

Highland Neighborhood Association Committee (NAC) Meeting

November 9th, 2017 6:30pm

Highland Park Middle School library

Members: Puneet Prakash, Kate Prakash, Liz Buffam, Andrea List, Ethel Sparhawk, Jen Campbell, Jennifer Lee, Terry Hintz, Donna Raagas, Quinn Simpson, Shelly Eugenio, Sharon Fehrs, Jim Connelly

Board: Jeff Menzel, vice chair & treasurer, Reggie Frumkin, recorder, Bernadette Le, Juanita Coparanis, John Dugger

Presenters: Tammy Smilowski, Jeff Campbell, & Malik Murrij of Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue (TVF&R), Officer Matt Matias of the Beaverton Police Department (BPD), Lori Leach of Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District (THPRD), Frank Angelo of Angelo Planning Group, Captain Eric Oathes of BPD & project manager of the planned Public Safety Center, Victor Sin of the City of Beaverton

Meeting commenced at 6:30pm by Jeff. Quorum present

Presentations:

Tammy Smilowski, Jeff Campbell, & Malik Murrij, TVF&R:

*Farmington Road station is busiest in district with average of 12 to 20 calls a day

*Check your smoke detector batteries twice a year, like when daylight savings begins and ends

-Hardwired vs. battery detectors: hardwired have battery back-ups for power failure

*For fires, households should designate a meeting place outside (fire escape plan)

*Teach about cooking safety and supervise kids as winter holidays approach and set rules

-Cooking fires can grow quickly due to oils

*Question asked of what would be an appropriate immediate response to a cooking fire

-Smother the pan with a lid (wearing oven mitt) but be prepared to immediately evacuate because the fires can spread quickly

*Will send information to Chair on October's call statistics

*Question asked of how information on changing smoke detector batteries is publicized

-Public service announcements, with further resources available on TVF&R website

Jeff explained sign-in sheet and minutes, with Victor noting the City of Beaverton allows one to opt in or out of receiving emails about the NAC

Officer Matt Matias, BPD:

*Distributed October 2017 crime statistics

*Same number of crimes as September (27 total)

-Of the crimes that increased, 6 of them had to do with drunkenness which could mean in some cases someone just needing to be assisted home

*Noted fewer trick-or-treaters in the Highland area, and BPD received no calls in Highland on Halloween of significant note

*Shredding Event November 11th at Sunset Presbyterian Church, 10am-1pm

-Donations of non-perishable food to Oregon Food Bank accepted

-Can bring up to 3 boxes of paper

*Car seat clinic November 18th at Kuni Auto Center, 9am-12pm

*BPD participating in "No Shave November", as permitted by Chief, but for the sake of raising awareness of early detection of men's cancers

-Every officer growing a beard donated at least \$50 to OHSU cancer research program

-Raised about \$3,000 so far

-Female officers permitted to add color to their hair in the month

*Comment was made that it was seen on social media that BPD will do stings on new distracted driving law, asked if one could happen on Hart Road due to many distracted drivers

-BPD has had details along Hart specifically for stop sign violators, as they have been made aware of hazardous conditions

-Will pass on suggestion to department

-Next meeting, will bring two months worth of data on new mobile device law

-Beaverton has a class for offenders

-Fine may be waived but not expunged from record

-Important for people to consider the hazards of using mobile devices while driving

*Comment was made in reference to personal experience of someone not being issued a citation in Beaverton due to lack of proof they were using their phone despite having their head down and having caused a crash, but was instead charged with reckless driving. Question asked how the new law is affecting cell phone culture

-It will take time to change a culture that has been built in for years but this is a turning point

- *Comment was made about intersection of Hart Road and Wilson Avenue collectively by 3 members who live at that intersection about highly hazardous conditions created by drivers
- *Question was asked about permitted GPS usage
 - GPS can only be used if built-in

Lori Leach, THPRD:

