

## **May 10 2022 SEN General Meeting Minutes**

**Call to order:** 7:00 pm via Zoom

**Attending:** Dennis, David, Christina, Devon, Emily, Ela, Jess, Lynne, Rob

**Guests:** 19 guests

### **Public comment:**

Joe Weaver, medical anthropologist and professor at the University of Oregon, spoke to his concerns about the housing crisis.

Linda Dugan showed coffee sleeves with “Beware of Wildfire” message which are being handed out at local coffee shops.

Mark Smith, from BloodWorks (formerly Lane Blood Bank) explained that they provide blood to 100% of Lane County and 95% of hospital blood in the Pacific northwest. They are currently experiencing a significant shortage which is affecting patient treatments and would be in serious trouble if a disaster occurred. He asked for anyone who is able to donate blood in the next 3-4 weeks.

Leo Folsom, who is new to the neighborhood, spoke about speed limits being ignored on 33<sup>rd</sup>, and would like to be involved in a solution. Dennis told him about our Transportation Committee and the work they are already doing about this issue.

John Q congratulated KLCC and KEPW on winning several prestigious awards.

### **Matt Keating, City Councilor Ward 2**

*see report beginning on page 6*

### **Report from the Chair:**

Dennis informed our guests that they are welcome to serve on any of our committees without being on the Board.

### **Treasurer’s report - Christina**

US Bank- \$640.00

City Funds- \$2700.00

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Disaster Preparedness Committee -David**

The committee continues to work on wildfire preparedness in south Eugene. Neighbors were urged to sign up for text alerts which will reference evacuation routes. The first grant proposal was not funded. Another to acquire emergency supplies is in progress.

Trainings continue to help people prepare for emergencies and respond to them.

### **Communications Committee/Website/FB - Jess**

Photo contest - We need to get on the agenda of the next board meeting's new business to discuss prize, will launch contest after that.

June Launch date photo contest. Any photo taken within the boundary of Southeast Neighbors.

Categories:

Under 18 Category

People

Nature

Wildlife/pets/birds

Spencer's Butte

Any submissions must be taken within SEN boundaries and photographer to give permission for SEN to use photo on website and social media, but SEN does not retain any rights to the photo.

Prizes??: Overall Best Photo suggest \$50 to a local business?? We'd like board guidance.

FB posts - rainwater catchment photo had thousands of views over the world. Would love to have committees submitting more content.

John: If we can get more people into the committees and comfortable with the association, that's the way to grow as a neighborhood association. We'd like to see community members running the show. Sustainability Committee has some definite potential to increase membership. Accessibility to the committee meetings is a key point. Christina will be engaging Devon on increasing membership, topics, FB posts etc.

### **Environmental Stewardship Committee -Devon Mann**

Over the past six months the committee has focused on issues such as:

- Use of gas-powered leaf blowers by the City of Eugene & Lane County
  - o Presented an informational flyer t& made public comments to LRAPA Citizens Advisory Committee
- Monitoring of formation related to the City of Eugene's code amendments to Oregon State HB2001 as specifically related to urban tree canopy and preservation of green space
- Ongoing basic research into historical Amazon Creek riparian zones and path through the southeast neighborhood

Future focuses may include examining the increased use of disposable containers for dine-in

and take-out foods due to pandemic restrictions compared to pre-pandemic and current use levels.

### **Land Use Committee -Dennis**

The big issue for the Land Use committee is the proposed Code Amendments Recommended by the Planning Commission for City Council approval. Please listen to the work sessions and send in testimony.

- **Wednesday, May 11, Noon** — Council work session on the HB 2001 code amendments.
- **Wednesday, May 18, Noon** — Council work session on the HB 2001 code amendments.
- **Wednesday, May 23, 5:30 PM** — Council work session, with a scheduled vote on HB 2001 code amendments
- Whether you are for or against the Planning Commissions recommendations, please send an email to Councilor Keating and one to the Mayor, City Council and City manager stating your position on the issue. Those email addresses can be found on the City of Eugene website.

### **Human Rights Committee -Rob**

"The SEN Human Rights Committee was founded in the summer of 2020, stimulated particularly by a neighborhood incident in which a Black neighbor's car was vandalized in a bias incident. We meet every one to two months to discuss current events related to human rights and social justice, with special focus on what those events mean for our neighborhood, and take action to raise awareness around issues that the group identifies as particularly important. Between meetings we try to share news and resources by email occasionally to stay on top of developing events.

The starting point for our discussions ranges from the global to the hyperlocal. For a global example, we recently delivered some communications by paper mail and email related to the ongoing crisis in Ukraine in recognition of the fact that these events and their fallout have broad impact in our community for a number of reasons. For a local example, we recently published an electronic resource identifying the existing shelter resources in our neighborhood for unhoused and housing unstable people and families, in recognition of the ongoing crisis in access to housing and to normalize and demystify these resources.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday May 24 at 7pm, feel free to reach out with your email to get on our mailing list, either by a private message in the chat or send us a message at [SEN.HRC.Eugene@gmail.com](mailto:SEN.HRC.Eugene@gmail.com)."

