

Fairmount Neighbors Association General Meeting Minutes

Nov. 13, 2012, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Laurelwood Golf Course Clubhouse

Camilla Bayliss, co chair, began the meeting by introducing Josh Reckord who reviewed meeting protocols. These included: 1) raise your hand and wait to be called on when wishing to speak, and 2) when in small groups, watch for a signal of a hand in the air from the co-chairs as a signal for everyone to stop talking and rejoin the larger group.

Social Host Ordinance

Kelly Putnam, of the Eugene police department, spoke to the group about the proposed Social Host Ordinance which will have a public hearing in front of the city council on the night of Nov. 19. A summary of her discussion:

- The current city ordinance dealing with unruly behavior and noisy parties is not effective.
- The Neighborhood Livability Working Group has been working for over a year; one of its proposals is the Social Host Ordinance which would add a monetary penalty for hosts of unruly parties of more than five attendees, where alcohol is present, and where two additional violations have occurred.
- The current ordinance is easily manipulated, requires a minimum 25 people to be at a gathering, and provides too narrow a window for enforcement to be effective.

- The number of citations for off campus infractions has increased dramatically in the last year.
- The hope is that an added penalty for landlords, including paying the cost for the response of police officers for a call, will encourage landlords to tighten their lease agreements to prevent such situations. The latter could occur only after three police calls to the same house within a 12 month period.
- Putnam reminded us that everyone has the best of intentions but things sometimes get out of hand. Students sometimes become victimized themselves. She cited many examples of students having things stolen by unknown people who arrive at a large party.

Q: Is a complaint counted once or three times if three people call to complain about the same house? A: If one call is already on the dispatch screen, further calls don't count as a separate incident. Q: Is a complaint kept on the public record? A: Can be anonymous; however, judges have sometimes thrown out cases that don't have a "willing complainant".

Malcolm Wilson, SUNA Board, reminded people to come to the public hearing at Harris Hall, Lane County Services Bldg., Monday night, Nov. 19 at 7:30. We need a big show of public support. Contact him at mwilson@uoregon.edu

Q: What is the opposition to the ordinance? A: The city council is not fully in favor of this. Also, the Associated Students of UO will be out in force. Last spring at a public meeting there was no neighborhood representation. We need to be there in force this time.

Q: How does this work in other places? A: Colorado University - Boulder has a rigorous ordinance; courts and police work closely together. Also, St Cloud, MN has an ordinance that is very effective. Over 150 US cities have Social Host Ordinances. For us, this will not solve the problem but will be an additional tool. Q: Why did they choose the number five? A: The national standard is three or more. Q: How are kids able to convince the city council that it wasn't a good idea to pass this ordinance? A: (Greg Rikoff, representative of the University of Oregon): Our students want to consider other routes besides an ordinance such as: giving a 20 minute warning to a host; pre-registering student parties; having more robust programming on alcohol abuse; more responsible use of alcohol on campus. The University is also concerned about the number five.

Greg reiterated that the infraction can't just be a noise violation but has to be alcohol related or an additional violation. The University is trying to be proactive rather than waiting for a disaster. Colorado University - Boulder has had alcohol related deaths, fires, etc. which were the catalysts for the measure on that campus.

Four neighbors spoke in favor of the ordinance.

Emergency Preparedness

Chris Shirley is a Fairmount neighbor who works with the state Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC). She is a land use planner whose specialty is land use planning. She spoke to us about the necessity for basic planning for emergency events (such as Hurricane Sandy).