- *Works at Sunset Swim Center but has experience throughout the district
- *Women-only swim first Sunday and third Saturday of the month at Sunset and Aloha Swim Centers
- *First Free Friday of the month at aquatic centers for waived admission
- *Winter registration opens Saturday, December 9th at 8am
- *Question was asked on when the registration catalog will be ready
 - Mid-November, would need to go to a THPRD facility to pick one up but it's also available online
- *Howard M. Terpenning Aquatic Center phase II renovation underway
 - Reopening moved to January 8th
- *Hire-to-Train classes approaching
 - No previous skills necessary except ability to swim and be at least 16 years old
 - Would learn to be a life guard, teach swimming lessons, and work front desk
 - Training wage paid, then opportunity for being hired
- *Natural Resources Advisory Committee application deadline extended to December 3rd
- *Many volunteer opportunities with Natural Resources such as plantings and invasive species removal, see website
- *Greenway Park Master Plan (Scholls Ferry Road to Hall) being developed
 - Flooding, trail erosion among concerns
 - Seeking project advisory committee members
- *Mountain View Champions Park grand opening was October 14th
 - 2,500 people in attendance
 - Park designed to be accessible to all abilities
- *Comment was made about new county ordinance for dogs being required to be on leash in public, that word needs get out more such as by increasing signage, and that twice in last month two dogs have ran up off leash and were startling. One was in a park, other in general area of a park (a person let their dog leave the front yard)
 - Issue is continuing to be addressed, similar circumstances to when ban on smoking in parks was implemented
- *Comment was made that at Channing Heights Park off-leashed dogs have twice been observed in the last month running around the east portion of the park
 - Signs can be ineffective due to some people offending regardless
 - Best not to be confrontational and contact park patrol if regularly occurring during a certain time
- *Question was asked if facilities are open on Veterans Day
 - Most facilities are open Saturday but closed Friday due to observance
- *Question was asked if THPRD has an arborist
 - Not a dedicated arborist but there are employees who have those skills
 - Some jobs may be contracted to arborists
- *Question was asked about having a Natural Resources representative as a meeting guest in the future for a design brainstorming session on what the NAC can do to add value to the Fir Grove East natural area
 - Will look into this
- *Question was asked about the availability of information for which parks allow dogs
 - Cooper Mountain and Tualatin Hills Nature Parks have dog park alternative recommendation resources, since they are the only 2 parks that don't allow dogs
 - Will look into further available resources on the subject

Frank Angelo, Angelo Planning Group, presenting on the proposed zoning change and comprehensive plan map amendment for the taxlots on the planned Public Safety Center site at the former Beaverton Activities Center:

- *Distributed maps of proposed changes
- *Existing zoning: neighborhood service (except one taxlot owned by the City of Beaverton on the site's southeast corner and a currently-being-acquired parcel from Portland Central Church on the southwest corner)
 - Those 2 parcels will be changed to neighborhood service for consistency with rest of site
- *Portland Central Church parcel is neighborhood residential standard density, City-owned parcel is mixed use corridor
 - Church parcel is being changed to mixed use corridor
- *All parcels on site will eventually be consolidated to one taxlot
- *Changes are to be filed with planning commission and city council, to be moved through by February 2018, then development applications, conditional use permits, and design review will proceed
- *Question was asked of possibility of opposition to the changes
 - People within 500 feet have been notified by mail
 - City of Beaverton planning department had suggested to unify zoning and land use

- Proposed changes would be to have consistent designations on the entire site
- *Question was asked on whether the gas station taxlot at the intersection of Allen and Hall Boulevards would be part of the design as it was left out of the site map
 - This will be addressed later in this meeting
- *City council will have two hearings to make the changes effective
- *Planning commission hearing expected in January, then council hearing in February
- *No further questions or comments on the proposed changes

Captain Eric Oathes, BPD, Project manager for planned Public Safety Center, presenting on the proposed Public Safety Center draft site plan:

- *Planning for the building through 2050
- *An owner's representative (someone who contracts with the City who is proficient in construction language) will be working with the City to make sure building is to its standards
- *FFA Architecture And Interior are the architects
 - Sub contractor MWL, architects for police facilities throughout the country
- *Construction is Skanska Construction
- *Contractors were picked up through RFP (request for proposal) process, then interview process, and selected based on what was best for the City and construction project
- *Met with police officials in October to work out department needs for the building
- *Sustainability charrette was held for energy-saving design elements
 - Discussion of orienting building west-east to reduce surface area heated by sun
 - Could have semi-permeable asphalt to reduce stormwater run-off
 - Discussion about solar panels
- *Late October a design charrette was held with community representatives about issues on the site
- *The gas station cannot be built on because it is not city property
- *Displayed "Option 6" site plan from design charrette on a posterboard, depicting a secured parking lot on the south half of site, building shifted northwest to create public space and add more parking, public access from Hall, no car access on Allen, and police-only access from Main Avenue
- *An agreement has been reached to purchase part of the Portland Central Church's parking lot to square off the site
- *Intention to have public access from Allen and Hall, the main streets, to be open and inviting
 - Don't want a building too close to curb for safety purposes
- *At this point, the gas station is not owned by the City, but a discussion is being started with its owners to purchase but ultimate its fate is still unknown
 - Ideally within 6-8 months an agreement will be made
- *Existing house on site along Main will be torn down or donated/moved
- *Early permitting options to have site work done, such as pre-work on foundations, water, electricity
- *Construction estimated to begin December 2018 or January 2019 and estimated completion is June 2020
- *Question was asked by resident, who lives across Main from the site, if a traffic study will be done for Main
 - Being discussed now, and the site will only be accessible on Main to police
- *Comment made by same resident expressing concern about the proposed "sally port" near Main
 - The building will contain a temporary holding facility for suspects and is not a jail
- *Asked how many square feet is each of the 3 story buildings
 - 75,000 square feet total, 12,500 per floor
- *Question was asked if any consideration has been given to pedestrian improvements at the site, mentioning the Allen Boulevard District Plan and how pedestrian safety improvements were the greatest concern at the previous month's NAC meeting when the plan was presented
 - Intention is to make the Allen and Hall sides to be a public area
- *Comment was made on the need to implement changes to narrow sidewalks and curbs
 - The design is required to add bike lanes on Allen or right-turn lane onto Hall
- *Comment was made that this is the first impression people will see of Highland, looking at the 2050 vision
 - Any improvement along Allen would be involved with the Allen Boulevard District Plan
- *Draft site plan was presented to City Council on Tuesday and the Highland NAC is the third group to hear about it
- *Question was asked if the secured parking area would consist of coverings
 - Would be an uncovered, open parking lot
- *Question was asked if putting parking under the building is an option
 - Was looked at but isn't feasible due to a low water table and there only being \$25,000,000 to build the building (\$10,000,000 "soft fees" for furniture, designing, etc.)
- *Comment was made expressing concern that the building was branded to the public as the "Public Safety Center" with community spaces but 17 public parking spaces seemed limiting for public interaction
 - Rooms would be available for public use
 - If the gas station were bought, the land could be expanded parking
- *Comment was made that too few parking spaces could lead to increased parking on Main

- *There is a brownfield that extends northwest of the gas station and the contaminated zone cannot be built on
 - The corporation owning the property is liable but seeking compensation could take a while
- *Comment was made that smart scheduling could help alleviate parking concerns
- *Griffith Building third floor will open as community rooms in January 2018
- *Question was asked regarding the relocation of the Beaverton Activities Center tenants
 - All services have moved out to new locations
- *The Angelo group will return to the NAC for a future meeting before development begins, with traffic report results
- *Comment was made about increasing the secured parking lot setbacks from Main and adding large trees there to better blend the site into the neighborhood. Reggie was invited to the design charrette as the Highland NAC representative but couldn't attend the second session so a Highland representative was not present to give feedback to the draft design. Comment was made of the need to preserve the 2002 Arbor Day planting grove on the southeast corner of the site. Previously gave testimony on the same grove at the most recent city council meeting. Asked to consider alternatives for vehicle storage to enable preservation of the trees such as storing lesser-used vehicles at other secured, City-owned parking lots. Indicated as a Tree City USA the City should preserve as many of those trees as possible
 - The project design team is working with City of Beaverton arborist Pat Hoff to look into ways to save the trees, such as relocating them elsewhere on the site
- *Comment was made of integrating a greenspace along Main with a trail to continue the one along the west and north sides of the Fir Grove East natural area, which currently ends at Main

