

AUGUST 3, 2021 SEN BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Present: Dennis Hebert, Christina Hansberry, Lynne Macdonald, David Monk, Elzbieta Kubok, Emily Fox, Rob Fiset

Absent: Devon Mann, Jessica Roshak Tuerk

Guests: John Q. Murray, Matt Keating

Public Comment: None

MATT KEATING - City Councilor for Ward 2

Matt reported that he toured EWEB's water storage site. He opposed the building of two tanks and said it was disheartening to lose the trees, but water is also very important. 2.1 of 11.2 acres will be cleared and machines may run later than previously indicated. On the upside, the remaining wild land may be developed for butterfly habitat.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR - Dennis

Dennis reported that EWEB wants a liaison with SE Neighbors. Devon volunteered. She will transmit questions and comments to the city and report back to us.

At the last NLC meeting it was reported that a state law has been passed requiring all in-person board and commissioners meetings to include a Zoom option so all can participate.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES June & July 2021 - Lynne

David moved and Dennis seconded approval of the June minutes. Vote: unanimous

David moved and Dennis seconded approval of the July minutes. Vote: unanimous

TREASURER'S REPORT - Christina

US Bank: \$800.00

Balance in City of Eugene Acct: \$4600.00

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE - David, John Q

David reported that the Wildfire Prevention Committee has been dissolved by NLC. We will follow through with approximately 220 site visits to the homes of people who have contacted us. David recommended that everyone sign up with the Eugene Fire Department to receive text messages for emergency evacuation instructions.

David will be submitting a grant proposal created by Pathfinder to fund the September 11 event at Amazon Community Center.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

See Report Page 2

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE - Jess, John Q. Christina

A website manual is being created and will be sent to each board member one week before the next meeting. Sue will then leave the project.

LAND USE COMMITTEE - Dennis, Emily, David

The Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) has stalled the cutting of more trees at the EWEB site until August 9 because of possible erosion issues. All but twelve trees have already been cut down. Emily recommended putting together a publication to inform neighbors how HB-2001 could impact our neighborhood. Ela emphasized the importance of keeping the information objective.

Emily will draft a statement to be reviewed by Dennis, Ela and David, then all of us.

The Planning Commission will be presenting recommendations to the City in September.

See Report Page 3

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE - Rob

Rob reported that the bike tour will be informational and sensitive to occupants of the sites.

See Report Page 4

TUGMAN PARK VOLUNTEERS - Dennis

Volunteers are pulling ivy and new plantings are doing well.

See Report Page 10

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE - Devon

See Report Page

EVENT COMMITTEE - Dennis, Emily

Emily presented arguments about the Delta variant of Covid-19 which put into question the wisdom of holding an event - even outdoors. She recommends cancelling. Other board members shared their feelings and it was decided that Dennis will contact Lane County Public Health officials to see what they recommend. He will report back to us what he learns by August 19.

OLD BUSINESS:

See notes on EWEB's water storage updates under Land Use Committee Report.

NEW BUSINESS:

See notes on HB-2001 information for neighbors under Land Use Committee Report.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:25 pm

Transportation Committee Report

The Transportation committee grew by one member this month, welcoming Lois Yoshishiga to the team! She is a bus rider and retired UO faculty with experience organizing and leading the union. committee members Linda Duggan, Rachel Anderson, Lucy Bambrey, and John Q Murray reported for weekly on,one meetings this month. Steve Abbott is attending the Active Transportation Meetings for SEN.

LTD will be returning all routes to a pre-pandemic level on Feb 2022 and we think that is when they'll be amping up focus on ridership and looking to re-organize routes based on that data, although we were previously told that would happen this fall. Regardless, we encourage everyone

to ride the bus as soon as they feel comfortable with doing so. We were going to do a neighborhood 'ride the bus pledge' in replacing a car trip a week with a bus trip this fall, but that will be kicked back til covid levels dissipate.

