

Southwest Hills Neighborhood Association (SHiNA) General Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Sunday, November 15, 2020, 3-5pm

Attendees:

SHiNA Board Members:

Ron Bevirt
Ralph McDonald
Fred Mallery
Janet Bevirt
Piotr Esden Tempski
Beverly McDonald
Rita Fiedler
Clay Neal (Note Taker)

Community Members:

Nora Haggerty (Liaison to Wayne Morse Family Farm)
Alida Bevirt
Mel Martin
Dana Ferguson
Danika Bevirt
Fred Lorish
Camilla Pratt
Anne Hollander
James McDonald
Bob Fraley
Moto g(6) play (online screen name)

Presenters:

City of Eugene: Amy Bradbury, Allie Camp
EVEVA: Phil Barnhart, Sid Baum

I. Call to Order

II. Public Comment

III. City of Eugene Community Recovery Presentation Re: COVID 19 Pandemic –

<https://www.eugene-or.gov/4361/Eugene-Community-Recovery>

- The City of Eugene is working toward community recovery in the following Focal Areas:
 - i. Public Health Support
 - ii. Community Outreach and Data
 - iii. Examine City Processes & Procedures
 - iv. Housing Security
 - v. Childcare
 - vi. City as Economic Driver
 - vii. Non-Profit Support
 - viii. Job Availability and Retraining

- Questions:

- i. Rita Fiedler: Can the City help to network among groups that are doing a lot of this work independently to drive collaboration amongst the organizations working toward recovery. Particularly interested in collaboration between the City, LCC, and the University of Oregon. For childcare, as an example, can UO students participate in contributing toward relief of the severe need for childcare in our community?

- 1. What ways can the City tap the various resources we have available in the community?

- ii. Fred Mallery: LCC and the University of Oregon Law School are particularly involved in combating climate change as a possible collaboration.

- iii. Rita Fiedler: Health is an area of concern. Can the City address long term health maintenance? Particularly by supporting the robust agricultural resources we have in our community. Part of this, however, includes non-organic pesticide spray that impacts community health. Are there things that we can do to be innovative in our development of health consciousness?

- 1. In Ralph's work on the Sustainability Commission, preemption has come up as an issue here – whether the City can actually have an impact on this particular issue.

- iv. Mel Martin: What is the biggest obstacle – how can citizens help you the most?

- 1. Wear your masks, wash your hands, keep you distance. Quickest way for our community economic recovery is for everyone to be healthy.

- 2. Funding that has been available in the federal government.

- v. Janet Bevirt: The City and State should also focus on helping landlords who are economically impacted by the pandemic.

- Amy and Allie are always welcoming new ideas for this work and included their emails to the group: amy.s.bradbury@ci.eugene.or.us; acamp@eugene-or.gov

IV. SHiNA Board Elections:

- Motion to nominate Existing Board Members and Officers. **Motion seconded and passes.**

- o Ralph McDonald, Co-Chair
 - o Ron Bevirt, Co-Chair
 - o Clay Neal, Secretary
 - o Janet Bevirt, Treasurer
 - o Rita Fiedler
 - o Fred Mallery
 - o Beverly McDonald
 - o Piotr Esden-Tempski
 - o Pete Frost

- Motion to nominate Michael Lainoff to the board. **Motion seconded and passes.**

- Motion to nominate Dana Ferguson to the board. **Motion seconded and passes.**

- Email Arden Olsen to invite him to join the board if he is interested.

- Meeting Times – Ralph will send out a poll for Board members to select the best times for meetings.

V. Preparing for Future Fires (Beverly McDonald)

- Beverly provided an overview of a recent Fire Forum put on by other neighborhood associations.
- The Fire Chief presented on his experience, which was unique to his whole career. It was a very destructive fire that could have had bigger impacts on Eugene if it was in the next drainage to the south (Highway 58).
- The South Hills is the City's biggest wildland interface. Could a fire similar to the Holiday Fire happen in the South Hills? Yes
- City Owned property along the Ridgeline Trail has pretty significant fire reduction programs. There is a pilot program targeted in a specific neighborhood in Eugene – providing assistance with fuel reduction for individual homes.
- There is a broad effort for fire safety education. A major need is for home owners to provide defensible space around their homes up to 150' around your homes. This usually extends beyond your own property boundaries on most typical lots.
- Planning for the future – there are codes and standards implemented to take evacuation and access for fire trucks and personnel into consideration.
- Things you can do:
 - o Remove plants around your home
 - o Limb trees up to a certain height
 - o Eliminate dead and dry debris so that trees have more opportunity to absorb water
 - o Remove dead and dying trees
 - o Remove invasive species (ex. Scotch Broom and Blackberry)
 - o It's good to have a non-combustible roof
 - o Maintain your roof free of leaves and other debris
 - o Wooden fences should not be attached to your house
 - o Hardiplank or cement-style siding is fire-resistant if you have the opportunity to remodel your home
- Tim Engleman – PhD in wildland fires and FUSEE (Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics, and Ecology <https://fusee.org>)
 - o Policy Strategies – reducing the ignitability of homes (ex. the 150' defensible space) has a 90% return on investment. Currently, Kamala Harris has introduced a Senate Bill to address wildland fire prevention strategies nationally.
 - o Firewise Community is a certification process that could be something that our community pursues.
 - o Economic Incentives or mandates for residential fire prevention efforts.
- Questions/Comments:

Videos of the presentations are available.

VI. House Bill 2001 Update

- An update to state-wide residential codes.
- Two areas that the City of Eugene can impact:
 - o Siting – setbacks, building coverage, parking requirements, etc.
 - o Design standards – the amount and size of windows, which way the front door faces, etc.
- The City of Eugene chose 30 people at random in the City of Eugene through a partnership with Healthy Democracy. This group of people will provide ongoing commentary on the City's development of code to comply with HB 2001.
- Ron spoke about the impacts of denser housing development, including concerns about what marketing new, denser housing would serve and whether it will tackle the affordability crisis in our neighborhood. He questioned the randomness of the 30 people involved and their knowledge of land use issues.
 - o Some neighborhoods have Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions that do not allow denser housing within their boundaries.
 - o Infrastructure concerns were raised.

VII. Emerald Valley Electric Vehicle Association (4:30) (Phil Barnhart and Sid Baum)

- The next public EVEVA meeting is Thursday, November 19th at 6:30pm.
- EVEVA is a voluntary chapter of the electric auto association. The EVEVA is not interested in selling a specific brand of car, but in introducing people to electric vehicles generally and in answering questions.
- rEV up Eugene! Is an event that EVEVA is providing on November 17th and December 3rd at 7pm. Sign up at revupeugene.org
- Partners include: The City of Eugene, EWEB, and the UO Office of Sustainability.
- Links to Videos:
[https://eaa- 1967.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=222684&module_id=374830](https://eaa-1967.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=222684&module_id=374830)

VIII. Next SHiNA Meetings:

- TBD – new schedule to be voted on by SHiNA Board in January

IX. Adjourn Meeting

The Southwest Hills Neighborhood Association meetings are open to the public and all neighbors (residents, property owners and business owners) are invited to participate. www.swHillsEugene.com