

Southwest Hills Neighborhood Association Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 13, 2019, 6:00-8:00 pm

Wayne Morse Family Farm, 595 Crest Drive

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees:

Ron Bevirt

Ralph McDonald

Beverly McDonald

Janet Bevirt

Peter

Clay Neal

Nora Hagerty

I. Public Comments (none)

II. Vote on Email Approval of 2/3/19 General Meeting Minutes

- Approved unanimously

III. Community Announcements or Updates on Meetings (Janet)

- **City of Eugene NAs 3rd Allocation of grant funding is coming out**
 - Most SHiNA costs are related to printing and mailing.
 - Newsletter printing: \$1137, postage: \$622
 - Postcard printing: \$501, postage: \$651
 - QSL is our current printer – they have competitive rates
 - New address count for the neighborhood
 - 38 additional addresses (3,727 current count)
- **Fire prevention – Defensible Space (Janet)**
 - Fire Prevention-Defensible Space discussion with ODF Alex Rahmlow will be held at a neighbor's home. Open to community members.

Saturday, March 16th, 9:00 am, 715 W 40th Ave 715 West 40th
 - Oregon Department of Forestry has funding to support forest fire prevention.
 - City of Eugene (COE) Parks department owns a lot of property ringing the SHiNA neighborhoods – particularly along the Ridge Line Trail.
 - Accumulation of debris is a concern to the community.
 - COE has a plan for fire prevention but it's not always communicated well to the neighbors.
 - Is fire prevention a public agency responsibility or a volunteer responsibility?

- Morse Ranch park areas are of a concern to the neighborhood with fallen trees and combustible brush, but poison oak is a concern for volunteer labor both in Morse Ranch and other areas.
 - **ACTION:** SHINA will communicate to the City Park's Department (**CLAY**) – to request information about the fire prevention programs as well as maintenance of public lands surrounding and integrated into the neighborhoods. Will communicate with Vanessa at the COE and coordinate with Morse Ranch management (Nora).
- **Curbside food waste (Ralph)**
 - Two neighborhoods currently have this program. It will be rolling out city wide.
 - Food only – bone, grease, meat, cheese.
 - The waste is made into commercial compost – picked up by waste haulers
 - Responding to a comment by neighbor at previous SHINA community meeting about multiple waste collection in every neighborhood. The City is actually thinking about this in new contracts with waste haulers to reduce waste collection traffic.
- **Plastic waste (Ralph)**
 - Eugene is on the verge of plastic bans
 - If anyone is interested they should contact counselors about their opinions related to this subject. Ralph would suggest also banning plastic cups if you're interested in commenting to the City.
 - Sanipac communicated to Janet that the only thing you can recycle for plastic right now is plastic milk jugs, clear drinking bottles.
- **City Council Works Session (3/13) (Ron) (meeting materials and video can be viewed [here](#)) (Ron)**
 - Renters Protections
 - Half of Eugene's residents are renters
 - More people trying to find rental units than are available.
 - 1% vacancy rate, which can lead to unaffordability
 - Statewide rent control (recent legislation at the State level)
 - SHiNA Questions:
 - How do we build more housing?
 - How is "affordable" defined?
 - Housing Tools and Strategies – report from City staff
 - Most housing is designed for nuclear family when the population is a mix of families, single people, couples, etc. who may not need the same spaces as a family.
 - Discussed trying to remove city-controlled barriers:
 - SDC's from accessory dwelling units (ADUs)
 - Preapproved plans for ADUs

- During council, it seemed that councilors agreed that this is a significant issue for our community
 - The market is building expensive housing
 - Planning department made a good presentation – should be made available by SHINA to SHINA members (and the community as a whole)
- Other community efforts related to housing:
 - Construction Excise Tax
 - Public hearing in April
 - Community lending (by leveraging community tax funds into a community bank)
 - House Bill 2001, House Bill 2003
 - A few Senate bills as well
- **New leadership of Neighborhood Leaders Council (Ron)**
 - Pete Knox (President) and David Monk (Chair) of the Neighborhood Leaders Council.
- **EWEB: Underground Electric Wires (Ron)**
 - Patrick Cox and Chris Henry (city engineer) spoke with Ron about south Willamette.
 - New sidewalks – 9’ sidewalks, new paving, better transition between street and access ramps to parking lots, new light poles, conduit for high speed internet, new water lines, stormwater, etc.
 - Power poles on east side of Willamette will come down and be undergrounded but the west side will stay above ground. EWEB has cited too little space below ground for undergrounding the poles on the west side but have reserved the opportunity to underground the west side utilities along another side road in the future.
 - Protected bike paths? The painted line increases bike safety by 70% but there won’t be protected bike lanes.
- **Disaster preparedness (Ron)**
 - Should there be a SHINA subcommittee? The goal is to get more information to neighbors about planning and preparedness. There are safety measures that people can take to prepare.
 - Nextdoor has been a helpful tool
 - MapYourNeighborhood
 - SHINA could ask the City – please use the public radio to announce escape routes, centers for refuge, etc. during an event.
 - EWEB started a program “Pledge to Prepare” that’s a program to help Eugenians prepare for disaster

IV. Small Neighborhood Matching Grants

- Options for SHiNA to apply for:
 - Bulletin board at Morse Ranch – needs new cork.

- Bike parking at Morse Ranch (needs review by public works and historic board) – the request has gone through the historic review board and they’ve requested new bike racks to be minimal and unobtrusive. City permit will require a site plan. Nora (Wayne Morse ranch manager) has some ideas for site location to balance historic integrity of the property and usability for park visitors.
 - Center for Appropriate Transport (CAT) may be able to manufacture bike racks
 - Wayne Morse board members will want to review designs.
 - SHINA will apply for matching funds from the city.
- Could SHINA apply for the repurpose of the fallen Oak tree on the park property? Does matching grant funding require a bid for work?
 - Urban Lumber
 - Cottage Grove milling?
 - **ACTION**: SHINA will ask questions about the process and investigate reuse (Janet)

Future meetings:

- APRIL – EWEB and Red Cross will present.
 - **ACTION**: 4J Board members would like to present on the 4J Bond up for a vote in May.
 - Respond to Judy Newman (4J Board member) with April 7th meeting date for 10 minutes (fitting in within the agenda that is already full) (CLAY)
 - **ACTION**: Any new agenda items for the April 7th meeting should be sent to Bev so that it is included in the meeting announcement. (ALL)
- City of Eugene employee Michael Wisth – should be invited to a future meeting to discuss waste prevention and curbside composting. (Ralph)

Future Agendas

- Include time for Nora (Morse Ranch Manager) on the future agenda