected.

NLC (Vanessa) – Ted: Nothing happened.

3. Brief committee reports

Neighborhood Matching Grant – Ted: I haven't heard from them (initiators for new mural).

Outreach – Ted: We need to start preparing Winter newsletter. Stephanie: We will contact you. I ask you to start thinking about topics. Winter newsletter generally goes out at end of January. Ted: For the eNews we are switching from iContact to MailChimp as of December 1st since it is better platform, and we can use it for free up to 2000 people. It also removes HRNI oversight. After newsletter goes out, we can think about doorhangers. Susan: Renter flyers is that what Duncan is working on? Ted: Yes. Susan: Did we lose our ability to do e-news? Ted: No. We pay a lot for e-news now, but with our new MailChimp account that will cost us nothing. We will take our e-news out of roam of HRNI that is currently so understaffed. Stephanie: Last year's deadline for Winter newsletter was January 15. MailChimp is so much more superior to what we have now. Unlike iContact you can see very well how it will look like on a phone etc. MailChimps is a clearer look. At very top you will have list of all articles in e-news; people can easily go to an article of their interest. Ted: Complicated task will be archiving all past newsletters.

Events – No upcoming events.

Advisory boards – Duncan: What happened to boards. Ted: Nothing going on with them.

Friends of parks affiliates – Ted: In Monroe Park new lighting is in process and bathroom remodel should be completed by spring 2022. We will schedule discussion for early 2022 for configuring park. Sue: Goodbye event for Pappas "Walking Man" sculpture was touching. Ted: For Charnel Mulligan Park clean-up you likely should get early on schedule.

Committees – Ted: No news.

4. RPP updates

Ted: Parking had some logistic challenges and turned data to city. They were supposed to generate new list of people that didn't vote yet. We are now going into final phase. It is not possible for us to do that sort of calculation. We likely need to go with votes. Vanessa: Last time there was some concern about fact that we have multiple votes for same address. Until now it appears that there are more people against it than in favor for it.

5. Prior general meeting review

Ted: It was dramatic in amount of people. But it was really informative! Kudos to Duncan to set that up! We should maybe send out our proposal for crosswalks. Reed Dunbar kind of invited us: "Send me a list of crosswalks." Every three blocks is kind of standard. Duncan: We need to start defining now what we want to come in transportation plan. Susan: Tell us what that is. Duncan explains what that plan is about. Duncan: "We like you to do study on getting West 11th and West 13th 2-way". We need to come with written proposal. Stephanie: If Vanessa could do it. Ted: Reed was very complementary about Vanessa's article. Duncan: Let's send her an email and tell her. Ted: To Duncan. Send me existing plan. I will contact Vanessa and connect her with Dunbar.

6. Discussion for winter meetings.

Stephanie and I have schedule issue for February General Meeting. Vanessa is out of town. Susan is not comfortable to go to in-person meeting. We either have Zoom meeting chaired by Vanessa or we skip February GM. In origin we had idea that January or February meeting needed to be HB2001 meeting. Eric: Given sensitivity of issues concerning HB2001 we need as much board members as possible for GM concerning that topic. Susan: I am not sure if I can be there in January and February. Vanessa: I am certainly fine with eventually leading February GM but having a break in series of meetings also makes sense. Sue: I am ok with skipping February GM. Duncan: I think we need February GM. Stephanie: I would be in favor for February GM if we have higher turnout then last GM. I was pretty discouraged. Ted: Something we might want to consider is maybe we flip January / February GM to Zoom. We can justify that; like that we can be more inclusive. I propose: January GM via Zoom with a main topic HB2001. February GM via Zoom depending on what situation is. Let us leave February meeting open. December allows us enough space for scheduling meetings. Consensus of board on January GM on Zoom.

7. Board intentions for next term.

Ted: Given fact that Eric is moving back to Amsterdam next year he won't continue his position in our board. If you already know what your intention for next period of board is let me know. The earlier the better because it is lot of work to recruit new board members.

8. Homelessness

Ted: I had a long meeting with Rich Locke, founder of Eugene Business Alliance and leader of West Eugene businesses dealing with homeless campers and Heather Sielicki, former operations manager at White Bird and now co-lead at Everyone Village, collaborative effort to help extend capacity of safe, legal shelter for people experiencing homelessness in our community with an innovative, person-centered approach. They are setting up large, sanctioned shelter site in West Eugene and are reactivating inactive West Eugene Community Organization. We discussed coordinating with Everyone Village and Eugene Business Alliance in encouraging action on systemically addressing street camping and shelter spaces and better organizing and funding local providers. I was invited to participate in Onward Eugene and Lane County Chamber of Commerce Business Leaders Task Force (BLTF), about 50 people who are trying to develop solutions to impacts of homelessness via private sector. I think JWN is only invited NHA. I haven't made any commitment on behalf of neighborhood association. We are scheduled for another meeting where teams will be assembled with idea of enacting specific projects/goals every 30 days. Leadership expressed their low confidence in ability of city management to act. A departure from 2019 when Chamber stated it was waiting to see what city was going to do. I don't know when city finally is going to demobilize camp on 13th. Susan: They are kind of behind on all their sites. Ted: It really hurts Eugene as city. People don't want to move their family here. It is bad for moral of city staff too. We need to make some hard moves. Probably I will ask board to help me make a choice on our position. I have seat on table now. Susan: I have been thinking about homeless situation. There are at least 5 or 6 different kinds of people within homeless. I would think that for mentally ill people there would be more support to help them. It would be helpful to focus on mentally ill people. Ted: Rich Locke agrees with you. We just need to force state to deal with mental illness and city to deal with addiction. Primary problem is county. What Heather Sielicki wants to do is to take some of that money for navigation center. There is no reason for that everybody needs different account. What you are saying Susan

