

MINUTES

JWN Executive Board Meeting – March 15th, 2022

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

Absences: None Guests: Rene Kane

1. Meeting called to order

Chair called meeting at 6:37 to order. Agenda adjustments: None.

2. Rene Kane on HRNI attempt to revise role of NHAs

Rene: I have been HRNI's Neighborhood Association representative for 12 years. Ted: Rene is our representative at HRNH committee. Rene: Third meeting happened today. It was 2nd meeting I attended. I was surprised that staff expressed goals for this project process. Goals were expressed to us today. Rene summarized goals. Staff frames it as need to have clear and objective rules so that neighborhood associations know what to expect from HRNH. In advisory group for this project there are representatives of following Neighborhood Associations: Northeast, Church Hill, Amazon, River Road, Whiteaker. In last meeting we discussed NRNH's goals. We started to talk about what HR does to support NA's and guarantee NA's engagement. They (HRNI) asked us to indicate if specific piece is critical / of low importance / important to engage community. We talked about services of HRNI. What they call capacity building for example to neighborhood planning. "Here it is where it gets sticky to me". For me it all relates to Neighborhood Association recognition policy, to NORP. Charter was last updated in 2015. Charter covers series of policies for example concerning neighborhood boundaries. I am very concerned about that. Ones you open NORP ... "Any attempt to delegitimize NA's I will protest". We are suddenly sousing all those things together. NORP is something City Council approved. NORP concerns all city departments not just HRNI for example, also planning department. Advisory group is about halfway done. Vanessa: What is timeline of decisions? Rene: They put everything on engage Eugene. They are aiming to having survey done April/ May and report in fall. So, they will analyze results in summer. Ted: Survey will be directed to whom? Rene: To board members, former board members, and Neighborhood Matching Grant recipients. This is not very well thought out project and we will find that out going the way. Ted: Who will design survey? Rene: I think they will form another group for that. Ted: They already know what they want. I think this needs to be torpedoed directly. Rene: I said something like that in for last meeting. There was nothing said about it in last meeting, and it was not on agenda. It (the project) is very swirly in its language and concept. Yes, Duncan in response to your question, we (the NA's) were formally recognized as a body. City needs to listen to us. If you compare NA to 'golfcourse neighbors', they are just bunch of neighbors they don't have that formal status as a NA. Duncan: Whiteaker is 501C3. Rene: That is fine for them. Nonprofit like Whiteaker could be a fiscal sponsor. Ted: They (Whiteaker NA) collect lots of grant's money. Primary thing about being as NA a formal body is that when it is coming to land use they (city) has to listen to us. If board supports, I will push back on this HRNI project through NLC. Board approves chair's proposal. Rene: It surprises me that NA's in Eugene don't know, realize what happened in Portland and Seattle. Susan: What happened with NA's in Portland and Seattle?

Ted: They (cities) basically eliminated them (NA's). I sense that in Eugene HRNI won't want to go for 'the kill' but just want to reduce our influence. Everything we do with city's money is outreach. To city we represent an alternative power. Rene: Our Neighborhood Association charters are agreement with people that we represent. Charter is reviewed by city staff (checked against Model Charter) but approved by City Council.

3. **Brief reports from Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and NLC rep**

Chair (Ted) This is last board meeting for Vanessa and Eric. I want to thank you a lot!

RPP I just received map with results on votes for Residential Parking Permit. Tomorrow Vanessa and I will have meeting about it with Jeff Petry. Neighbors around Monroe Park endorsed two-hour parking limit on side of park. Post-covid they (parking) are reacting quite quickly. They are really on it. Susan: That two-hour limit is just around Monroe Park? Ted: Yes.

Business Leaders Task Force on Homelessness

We had general Eugene Chamber of Commerce Business Leaders Task Force (BLTF) meeting on Monday. Sarai Johnson - Lane County; Peter Chavannes - Housing Services Manager Eugene, and Wakan Alferes from Homes for Good.

- Lane County is looking at putting in Mental Health Crisis Center and public shelter, old Symantec/Sykes building on West 8th.
- Found out city has approximately spaces for 1000 people (need 2500-4500).
- Here is latest work County is doing on housing:

https://lanecounty.ompnetwork.org/embed/sessions/236440/board-of-commissioners-morning-meeting-january-26-2022?display_mode=year.