New business: The committee has been discussing how important yet under-emphasized sidewalks are as existing infrastructure for pedestrians in SEN. Some neighbors have complained of dangerous tripping hazards and injuries reported. Others are impeded partially or almost fully by vegetation. The city has before turned down suggestions to open up a conversation about sidewalk maintenance, so the status quo persists, which is responsibility and liability lay entirely on the homeowner for installation and maintenance. The committee is interested in exploring the opening up new funding sources for homeowners who need to repair sidewalks or install them – city funds and neighborhood fund buckets have been suggested. We put on hold a volunteer-lead sidewalk "census" which would give us more data on the need in the neighborhood as we discuss ways to do this without spotlighting individual addresses, for privacy. We would like to bring the topic of sidewalk walkability to the SEN board to brainstorm. We'll potentially send discussion notes with Steve Abbott to attend the city's Active Transportation committee.

Our committee is documenting sidewalk hazards on the 4J property surrounding Edgewood and Spencer butte and submitting them to the principals/4J maintenance department as well as the Safe Routes To School coordinator for consideration.

We are hoping to get a concrete contractor to give us an estimate of replacement costs per section of sidewalk so that we have a more tangible idea of costs. We may also compile a list of willing concrete contractors who can guarantee some fair pricing for neighbors for when they're ready to call someone.

The committee would like to include a blurb in the newsletter asking anyone who might need help trimming vegetation (self-reporting only, no "ratting out" neighbors :) that might be impinging on transportation or sight lines to email us. We'll then schedule a SEN volunteer day to go out and do the work. This would be a part of a message about reminding neighbors to be aware of students walking and biking back to school, observing 20 mph speed limits, maintaining sidewalks, and reporting hazards.

The city has a new transportation hazard reporting tool: <https://eugene-pwe.maps.arcgis.com/apps/CrowdsourcingReporter/index.html?appid=2a5443435f8745b68066590b03b54db0>. It has been advertised on our Facebook page, as have speed limit reminders, and student bus pass reminders.

Committee members will be attending State transportation committee meetings this month, LTD contracts meeting, LTD board meeting, and LTD strategic planning committee meetings this month. The Honorable John Q will set an inter neighborhood transportation council meeting for the fall. Neighborhood board members are overstretched with attending multiple meetings per week.

Land Use Committee Report

These past few weeks have been busy with working on the flyer on HB 2001. Emily has spent a lot of energy on this document along with David helping edit. I just put my 2 cents in where needed. You should be receiving it before our Tuesday meeting. Hope that all of you can find time to review it because we will be voting on publishing it in the newsletter asap.

Everyone has had a chance to weigh in on it. We took some pointers and others we did not feel contributed significantly to the information to be put out.

No further edits. What it is, is what we will be voting on. Although, we will have a short discussion on it.

Human Rights Committee Report

The HRC met on 7/29. Key results from the meeting:

(1) Revisited bike trip idea in light of board's feedback. Determined that the intended purpose of the trip (education on existing community resources) could be met without physical visit to the sites. Intend to scrap bike trip, and instead prepare (a) an email newsletter with information on the neighborhood sites and (b) a printable version of this information for distribution and discussion at the picnic.

(2) Determined to prepare a toolkit and information hub for responding to bias incidents in the neighborhood, to include for example:

(a) List of city resources and guide for navigating them (e.g., HRNI, HRC, appropriate contact people);

(b) SEN resources available at individual's direction, such as assistance communicating information on the incident to direct neighbors, examples of community actions taken in other cases;

(c) Hub with data and statistics on reported incidents in the neighborhood, neighboring neighborhoods, city.

A member of the local chapter of the group Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) and of the HRC reached out to me about the possibility of SEN or HRC signing on to a letter they are preparing to deliver to City Council in support of the recommendations of the recently concluded Ad Hoc Committee on Policing Policy. I encouraged the group to send a few members to the public comment at Tuesday's meeting to present on the issue and make their request, and I anticipate adding sign-on as an item for discussion for "New Business."

I am attaching their draft letter, a 5-page summary that SURJ put together of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee, and the full 240-page report of the Ad Hoc Committee. For those of you unfamiliar with the work of the committee, I have reviewed both the full report and the short summary, and think the summary gives a pretty thorough impression.

Summary follows...

BRIEF OVERVIEW

AHCPP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES IN EUGENE POLICING

REPORT SUBMITTED May 1, 2021, EUGENE, OREGON

BY AD HOC COMMITTEE ON POLICE POLICY (AHCPP)

This overview of the AHCPP report has been prepared by the Springfield-Eugene Chapter of Showing Up For Racial Justice (SURJ)

Link to full report: bit.ly/Eugene-ad-hoc-final-report.

