

Southwest Hills Neighborhood Association (SHiNA) General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 14, 2021, 6:30-8pm, Zoom

Attendees:

SHiNA Board Members: Ron Bevirt, Ralph McDonald, Janet Bevirt, Clay Neal (Minute Taker), Fred Mallery, Piotr Esden-Tempski, Rita Fiedler, Beverly McDonald, Dana Ferguson, Pete Frost

SHiNA Liaison: Nora Hagerty, Wayne Morse Family Farm Manager

Community Members: Alan Curtis, John Rogers, Josh Chudacoff, Edward Cutler, Stephanie Wicks & Thomas Smith, Elizabeth (screen name)

Presenters:

City of Eugene: Janina Rager, Ryan Skyles

I. Call to Order

II. Minute Approval

- Minutes approved for 3/10/2021 Board Meeting – Unanimous

III. Public Comment (None)

IV. Board Announcements

- **E-Bike Event – see information on SHiNA website**
 - i. rEV Up! workshops on electric vehicle basics, May 17th & June 17th (online)
 - ii. Workshops will cover topics such as EV charging, batteries, range, cost, purchase incentives and benefits of ownership. Attendees at these two workshops are eligible for discounts of \$200 to \$1,000 on purchases of new EVs at four participating local auto dealerships.
- City of Eugene updates on Middle Housing
 - i. Best thing to do is peruse the City of Eugene's website on Middle Housing:
<https://www.eugene-or.gov/4244/Middle-Housing>
 - ii. Code changes are coming to Council to allow for more densification in neighborhoods city wide to comply with state mandated changes to land use laws and beyond. The code changes include considerations for neighborhood character enhancement and protection as well as considerations of affordability of new developments.
- Eugene Wildfire Risk Assessment
 - i. Announce the availability of wildfire preventative vegetation clearing help from Eugene Wildfire Preparedness Coalition, a committee of the Neighborhood Leaders Council. Property Owners funding is available to reduce fuel loads on private properties. Work will be done by Fuel Reductions Specialists from the Oregon Department of Forestry or the Northwest Youth Corp.
 - ii. Wildfire Risk assessment 541-972-3867, or email: eug.fire.prep.coalition@gmail.com
- Eugene Neighborhood Preparedness Network - Group and Events
 - i. Wildfire preparedness in our neighborhood is important!
 - ii. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9zmBOyetVL8>

V. Sandy Cutler – Announcement

- Contact 541-954-1387 or visit nightingalehostedshelters.org
 - i. Lived in swills, on the board of directors of Nightingale hosted shelters rest stop by 34th and Hilyard.
 - ii. Rest stop sanctioned by City of Eugene. 501c3
 - iii. Camp is successful for three reasons
 1. On site manager lives there
 2. Rules to get in, rules to stay in and are very diligent about the rules

3. It's a community within a community with community responsibility, community kitchen, donated food and food purchasing
- iv. Started a new project in the recycling business
 1. Formal arrangement with the recycling center to take big bags of cans and bottles to recycle. Accept recyclable cans and bottles from 8am to 5pm any day of the week
 2. Proceeds pay for propane
- v. Question: How many people sheltered?
 1. 20 huts max, today we have 15 but fluctuate between 16-18 residents
- vi. Question: Success rate?
 1. Every time we move someone off the streets into the facility and then toward permanent housing is a success. 165 people who moved to the camp over the last several years have moved onto permanent housing
 - a. About 1/3 of the people who move into the camp move on to another permanent place successfully
 2. Peer support group as well, including getting insurance
 - a. Whole camp got completely vaccinated last week
- Pete Frost (Board Member) will connect with Sandy about how the SHiNA Board can support the program in a more robust way