### **Transportation Committee -Jess**

Speeding is top of the list for neighborhood complaints. Eugene's Traffic Enforcement Unit was observing the situation in March.

May is Bike Month. Will be posting about bike options on Facebook for the month. Also, EWEB is now offering \$300 rebates on electric bikes. One neighbor expressed the

desire to bike to market but the worry of bike theft being a strong deterrent.

An urgent call to everyone who may be able to think of a suitable replacement for Don Nordin who represents south Eugene on the LTD Board. His term is up in December and we can help influence the recommendation process to the governor. We have asked Marty Wilde if he's interested in pursuing this, and he is thinking about it.

Sidewalk Cleanup Day is May 14th 10:00. Neighbors can still get their addresses signed up! we'd love to have any volunteers to help— you'd be assigned to 1-2 addresses with other volunteers, depending on the workload. A Rain date will be set if the forecast looks super ominous. Contact Jess or John Q.

Transportation committee members met with members of LTD's drivers union, the ATU, to listen to their concerns. Their contact is up at the end of June and no new general manager has been appointed yet. Drivers are being stretched to their very limits with mandatory overtime workloads and bathroom breaks, drivers leaving to go to other transit agencies like Salem and PDX as fast as they can be hired.

LTD meetings will continue on zoom for the next months at least.

An LTD Airport bus will run during the worlds and drop off at the Eugene downtown station. Neighbors have reported that no regular shuttles exist any more and the airport reports that parking lots are very full.

LTD is mid point in making a "mobility management strategy" as for how to proceed with non-bus transit options in the community, and members of our committee attended and participated in the open office hours. We will be following this process.

### **Tugman Park Volunteers -John Ostrom**

The Friends of Tugman are a core group of neighbors who volunteer to enhance the beauty of our wonderful neighborhood park. We focus on weeding, mulching, invasive species removal (e.g. ivy, blackberry) and planting of native species. This work brings us into close partnership with the City - Parks and Open Space personnel whether it be in the developed park, natural areas or waterways portions of Tugman. P&OS provide us with many resources including mulch, tools, debris removal, signage, water access in summer, as well as guidance in creating beautification plans, alignment to the Tugman master plan, and approval of our native plant planting endeavors.

We also work closely with Southeast Neighbors (SEN), of which we comprise one of several committees. Regular reports are submitted to the SEN Board. The Board provides guidance and feedback to the Tuggers.

The Tuggers are represented in the Eugene Parks Adoption Network (EPAN) whereby best practices are shared.

We are a small core group of dedicated neighbors who enjoy improving Tugman, meeting new friends and having some fun along the way. We meet bi-weekly on Wednesdays for a few hours. We're open to weekend work events as well. The best way to contact us is found on the SEN Website <https://www.southeastneighbors.org/>

Here is a brief update and overview of our past projects, current undertakings and upcoming activities:

- Several bed areas have been weeded, mulched, pruned and invasive species removed in advance of planting numerous and various native plant species. These beds include the basketball court bed, shelter area beds, restroom area beds, the north end circular “plaque” bed, and the far north corner bed at 36<sup>th</sup> & Hilyard.
- Numerous trees have been weeded, mulched and pruned park wide.
- Flow optimization of Tugman Creek is addressed through debris removal and pruning.
- Our current focus is on the successful establishment of our newly planted beds as well as continuing the removal of invasives in the park's north end. Once cleared, this area will be planted back with numerous native plant species. Our planting plan is currently under review at P&OS. We hope to plant this area in the coming Fall & Winter.
- We plan to assist with and participate in the SEN Annual Picnic to be held @ Tugman (tentatively scheduled for September)
- We aim to prepare for the public outreach endeavor regarding the remaining funds designated to Tugman from the 2018 Bond & Levy processes. We'll work with P&OS and the SEN Board to optimize this outreach slated to start in 2023 with eventual construction planned for 2025.
- Upcoming Friends of Tugman volunteer work events in May & June 2022 are scheduled as follows (times and days may be shifted due to weather):
  - Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon
  - Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon
  - Wednesday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon

## **Elections:**

**Dennis explained the process for voting.**

**Candidates were introduced and voting took place on a Zoom poll  
23 eligible voters participated.**

Devon Mann (Co-Chair) result- 100%

Christina Hansberry (Treasurer) result- 100%

Rob Fiset (Member At-Large) result- 82%

Kit Kirkpatrick (Member At-Large) result- 91%

**John Olstrom (Member At-Large) result- 100%**

Jess Roshek (Member At-Large) result- 95%

## **Update on Oregon22 with Q & A -Ela**

The event takes place July 15-25. Between 30 and 50 thousand people are expected to attend. No specific road closures are expected in our neighborhood, UofO neighborhood and Springfield will be mainly affected. There are many volunteer opportunities and more housing is needed.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 pm**

## **Matt Keating Report:**

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.

The best:

The library has moved to a zero fine system! And while I can't divulge details, word is that library staff are responding to Southeast Neighbors' wishes for a potential book return box at Amazon Park. More details about when we'll see such an action, but thanks to SEN's Transportation Committee Chair Jess Roshak for planting that seed - and I look forward to reporting with more details.

