

## **Dec. 6, 2022 SEN Board Meeting Minutes**

**Call to order:** 7:00 pm at Hilyard Community Center and via Zoom

**Attending:** Dennis, Devon, Emily, Ela, Jess, John, Lynne, Kristin

**Absent:** Christina

**Guests:** Six on Zoom. One in person

**Jerry Meenaghan** is interested in joining the SEN Board. He has submitted answers to the questionnaire and is interested in serving on the Transportation Committee. The Board unanimously approved Jerry for membership. He will be confirmed at the next General Meeting.

**John Iverson**, Crime Specialist for the Eugene Police Department, compared the crime statistics for Sep, Oct and Nov 2022 with the same period in 2021 specifically in southeast Eugene. This year there were fewer calls overall. Burglary and thefts from vehicles has declined. There were slightly more vehicles stolen and a small increase in trespassing (mainly businesses).

John said that violent crime is higher in warmer months while breaking and entering is higher in cooler months. Mail theft is down, but not all incidents are reported to EPD. The police department web site has an on-line portal for reporting low-chance-of-resolution incidents so they are on record.

**Jasmine Darmati** spoke about Hygge Tutoring, which is a service run by high school students. They provide free tutoring for students from Pre-K through high school.

**Public comment:** None

**Matt Keating**, City Councilor Ward 2, outlined the agenda from the National League of Cities conference which he attended as the city liaison.

He spoke about the danger to pedestrians in traffic on 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Hilyard Street.

Matt reported that the city budget looks “bleak” as funding sources are drying up.

He said the City Council has narrowed the search down to five applicants for the Ward 7 counselor and will decide whom to appoint on December 12.

Matt announced that Devon Mann has been appointed to the Eugene Sustainability Commission. Go Devon!

**Report from the Chair:** Dennis called for committee meeting schedules through June 2023. And Devon is looking for a volunteer to fill the neighborhood liaison position for the Office of Equity and Community Engagement.

**Approve Nov & General Meeting Minutes:** Approved unanimously

**Treasurer's report:**

Bank Balance: \$676.82

City Funds: \$4489.79

**Committee Reports:**

**Environmental Stewardship Committee:**

Amazon Creek Tree Planting Event Update

Thus far I have received **21** individual responses; In addition, two groups of Obsidians will be joining; Many Tugman Tuggers will be joining

**When:** 9:00am to Noon January 21st & February 25th 2023 (weather dependent)  
Supervised children are welcome but no pets please.

**What:** 200 bare root trees provided by the city include: alder, choke cherry, bitter cherry, and cascara. All of these are suited to that part of Amazon Creek, and all are shorter stature so would be less likely to impact nearby powerlines in the future. The City will provide all tools and supplies necessary but recommends all participants wear closed toed shoes. Work gloves will be provided, however, volunteers may want to bring their own for a better fit.

**Where:** The 200 trees will be spread out throughout the reach from Snell to 30th, with approximately 65 between Snell and Fox Hollow, 125 or so between Fox Hollow and 30th. Another 10-20 will be planted on the East side. They will be planted linearly but there will be gaps where there are already mature trees.

**Leaf Blowers Take Three!**

The committee decided to revisit the topic of gas powered two-cycle motor leaf blower use within the City of Eugene UGB (Urban Growth Boundary).

-John O. contacted Judy Walton of Quiet Clean PDX for process and current legislative information regarding gas powered leaf blowers.

- Quiet Clean Eugene has recently been formed (as a branch of Quiet Clean PDX). We intend to invite the chair to the next ESC meeting.

-The committee is reviewing gas-powered leaf blower policies and approaches in other municipalities in Oregon and across the country.

-The committee would like to work with the Communications Committee to create an online survey of SEN residents regarding the use of gas-powered leaf blowers.

## **Ready Southeast Committee:**

### **Exercise and Evaluation**

We completed the second of two city-wide communications exercises. Our two person disaster assessment teams combed their part of the neighborhood looking for potentially hazardous conditions like leaning trees near homes and power lines. They located envelopes containing pictures that were left by other volunteers. They then crafted messages based on the pictures and radioed that to their Area Coordinator. In total seven teams participated with another five volunteers collecting and passing along

the radio messages to the City's Emergency Operations Center.