WHO

30 community members representing the following groups were invited to participate in the City Council's Ad Hoc Committee: Civilian Review Board, Police Commission, Human Rights Commission, Black Unity, Centro Latino Americano, LULAC, NAACP, Blacks in Government, Transponder, 15th Night, Asian/Pacific Islander Community Action Team, Eugene Islamic Center, and Community Indigenous Peoples Group.

WHAT

The Ad Hoc Committee reviewed more than 200 police reform policies outlined in the Campaign Zero Platform and President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing; heard briefings on and studied past and current structures, policies, and practices of the Eugene Police Department; heard hours of often painful testimony from community members; discussed and debated 85 motions in five working groups yielding 50 recommendations approved by the full committee .

WHY

Eugene's City Council formed the Ad Hoc Committee in response to local and worldwide uprisings protesting the systemic racism that culminated in George Floyd's murder in May, 2020, as well as police killings of many Black people of all genders, and members of other marginalized groups, before and since. Locally, these avoidable tragedies included

- the 2015 death of Brian Babb, a white military veteran undergoing a mental health crisis, who was fatally shot from an armored police vehicle.
- the 2019 death of Eliborio Rodriguez, an unarmed Latinx man who resisted being arrested for walking in the street in a white neighborhood and for wearing a hoodie on a cold night. (A-98)

Based on the State law, both of these killings were deemed justified by the Lane County district attorney. See also in report the deaths of Charlie Landeros (A-123), Michael Amador Sanchez (A-126), Christopher Koziatek (A-118), Ryan Salisbury (A-109), and the near-death of Edgar Rodriguez (A-121).

It's equally important that the attitudes, beliefs, and conditioned fears that gave rise to these terrible deaths are at work every day in ordinary police interactions with people in our community who are "visibly different." (pg 48) Excessive use of force has emerged as a pattern in EPD interactions with families of color, unhoused people, and individuals going through mental illness. (See pg. 38 and especially A-54-56 and A - 131)

SELECTED RECOMMENDATIONS BY POLICY AREA

The full list of the Ad Hoc Committee's summarized recommendations can be found on pgs. 11-12 of report. See pages 46-68 for most of the actual recommendations.

USE OF FORCE (pgs. 48 -54)

- Police should not be responders to noncriminal calls. Mental health calls to be handled by mental health professionals. Community organizations such as CAHOOTS receive funding adequate to sustain 24/7 service. (See A-131-139 for related community testimony).
- Review and overhaul policing of demonstrations and crowd control policy
- De-escalation rather than force to shape the culture of the EPD, such that: Performance evaluations and promotions reward mastery and consistent use of de-escalation skills.

Comprehensive and repeated training in de-escalation, with community input re: contracted trainers.

If de-escalation is not the approach in any given police encounter, officers must cite the specific method they attempted to employ and why it was not possible

to use it.

- Police are duty-bound to intercede if a fellow officer uses excessive force, and to report excessive force without fear of retaliation.
- “Force” includes over-patrolling areas or populations, and public statements by police that disparage individuals or groups
- Limit open-carry firearms by community members.
- Demilitarize EPD uniforms and equipment “We do not want our local police force to interface with community as if equipped for war.” (A-13)

- Limit the use of chemical weapons

HIRING AND TRAINING (pgs. 55-58)

- Work with community to review and modify all training programs and materials such that patterns of systemic exclusion are not replicated.
- Use evidence-based mechanisms to test for bias in recruits and officers
- Track hiring, retention, and promotion rates of EPD staff from marginalized groups
- Foster an inclusive workplace, including clear training and disciplinary pathway for staff who are subject to regular complaints.
- Hire an equity-focused staff member to coordinate implementation of these recommendations, to act as point person in engagement with marginalized groups, and to develop and facilitate community input forums.

COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT (pgs. 59 -63)

- Extend the period in which complaints can be filed through the Auditor’s office.
- Create a publicly accessible and searchable database of police stops
- Give City Council final say on police policy if appealed by the Police Commission
- Eliminate bias and conflicts of interest on the Civilian Review Board

No current or former EPD employee should be a member

Members should receive a stipend

A quorum of the membership should be nominated by groups representing

marginalized people

- Strengthen efficacy of Civilian Review Board

Findings of fact binding on Chief of Police

- Entire event is examined when looking at police misconduct (i.e., what factors led to the escalation)

- CRB has subpoena power

- Give the CRB adjudication authority

- Bargain for a disciplinary matrix to provide consistency and transparency in discipline

BODY-WORN CAMERAS (pgs. 64-66)

- Prohibit muting and editing

- Officers can't review footage before completing incident reports/ statements

- Reaffirm public right to film police

- Require justification in court for denying Freedom of Information requests

- Footage stored externally from EPD

INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION (pgs. 67-69)

- Civilian Review Board has its own investigating team and investigating powers

- No police union or committee members should serve on IDFIT teams.*

- Civilian prosecutors should handle cases of potential criminal misconduct by police

- Lobby for changes in state law to remove disciplinary matters from collective bargaining

- Lobby for changes in state law to allow investigators to interrogate officers within 48 hours of a deadly force incident.

(NB: Committee was not unanimous on all recommendations. There was strong consensus about strengthening civilian authority, but a multiicplicity of opinions emerged as to how to achieve this end).

*IDFIT is the Lane County Interagency Deadly Force Investigation Team, which brings together representatives of various law enforcement agencies within the county to investigate instances of police violence and assist the District Attorney in determining whether they're justified. To date, every single instance of police violence investigated by the IDFIT has been ruled justified., (A-110)

FUTURE STEPS / LONGTERM ENGAGEMENTS / COMMUNITY VALUES PROCESS

In the words of the Transponder representatives to the Ad Hoc Committee: "Police are only the enforcement end of a larger system," (pg. 39), a system that includes all of us.

The Ad Hoc Report calls for a disciplinary matrix and a metrics of success based on community values with direct community input and approval." (A-4, A-5) How will we determine these values together? The report leaves that up to us, and to the people we've elected to govern.

It invites us to ask:

Who do we recognize as our community? Is community safety a value for all of us, the professional in a business suit as well as the unhoused person strugglng with addiction? Police use excessive force and over-patrol because they see as a threat the same "others" that our dominant culture sees as a threat, not really part of our "we."

Changing that will take a long time, but the communities who have been harmed rather than protected by our community "safety" system, who have worked painstakingly to write this report, are asking us to begin.

The City of Eugene must continue to engage with the communities who were invited to participate in formulating systemic change in Eugene policing. Their lived experience and knowledge is crucial as we seek to create more inclusive systems.

QUOTES FROM THE AD HOC COMMITTEE CALLING FOR A LONGTERM PROCESS

NAACP: “A single report will not make systemic racism disappear overnight. The city has shown that it can respond to the movement that was sparked by the killing of George Floyd, but we still need to be convinced that it has the will to make a long-term commitment to meaningful change.” (A-98)

Human Rights Commission: “Changing police policy can only do so much to reform an institution which is built upon a foundation of systemic racism and bigotry. Ultimately, the City Council must undertake the necessary process of re-imagining new institutions of public safety in Eugene, built upon a foundation of anti-discrimination in all its forms.” (pg. 36)

Erika Lincango, Indigenous Community Representative: “May we always remember that community safety first means that we all have access to food, housing, health, education, and a life without discrimination.” (p. 42)

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Transponder representatives: “The more we examined what is problematic about police policy, the clearer it became that we really need to reimagine public safety.” (p. 39)

Facilitation Team: “It is clear from the feedback given to the facilitation team that many committee members believe that the work of this committee was too narrow in its scope and the recommendations in this report should be understood as the start of a longer process of institutional and cultural transformation” (p. 70).

Tugman Park Volunteers Report

The Tuggers and others have been very busy at Tugman Park. Help from the Sheriff's work crew have been removing blackberry vines and other invasives along with wacking down the grass in the natural areas to prevent grass fires. It is looking as groomed as it ever was.

Tuggers have been keeping the grass and weeds at bay around the planted trees and placing fresh mulch around them. We have also been removing some invasive trees. The new planting bed by the basketball court has been being watered regularly and weeded every work session. The North end is also cleaned up now and around the large tree on the corner at Hilyard.

There will be some light equipment being brought in by the city to help clear some of the channel and possibly make it more streamlike.

I invite all of you to take a walk (when the smoke is gone) around Tugman and notice how good it is looking these days.