I was honored to emcee/host the Eugene Public Library Foundation's annual gala "Booked for the Evening" on Saturday, April 23rd. Our first time back in person since the onset of the pandemic, Library enthusiasts in attendance contributed more than \$103,000 in support of library services, the imagination library, and the "Library of Things."

I was at our new City Hall - aka LCC's Mary Spilde Center - late last week and live from the mayor's office we had a bird's eye view of first responders arriving to put out a restroom fire at the library; I am pleased to report no injuries were

sustained and only minor damage was reported. Kudos and appreciation, as always, to firefighters and first responders for their prompt arrival and professionalism.

On the topic of the downtown center and City Hall, on Wednesday, May 25th, Council will engage in a discussion about our future at the downtown LCC building. I said it on the campaign trail and it bears repeating here, a permanent home for City Hall at the downtown LCC building would be a great boon to taxpayers and win-win for the college and the community as a whole. Rather than relocate to EWEB or near the Park Blocks I'd much rather see the Science Center in the EWEB Building and the city invest in affordable housing downtown. Our new City Hall at the downtown LCC Building is highly functional and perfectly positioned across from the library, Atrium Building, and down the street from Municipal Court. And we're kitty corner from LTD and the Rosa Parks statue - notably the City of Eugene was the first municipality in the nation to dedicate a statue in remembrance of Rosa Parks at our transportation center.

The worst:

The University area experienced another out-of-control party in which EPD officers were assaulted. I remain vocal about my condemnation of such behavior. The City's \$650M budget process is in full swing. So you're aware, I am supportive of allocating a portion of ARPA funds to city employees who were on the frontlines during the first six-twelve months of the pandemic. Speaking of ARPA funds, about six months ago City Council approved the use of \$1.9 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds to support four local housing developments for low-income families and individuals. The funding will pay for city fees that will help cover the cost of the infrastructure needed to support new developments, providing 255 units of new housing affordable to low and very low-income households. This includes 57 units of permanent supportive housing and 70 tiny homes that help owners build homeownership equity. Several of the developments will focus on supporting particularly vulnerable populations that can face significant challenges to obtaining housing, including youth experiencing homeless or entering independence from foster care, survivors of domestic violence, and people with conviction histories.

Funds for city fee assistance were awarded to:

- **The Grove on Garden Way** by Cornerstone Community Housing: a new four-story

building, that will include 122 affordable units targeted to low-income households including seven units for survivors of domestic violence.

- **The Polk 2.0** by DevNW: a new, two-story building with 12 Single Room Occupancy (SRO) units, including six permanent supportive housing units, focusing on youth entering independence from foster care and other system-engaged youth including youth experiencing homelessness and at risk of homelessness.

- **Peace Village Co-op** by SquareOne Villages: a new tiny home village development of 70 new, permanently affordable, resident-owned homes for people with very low incomes.

- **The Coleman** by Homes for Good Housing Agency: a new, four-story building with 51 permanent supportive housing units in partnership with Sponsors, Inc. All units will be targeted to persons with histories of conviction. Goals for the next five years include opening 835 new affordable homes including 263 new permanent supportive housing units.

To observe or participate in our budget process, go to [EUGENE-OR.GOV](http://EUGENE-OR.GOV) for to monitor the following proceedings:

- 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 18: Budget Deliberation and Public Comment
- 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 25: Public Comment and recommendation
- 5:30 p.m., Monday, June 27: City Council Public Hearing and Action

Around the corner for Council, we have on the docket this week:

A middle-housing work session scheduled for tomorrow at noon in which, based on your feedback, I will present an alternative to the planning commission recommendation's regarding the removal of onsite parking incentives. To be clearer, the EPC recommends that there be no onsite parking incentive - meaning developers will be incentivized to build housing with zero onsite parking within  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile of EmX and  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an LTD transit line. As I've argued publicly, this as-the-crow flies approach fails to take into account hilly terrain and communities with no sidewalks and limited transit options, even though we may be within a  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of an LTD stop. Therefore, I will move to remove the  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from an LTD transit line language while reducing the  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from EmX to a  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from EmX. This should insulate the South Hills from experiencing an increase of housing with no parking spaces attached.

From a public safety perspective (more parked cars on an already crowded street) and from an e-vehicle perspective, I long for more places residents can plug in - especially at their domicile. Removing parking spaces from housing simply increases the number of cars parked on our streets and limits the potential plugin options for e-vehicles.

We will conclude our series of Middle Housing work sessions on Wednesday, May 18 with a possible action to follow.

Monday, May 23 we will address holding chronic toxic polluters accountable. And I look forward to an upcoming work session I advanced regarding limiting the number of new gas stations in our community, as well as expanding our fireworks ban for the entire municipality, and advancing electrification in future homes, office buildings throughout Eugene.

As always, I can be reached at [matt.keating@eugene-or.gov](mailto:matt.keating@eugene-or.gov) or on my cell, directly, at 541-515-3819.