We identified a need for more practice in crafting concise messages that adequately describe the severity of the situation.

We're back on schedule with our Second Sunday radio check-ins. In November we practiced changing channels to continue communicating as we would when others are already using the channel we typically use. Forty two volunteers participated in the November 13 check-in

We reconfigured our neighborhood area map, altering the boundaries of #10 to better align it with Eugene-Springfield Fire Dept.'s evacuation zone 31

### **Volunteers**

We've struggled to recruit new volunteers the last two years. Several roles in our organizational structure remain unfilled. Our Incident Commander, Don Metheny, is stepping down from his leadership role with Ready Southeast. We're having a get together in the Chapel at the Good Samaritan on the 10th at 1pm to thank Don for all his time and energy. SEN Board members are welcome to join us.

We're reaching out to our volunteers in hopes of identifying a new IC as well as someone to serve as our Safety Officer, head of Logistics, and liaison to the SEN Board.

We lost our good friend and volunteer, Tony Cooley, to cancer in September. Tony was

a much beloved individual as was evidenced by the many friends and family who

attended his memorial at The Shedd. Tony provided us with his professional level map making skills for a number of years. He and John Murray worked together developing maps that identify where our volunteers are located, which of them can communicate solely with their FRS radios, and the topographical impediments to that communication.

We will miss him.

## **Transportation Committee:**

The Transportation Committee met once in December due to the holiday schedule. In January it will resume meeting on the first and third Wednesdays at 1:00 and the 4th Thursday at 7:00pm.

## Streets

We heard back from the City of Eugene Transportation Planning Department regarding the results of the October speed studies that we requested be run in our neighborhood. These results were as follows:

"Speed studies were conducted at three locations along Fox Hollow because the street is rather long, results for each section are listed below. As a reminder, to qualify for traffic calming a street must meet all three of the listed criteria.

### Section A: Dillard - W Amazon

1. More than 50% of vehicles are traveling at or above the speed limit (35 mph)
  - a. **Criteria not met:** The 50<sup>th</sup> percentile speed was 27.5 mph
2. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed is at least 5 miles per hour over the speed limits (35 mph)
  - a. **Criteria not met:** The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed was 33.2 mph
3. Average daily traffic (ADT) volume is at least 600
  - a. **Criteria met:** ADT was 4497

### Section B: 46th-Larkwood St

1. More than 50% of vehicles are traveling at or above the speed limit (35 mph)
  - a. **Criteria not met:** The 50<sup>th</sup> percentile speed was 34.6 mph
2. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed is at least 5 miles per hour over the speed limits (35 mph)
  - a. **Criteria not met:** The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed was 39.4 mph
3. Average daily traffic (ADT) volume is at least 600
  - a. **Criteria met:** ADT was 2681

### Section C: Princess-Saratoga

1. More than 50% of vehicles are traveling at or above the speed limit (35 mph)
  - a. **Criteria met:** The 50<sup>th</sup> percentile speed was 37.2 mph
2. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed is at least 5 miles per hour over the speed limits (35 mph)
  - a. **Criteria met:** The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed was 42.4 mph
3. Average daily traffic (ADT) volume is at least 600
  - a. **Criteria met:** ADT was 1665

Based on the speed studies, **Fox Hollow between Princess and Saratoga** qualifies for traffic calming and has been added to our list of qualified streets. This list is reviewed annually as we program our limited traffic calming funds. We consider speed study results, closeness to community destinations (parks and schools), as well as other factors when programming funds. I unfortunately do not have an estimate of when Fox Hollow between Princess and Saratoga will receive traffic calming. Traffic calming funds are currently programmed out through 2024."

Member Leo Folsom is following up with the City of Eugene planning department staff Catherine Rohan regarding the "Not Met" speed study results of the **33rd Avenue corridor**. Leo has pointed out that 33rd Avenue is a city-designated Greenway, which the city has recommended a speed limit of 20 mph and has designated as an important throughway for bikes, pedestrians, and cars. Leo also points out a possible flaw in the way that speed study results are analyzed, arguing that it should be legitimately the number of speeding cars in the study that proves a need for speed calming, not the percentage of total vehicles that are speeding.