everyone is talking about that notion. Susan: 99% of people are angry with homeless, but nobody will be against helping mentally ill people. Whole thing of homelessness seems so impossible. Ted: It is behavior issue, while most homeless people don't behave badly. People had reasonable amount of compassion. Eric: I propose we invite Heather Sielicki to General Meeting. Ted: I support that idea. Duncan: Heather and two others were in City Club meeting.

9. Sidewalks and tree mapping

Duncan: We need to find means to map sidewalks. I downloaded ADA compliant criteria; only 1% of our sidewalks are compliant! Ted: We need graphic presentation. We had three different people that had tried, but they all gave up on trying to generate maps based on the data collected. The only option appears to be to manually map the hazards or complete re-collect the data in a format that will generate maps. Duncan: We have the data. Problem is making graphical presentation. Ted: Maybe we can put out more specific call for someone experienced with GIS system? Duncan: Maybe someone in University of Oregon. Ted: I will ask my neighbor, faculty at UO. Susan: I will ask our architect neighbor if he has any ideas.

10. Naval Reserve site

Ted: I received an email from Alissa Hansen, Planning Director on new developments for the Naval Reserve site property: *While Eugene's land use code allows for affordable housing ("specialized housing") as a permitted use in the PL Public Land zone when the site is owned and operated by a public agency, a recent change in state law means the site will not need to go through a zone change or refinement plan amendment to be available for the development of affordable housing by other housing providers. The Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill 8 during the 2021 session which requires cities to allow affordable housing (as defined by the bill) without the requirement of a zone change on property zoned as public land. The bill also requires cities to allow affordable housing without a zone change if the housing is owned by a public body. This bill becomes effective on January 1, 2022.* This means we can skip changing the refinement plan and move directly to discuss the form and scope of housing at the site, which is much more engaging. I suggest we contact the stakeholders and update them. I have asked Hansen for details and reached out to Jacob Fox and Homes for Good. Eric: That is great news. Maybe we need to discuss with Paul how to proceed. Duncan: Reading text in Italics I am concerned it doesn't require affordable housing on Naval Reserve Site. Ted: Refinement plan process would have been hard to get neighbors tuned into it. Now we can start with people at Faith center. What would we envision, what would you like there? I don't think there is no reason to go through refinement plan process yet. After Thanksgiving I will reach out to people involved in Naval Reserve Site and check if they are interested in a meeting. I will talk with Keystone people. Susan: I was wondering when you mentioned Homes for Good do you think they are doing a good job? They took all trees down on that site. Ted: Yes, I do think they are doing a good job. They so successfully realized supportive housing near Lane Event Centre. That project proved that to loop in people early than it is much better. Susan: There is different facility on River Road. Ted: I have talked with Jason of Homes for Good. We don't know which organization city choose based on tender and bids, but Homes for Good could be good candidate to realize housing on Naval Reserve site. I would like to have meeting with neighbors of Naval Reserve Site. Their Keystone project is result from State Funding. Use of state funding for Naval Reserve Site project would time pressure on it.

11. Board decision process

Ted: I know that Susan had some problems with board decision process. Susan: I said what I needed to say, I just wanted to make certain that when on behalf of board something goes out everyone had opportunity to weight in. We sometimes need to tone down our language. I don't see any point in irritating others. I didn't have any issue with content. You were not stepping on my toes. Ted: It is good to check in. I appreciate you voiced your concerns! Sue: I passed sometimes. I just ask to give us clear deadlines. Duncan: I don't like these email cascades. I agree with Susan we should tone down our language. Susan: Someone could help to tone down. Procedures in policy are very important. We must be all on board.

Ted: We have no GM in December. Given X-mas holidays I propose to have our board meeting week earlier on Tuesday December 14. Board members agree.

12. Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm

ACTIONS

- Organize event with people Westmoreland Park rest-stop (action Ted)
- Organize conversation with Friends of Monroe Park neighbors concerning incremental upgrades Monroe Park (action Ted)
- Inform Ted about your intention for next period of board (action all)
- Send existing Transportation Plan to Ted (action Duncan)
- Contact Vanessa about preparing input for new Transportation Plan process and contact her with Reed Dunbar (action Ted)
- Ask neighbor, faculty at UO for advice on someone experienced with GIS system (action Ted)
- Ask architect neighbor if he has any ideas concerning mapping of Sidewalk data (action Susan)