There is push from homeless you need to legalize camping. We push city to create as much places as there are homeless people in Eugene.

I am serving on the Data and Accountability Sub-committees

- Data: helping to create survey for impacts of homelessness on business and, at some point, general representative survey, to be conducted by professionals, for city on homelessness.
- Accountability: drafting proclamation to submit to City Council declaring post-pandemic reset of balance between rights and responsibilities. /

Meeting with Randy Groves (Ward 8) Agrees with West Eugene United Group (W-EUG) strategy. Is skeptical of HB 2001 staff proposal, favors "on-ramp" approach. Very interested in working with JWN and Emily Semple.

Treasurer (Sue) – Ted: Sue, can you talk about funding numbers? I just wrote to Cindy Koehler to see if she has numbers for 3rd Trimester allocation. I'm assuming \$900 is what we will have left after sending last postcard? Ted: There should be enough left for nice doorhanger or postcard. 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 Duncan's Minutes of February 16th, 2021, board meeting.

NLC (Vanessa) – Ted: There was big discussion on HB2001. Kelly McIver, Communications Manager, Unhoused Response, City of Eugene presented and answered questions. Mostly typical vague platitudes and refusal to address issues with city's response. He did say city has approxi-

mately 3000 homeless and they had provided 55 vehicle spaces, 86 tents, and 43 additional tent spaces as part of their sanction sites program.

Fabio Andrade is new Director of HRNI, which is unfortunate because he is hostile to role of NHAs. HRNI has undertaken review of way NHAs operate, and Rene Kane has agreed to represent us. HRNI undertook this effort with no consultation with NLC and has included city staff from other departments. There is no set goals or agenda, and concern is this is backdoor effort to revise and degrade (control) NHAs as was done in Seattle and Portland. HRNI has not been forthcoming with any details, list of participants, or meeting minutes. I am advocating for project to be terminated and reconstituted under NHA leadership.

For March, NLC will discuss and vote on motion to send to city council advocating for minimalist HB 2001 compliance. Vote needs to go through NA's boards. Susan: That will happen or not happen? Ted: Yes, it will happen. I gave them (NA representatives) text for motion based on Paul's texts.

4. Brief committee reports

Neighborhood Matching Grant - Ted: No news concerning initiative for mural project.

Outreach - Ted: We need to ask Dave Hurts to design doorhanger, need to split up work and use as many volunteers as possible to spread them. Susan: I think it is great, the simpler the better.

Ted: We made our order for extra yard signs in time. Unit costs dropped lot, \$10/ yard sign. We need to think about strategy for event specific signs and need people to adapt those signs.

Sue: Did you see those signs for food drive used in other neighborhoods? For our park clean up specific signs would be better. Ted: I found volunteer for our social media, Peter Borden, and will meet him on Thursday. I am very happy that someone is willing to do it. Concerning 20th anniversary design what is your feedback? Duncan: I would go for any of them. Sue: I like one with 20 years in background. Susan: One with text 20th anniversary in background, is clearest one. But sky writing design could be bigger. Eric: I like version with brick wall in background best. I appreciate that subtle hint to East West (Berlin), Berlin wall, fall of that wall, and regained freedom and equality. And besides that brick wall hints to urbanism, houses and built area of JWN. I agree with Susan that font used for 20 year anniversary is not so clear. I like big 20 years in background of first version but I think overall design is a bit to busy. Third version hints with all it trees to trees in JWN, but it also could be seen as sign in middle of forest.

Ted: I suggest we use brick and sky writing versions in mix. Vanessa: May I add my two cents? I like brick one. Concerning skywriting version, I suggest bumping up saturation of colors that may allow letters to be better to read. Keep gradation of sky color and make letters little bigger.

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Events - Ted: We should discuss planning of July picnic event. Stephanie: Weekend event or during week? Sue: In general, on an evening during week. Ted: I propose Tuesday, July 26. We need to put team together to organize. Team that comes up with plan, find band, etc. Answers questions like Potluck or more food truck. Susan: I will be in that team. Sue: Me too! Ted: Sue can you reach out to your contacts from last time? Susan: Shall I just write people we had last summer? Ted: Sounds good to me.