Member Lucy Bambrey submitted three new requests for Spring 2023 speed studies, which were portions of East Amazon, West Amazon, and Potter St.

## **LTD**

Our incoming LTD subdistrict director is Heather Murphy from Cottage Grove. She steps in to fill Don Nordin's director role. SEN thanks Don Nordin for his years of volunteer service to LTD and his dedication to public transportation.

This month, January 2023, marks the beginning of LTD's year long service analysis where the ridership on all routes will be collected and analyzed in order to determine future needs and service. SEN highly encourages all members of the neighborhood to use public transportation for any and all trips possible in order to reduce traffic and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as ensure that the area keeps its transit routes running in the future. Students and seniors ride free -- and SEN has a higher than city average percentage of both seniors and students living in the neighborhood. If you need help understanding how to ride or need more information, please reach out to our committee via the "Contact" form on the SEN webpage.

LTD has announced this week the need to pare back service on several bus routes due to the ongoing severe bus driver shortage. The committee hopes and trusts that these changes are temporary and not part of a larger effort to reduce useful service and thereby slowly "kill" routes in SEN so service can be shifted to high frequency lines. We stand with the bus drivers, who have made great sacrifices during COVID and need relief from mandatory overtime and consecutive shifts. We will be asking LTD to reinstate these trips when staffing has reached fuller levels. In South Eugene, this will affect the following trips:

### **Route 24 - Donald - Weekday**

12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. trips were removed.

### **Route 28 - Hilyard - Weekday**

9:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., and 1:00 p.m. trips were removed.

## **Sidewalks**

Reed Dunbar from the Transportation Planning Department notified property owners and tenants in December about the sidewalk infill project on the east side of Hilyard Street across from Tugman Park. Construction will take place in 2023. The road

project will come later when the reservoir's heavy machinery has ceased. Project funding comes from a grant. Previously, the committee expressed concerns over how far out the sidewalk bump-outs will go into Hilyard, which could lead to drivers hitting the curb or risk hitting oncoming traffic from the opposite lane when turning right. Bump outs are one method that the city has been using to make pedestrian crossings more safe.

Spring Sidewalk cleanup is anticipated for around May.

### **Tugman Park Volunteers:**

- We held several volunteer work events in early December to complete our planting initiative of approximately 200 native trees, shrubs, forbs, and grasses in the park's north end near E. 36<sup>th</sup> Ave. We hope to plant numerous camas and buttercup seeds in this area as well, once received from the City P&OS Native Plant Nursery.
- We did not meet up for volunteer work events on 12/14 and 12/28 due to a well needed rest from Tugger activities and holiday conflicts. Our next bi-weekly volunteer work event is scheduled for Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am - 12 noon (weather dependent)
- Our submitted planting plan to P&OS for additional trees in the central lawn near the creek side pathway as well as a plan to remediate an overgrown invasive grassy area just south of the plaque circle in the north end are still under scrutiny by various P&OS stakeholders.
- Likewise, we still have yet to receive confirmation from P&OS regarding the remaining funds from the 2018 Bond/Levy to be used at Tugman Park. We would like to initiate public outreach activities once we receive confirmation of the amount of remaining funds and the timeline for their use.
- We plan to discuss with P&OS the removal of a large unhealthy Douglas Fir tree in the park's north end near the drinking fountain.
- We continue to post notifications to Park Watch regarding unauthorized camping and trash dumping. We continue to request a replacement trash receptacle for the park's north end (along 36<sup>th</sup> Ave.) where trash is often dumped near the location of the former garbage can that was removed several weeks ago.
- We plan to have a large Tugger contingent of volunteers at the upcoming Amazon Creek Tree Planting events on 1/21 & 2/25 sponsored by City P&OS, SEN ESC and the Obsidians.

### **Old business:**

The SEN Advisory Committee will be set up sometime in 2023 to assist the Executive Committee.

A meet-and-greet for new southeast neighbors has been suggested by Kristin. Several board members volunteered to help get the event started.

**New Business:**

Nightingale is planning a campfire gathering at their site on December 17.

We changed the next board meeting from January 3 to January 10.

Our next General Meeting will be held March 14. EWEB has confirmed that a representative will attend. We will also invite the Crime Statistician and Neighborhood Representative from the Eugene Police Department.

**Adjourn: 9:00 pm**