Shirley recommends:

- Filling out a “Green passport” (available on the back table) where you can write down all pertinent information for your family including relative’s addresses, medical prescriptions, eyeglass prescriptions, etc. Keep in a safe place such as a zip lock bag.
- Investigate the program called Map Your Neighborhood. This helps you figure out who has what resources; it does require heightened commitment and communication between residents. MYN identifies who is immobile, elderly, who will need help special help, etc., among your immediate neighbors.
- Prepare for your pets. Often people haven’t thought this through. Get a pet carrier, food, water, etc.
- Look at material she put out on back table: map shows potential hazards for this neighborhood. Shows where flood zones, landslides, etc. are.
- Investigate flood insurance. It pays for water main breaks, fire hydrant accidents, storm drains that back up; it does NOT pay for flooded basements. Flood has to flow over two or more properties. Is very inexpensive; costs \$200-\$300 per year. If earthquake and dams break insurance would cover flood damage. Has to be overland damage. Flood insurance covers a tsunami. Average flood damage is \$30,000. Material also on table about flood insurance.
- Try this mental exercise: what would you do for two weeks without electricity? Also on table is a pamphlet for what to do.
- Have available: \$200 in cash; your passport; bottled water; canned food; a light source; a heat source; a first aid kit; a generator if you have medical equipment needs or a sump pump or something that MUST be kept running.

- Amazon.com carries bulk items such as ramen, oatmeal, water and other items that can easily be ordered ahead of time.
- Could use metal pails to keep the kits in.
- Idea: have a day to build a bunch of “to go kits” in the neighborhood.
- Support land use planning that doesn’t put buildings in flood zones.
- Camilla asked for volunteers to work on this: Nancy Reckord, Lucia Hardy, and Chris Shirley volunteered.

Updates

Lucia –Future of the management of Laurelwood Golf Course

- Will Benson and Debbie King have put in an application. The temporary head of Parks and Open Spaces said he is, “Optimistic about a five year contract but negotiations are still ongoing.”

Steven Asbury – Recap of Edison School potential closure

- 4j had brought in a consultant who recommended that Edison be closed as building is in poor shape. Estimated cost is \$5 million for renovation; also \$5M to renovate Camas Ridge.
- Seems to be off the table now but want to be sure Edison remains a great school. Younger parents need to keep it as a good school; older parents should consider property values; students should care because it’s a family neighborhood and we don’t want it to become a west university rental housing dominant type neighborhood without a school.
- His group is encouraging 4j to renovate Edison because otherwise we might be fighting this battle again next year.

- Concern that they build a new Camas Ridge and then move Edison kids there in future and close Edison.
- Write school board to say you favor renovation.
- Roosevelt Middle School is subject of next school board meeting. It has serious structural issues. Debate is whether to rebuild it on Civic Stadium site or current site.
- Comment – schools are an anchor for livability in a neighborhood; Edison is a huge anchor for the neighborhood.

Josh Reckord– Thunder Can Project – how to enforce city ordinance on trash cans

- Fairmount neighborhood (the J District) has been surveyed for four weeks in a row to gather information on where trash cans are perpetually left in the street and where other blatant city code violations are in evidence (parking on front lawns, secondary dwellings that are out of compliance, etc.)
- City has developed door hangars that will be passed out soon. Hangars contain pertinent information reminding residents that trash cans can only remain on the street for 24 hours. Complaints can now come from the Fairmount Neighbors Association. Anyone who wants to complain can email Josh at fn.board@gmail.com
- Q: What is rule for people who live on alleys? A: Requirements for secondary dwellings will be posted on the Fairmount website. Reminder: owner must live in one of the dwellings to rent the other.
- Suggestion: Put copies of ordinances on windshields of cars parked on lawns.

Camilla - Laurel Ridge PUD

- The developer has been meeting with various members of the city; he is required to hold a new neighborhood meeting; will let people know about it when it is announced.
- Bill Blix has taken leadership. Contact Bill at wbblix@comcast.net if you want to be involved.

Camilla - 150 Challenge

- Our challenge is to get 150 additional names on our email list. We would meet our goal if everyone sent in two people who aren't on the list.

Camilla - Orchard Street Row House Appeal

- We still owe \$2000 to the lawyer for this appeal which we won. Camilla paid the difference herself. Please send checks directly to her.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Nancy Reckord