Advisory boards - Ted: No news concerning advisory boards I presume?

Friends of parks affiliates - Ted: Concerning Monroe Park following. Based on neighbor support we asked for two-hour parking limit on park frontage. Bathroom remodel this summer. I am meeting with park representative Thursday on planting plan for fall (city wants to wait because of construction). First work party March 27. We still need to engage with neighbors of Monroe Park what they want in park. Unfortunately, our contact park manager Kevin Finney is retiring.

Committees – No news.

5. Prior General Meeting review

Ted: I was happy with turnout. Afterwards I talked with Allan Benevides, Eugene Emeralds General Manager. He agreed that there was in the end too much ‘sending time’ and not enough time to listen to concerns. Smaller meeting will help. LEC Development Team has feedback cards and will give them back to us.

6. April GM (elections, Broadband, Library); May GM Naval Reserve site housing

Ted: Susan are you able to attend April GM? Susan: I guess so. Ted: It is election meeting it would be good if you could physically be there.

7. West Eugene United Group (W-EUG), West Eugene Public Safety and Economic Development Group,

Ted: 1st meeting was called by Rich Locke of Eugene Business Alliance, but he dropped calling 2nd meeting and took highly adversarial stance against city and Councilors Syrett and Semple. Ian Winbrock, Chair of WCC, and myself in consultation with Councilor Groves (Ward 8), decided to move forward with our own group. Comprised of West Eugene City Councilors, Neighborhoods, non-profits, and businesses. Goals are to:

- Bring business owners, managers, employees, residents, neighborhoods, and non-profits together with our elected officials to create policy to drive investment and improve West Eugene as a place to live, work, and own business.
- Ensure that West Eugene is seriously considered in citywide decisions and investment.

To inform policy makers and facilitate a timely response by government to emerging problems. So idea is to have West Eugene councilors put together group that will work on homelessness, economic development. Does board support me to start with Whiteaker this group and bring in Church Hill, Bethel and others? Board all in favor of proposal.

8. Active Transportation Committee – representing JWN agenda

Ted: I suggest that we assign representative to attend ATC meetings, and act as advocate for transportation issues in JWN. For example, sidewalks and crosswalks. Duncan: I am more than willing to be that representative. Sue: Thank you Duncan!

9. LEC Process [LEC Development Team to meet with Benevides and paper petition folks]

Ted: Concerning LEC Team I had conversation with Tom Happy. He suggested to bring people that are against it (Stadion on site of LEC) in one space together with Allan Benevides, Eugene Emeralds General Manager. That would be for us (JWN board) point to hand it down to their team. So, idea is first meeting with primary sceptics. We got all notes and will answer as much as possible. In the end it will come down to money. They (Eugene Emeralds) need to have memorandum of understanding in between them and county. By late spring they think to know if

it will happen or not. Susan: When you are talking about the team are you talking about people who live nearby? Ted: We have pretty good representation on that team.

10. Petitioning Council Graffiti Abatement Ordinance; Walkable Eugene Task Force

Ted: Persistent and unattended graffiti on both public and private property is ugly, attracts more vandalism and bad behaviors, and projects decay and disorder. In Santa Cruz CA, ordinance requires that graffiti on private property be abated within 24 hours. After that, city remediates it. In ordinance there is no charge. I propose asking Council to have staff draft similar ordinance. Particularly in light of the upcoming Oregon 22 event. Sue: I think city had volunteer program for this. Ted: I will investigate that.

Walkable Eugene Task Force Ted explains idea for walkable Eugene task force. Ted: In my last meeting with Emely Semple, I suggested city convene task force with charge of bringing to council, within six months, ordinance on addressing dangerous condition of city sidewalks. Task force would research solutions in other cities and propose ways to pay for repairs.

Susan: Can city give it to private contractors? Ted: If city is serious about walkable neighborhoods, they need to invest in this.

11. Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:37 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)
- Investigate city's volunteer program for cleaning Graffiti damage (action Ted)