VI. City of Eugene Crime Prevention - <https://www.eugene-or.gov/944/Community-Engagement-Team>

- Ryan – Statistics
 - i. The city only has statistics available based on what's reported, which may not be the same as what's reported over social media platforms like Facebook or Nextdoor
 - ii. 2021 stats for SHiNA in terms of crime are very on par with 2019
 1. VOLUME - Averaging about 3-1/2 calls per day into Eugene Police Department or emergency services. In 2019 it was almost 4-1/2 calls per day
 2. REASONS FOR CALLS -
 - a. Burglaries are down in 2021 vs 2020, but both of those numbers are up in 2019. Only 2 calls in the first 6 months of 2019, 15 calls in 2020, and down to 9 in 2021
 - b. Criminal Mischief like graffiti, vandalism, someone just causing annoyance is slightly up
 - c. Camping, no calls in 2021 for illegal camping. Kind of matches city wide and societal trends. Less calls for service across the city even though there are more people on the street
 - d. Thefts are up from both 2019 and 2020, in particularly theft from vehicles. The primary reason for theft from vehicles is valuables that are left visibly inside vehicles.
 - i. Theft of mail is up as well but does not seem to be as high as is captured on social media
 - e. Patrol checks are down a little bit from previous years
 3. Overall, lower level of crime in this neighborhood than many other neighborhoods in the City.
 4. Question, Are officers in the neighborhood generally or do they only respond to calls?
 - a. Officers are assigned to beats and
- Janina Rager - Responding to Board Questions
 - i. Wants to encourage reporting all crime because we are a data-led police agency. Reporting is key to assigning resources effectively. Either online reporting through the police page or calling in to the non-emergency line.
 - ii. Questions from the Board sent prior to the meeting
 1. There's been a shift from home burglaries to cars, garage burglaries, bicycles, sheds, etc. because people are actually in their homes most of the day.
 - a. Prevention - Always locking your doors, closing your garages, locking your sheds, etc. and reminding your neighbors if you see their garages open
 2. Mail theft
 - a. It is up because mail delivery is up. Package theft is out of control all over the city. If you notice that packages are left on your neighbor's doorstep, help them out!

3. Most crimes in Eugene are opportunistic crimes, so remove the opportunity, remove the crime.
It really is that easy
4. Cahoots responding to complaints that may not need a police response?
 - a. EPD has been working with Cahoots for a long time and they are an amazing resource for our community. If you call the non-emergency number to respond to someone in a mental health crisis or someone who is unhoused, then Cahoots is likely to respond.
 - b. This question also refers to the Payroll tax, there's a committee that's established by the City to determine the dispersal of the Payroll tax funds
 - i. One challenge that Cahoots faces is hiring, they consistently cannot recruit enough staff to expand
5. Is there an uptick of crimes committed by unhoused people on unhoused people?
 - a. The police try to be at locations where many unhoused people are camping in order to provide a safer environment for the people there and to demonstrate that the camps are safe spaces where crimes shouldn't occur
 - b. Still there are challenges that they face with trust and fear, so EPD people like Janina try to work to build trust with unhoused residents so that they report crimes when they happen
 - c. Homelessness is such an extreme problem in Eugene right now that we need to find additional resources, potentially from the federal government to provide more housing for our unhoused community
- iii. If you encounter a crime in progress you should call the Eugene Police
- iv. There's a handy Police Bureau Community Engagement website that provides a lot of resources for how to protect your home: <https://www.eugene-or.gov/1659/Protect-Your-Home>
- v. If there is more neighborhood engagement, you're able to look out for each other more. It's a good time to get to know your neighbors better and build that relationship
- vi. Questions from the Board – Janet
 1. Should people go and check Pawn Shops when things are stolen?
 - a. Ryan runs the pawn program and they read through every single burglary. Pawn shops have to hold items for 14 days and report them to the Police Bureau.
 - i. You should keep track of serial numbers, special engravings, photos of your items that you worry about being stolen
 2. What about catalytic converters being ripped from vehicles?
 - a. Car thefts are a plague right now. The reason that it's not illegal is that every single vehicle that goes out of service has catalytic converters. You can tell if it's new or one from 15 years ago.
 - b. It's a good reason to go electric! No catalytic converters
 3. Summers usually experience an uptick in burglaries when people leave windows or doors open.
 4. Tire slashing is devious behavior that is really hard to track
- vii. Once things have cleared up COVID wise, Janina can come to your home and do a home safety inspection. It's a great service. She can also support the beginning of neighborhood watch meetings.
- viii. There's also a home vacation check service, where volunteers go to homes when people are on vacation. If they see anything that's not normal, they will inform the police.
- ix. Response times, on any given evening you may only have 7 officers working.

VII. Next SHiNA Meetings:

- Board Meeting: May 12th, 6:30-8PM, ZOOM
Agenda ideas: Homelessness & Lane County Health
- General Meeting: July 14th, 6:30-8PM, Zoom

VIII. 8:00pm 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