Victor Sin, City of Beaverton:

- *Exploring possibility of a brownfield remediation grant from the Environmental Protection Agency for \$200,000
 - Seeking a letter of endorsement from NAC Chair or Vice Chair
 - Jeff to follow up
- *Distributed information on the Tree Lighting and German Market being held on Saturday December 2nd
 - Roads will be closed
 - Partnering with German International School to have holiday market and lighting in conjunction
 - Wanted to preserve the integrity of the tree typically adorned in City Park such as minimizing impacts from heat-emitting lights and heavy equipment and will instead decorate a similar tree near City Park
- *Toy Drive with KPTV and the City happening November 8th to December 10th
 - Collecting toy donations at the Griffith Building
- *Severe weather shelter opened November 2nd and about 100 volunteers have signed up to be ready to help
 - Provides 30 spaces for homeless people to stay during cold conditions, and every Thursday
- *Question was asked about attendance at the shelter since last year
 - Attendance has stayed steady
- *Question asked of age statistics of the shelter's patrons
 - Minimum age of 18 years, wide range of ages
- *Victor's last meeting with NAC, reassigned to Visioning Advisory Committee
 - Common practice is to have a City representative at every meeting, but successor unknown

Treasurer's Report

- *NAC account balance unchanged since last reporting (\$3,857.20)

Officer Elections

- *Jeff explained role of NAC chair
- *No one made any nominations for a chair
- *Juanita nominated Jeff for vice chair, John nominated Jeff for treasurer, Jeff accepted
 - Jeff still willing to facilitate meetings
- *Juanita nominated Reggie for recorder, Reggie accepted
- *Jennifer expressed interest in being the Beaverton Committee for Citizen Involvement representative but wanted to attend more meetings first
- *Willingness expressed by multiple members to help out with meetings, ie. setting agenda
- *Chair Lindsey Lewman had made it known she cannot continue in role due to family obligations
- *Vote was held on electing all nominations, no discussion, passed unanimously

Ideation

Turkey Trot (Lindsey & Reggie):

- *Neighborhood run/jog/walk to bring people together and outdoors before holiday eating
 - Thursday, November 23rd (Thanksgiving) at Highland Park Middle School

-Participants depart on the route at 9am

-There will be a "Thanksgiving" raffle and water and fruit at the end of the route

*People can give feedback on what the 3.16 mile/5 kilometer route should be either on Facebook, Nextdoor, or by contacting Lindsey or Reggie

*Jeff indicated how the NAC has done neighborhood walks in the past and are good for bringing neighbors together

Tree Preservation Presentation

*Reggie mentioned that board member Konnette Etheredge asked City arborist Pat Hoff to talk at the December NAC meeting about mature tree preservation practices for homeowners

*Comment made about 3 redwood trees being protected and preserved through sale of ownership on a property near Wilson Avenue and Hart Road

Round Robin:

*Question was asked about how the City notifies people about sidewalk issues in front of their home

-Coordinated by City code enforcement officers, George Fetzer is manager

-Outreach is done on homeowner responsibility of sidewalk, City matching grant for sidewalk repairs

*Question was asked if matching grant funds on sidewalk repairs get exhausted every year

-Has stayed consistent with available funds, around \$100,000 annually

*Asked if grant can be applied to an unbroken sidewalk

-Have contractor or code enforcement officer assess it, see if it meets guidelines of matching grant

*Comment was made that it is very difficult to get contractors to come to actually do the repairs and often don't call back due to increased construction demand around the area

*Comment was made that suggested the City to look into hiring a full time sidewalk repair specialist to bypass contractor issues, reallocating money from the repair matching grant fund to fund the position

*Comment was made suggesting to reduce, even temporarily, the 3-bid requirement

-3 bids is a state mandate

*Comment was made that they had contacted 23 contractors for concrete work and no one has responded

*Comment was made that City has list of sidewalk repair contractors to call

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 by Jeff