

## **Ardenwald/Johnson Creek Boulevard (JCB) Neighborhood Association Minutes for 01/11/05**

### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm by Carlotta Collette, Neighborhood Association President, with 22 people present including: Sherri Campbell, Lisa Gunion-Rinker, Joe Campbell, Carlotta Collette, Jason Wachs, Nancy Matich, Kristen Wiener (SEUL), Marianne Colgrove, Officer Kevin Krebs, Marten Wilkins, Carol and Les Wilkins, Susan Stone, Victoria Potter, Mike Mendez, Cheryl Ausmann-Moreno, Officer Jeff Nelson, Officer Kevin Krebs, Dale Chambers, Melissa Ray, Kathy Lehman, and Lori Hauskins.

Carlotta called on Officer Krebs to present this months report.

### **Officer Krebs Report:**

Officer Krebs gave his report to the attending neighbors. He stated that certain portions of the Milwaukie side of the Ardenwald/JCB neighborhood has been very active this month in comparison to past months. The events reported in our neighborhood included: 3 stolen or recovered vehicles, a theft, a property investigation which was determined to be identify theft, a hit and run incident with a parked car, fraud, and a burglary. These incidents all occurred within a 4 to 6 block radius that starts at 32<sup>nd</sup> and Boyd Street down to the R.R. tracks and includes the area down to 32<sup>nd</sup> and Olsen Street also down to the R.R. tracks. Officer Krebs wanted everyone to know that the person who has been responsible for car thefts in our neighborhood is no longer living in the City of Milwaukie.

Other information Officer Krebs had to report included a chop/shop ring in the Milwaukie area that is targeting Hondas and Acuras. This ring is not technically in Milwaukie, but it has been determined that there are some people living in our neighborhood who are part of this ring. Also of note is a recreational vehicle (RV) that has been parked in various locations in our neighborhood. It first appeared near Kimmey's Market down on Harrison and 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, then appeared on Campbell Street, and has now moved on to Myrtle Street. Citizens have been diligent in reporting this vehicle to the authorities, and if you see it parking on your street, please report it to the Milwaukie Police.

Based on the increase in crime in our neighborhood this past month, neighbors attending the meeting voiced concern. Discussion about a neighborhood watch was brought forward. Neighbors felt that there should be a way for citizens to be proactive and practice crime prevention. Sherri Campbell stated that there used to be a "little old ladies club" that walked the neighborhood for just this reason. They had vests, and a very old cell phone by today's standards that used to be kept in Mr. Lisac's shed. (The vests and old cell phone should still be there.) Other interested neighbors asked Officer Krebs and Officer Nelson if they thought having neighborhood watch signs posted would help. Both Officers thought that anything in this situation would help. Carlotta asked if we had a group that would be interested in starting a neighborhood watch in our neighborhood. All neighbors attending the meeting felt that this would be a good idea, and Officer Nelson said that he would contact Roseanne Lee at Southeast Uplift. She comes to neighborhood meetings and gives an informational talk, for about an hour, concerning how to start neighborhood watch groups for interested neighborhoods. It

was decided by our neighborhood to have her attend and give a talk at the February meeting.

### **Officer Nelsons Report:**

Officer Nelson then gave his report to the attending neighbors. He stated that the Portland side of the Ardenwald/JCB neighborhood has been very quiet with only 2 incidents to report this past December. The incidents were 2 car prowls: 1 at the Eastmoreland Raquet Club and 1 at the trailhead of the Tideman-Johnson Park. Officer Nelson informed the neighborhood that these car prowls usually stem from people leaving items of value in their vehicles. As part of crime prevention, Officer Nelson cautioned everyone to please take valuable items out of their cars if they want to keep them. Officer Nelson also reported that Foster-Powell Neighborhood has successfully started and kept a neighborhood watch program going in their neighborhood. He proposed that for a program of this nature to be successful in Ardenwald/JCB that every person attending the meeting tonight should bring two more people with them to the February meeting.

### **Outreach and Neighborhood Involvement:** Kristen Wiener, Southeast Uplift Liaison,

Kristen discussed SEUL resources and how she could help concerning getting other neighbors involved in various events in our neighborhood. She stated that she could make fliers, go canvassing, work a table at events, help work on a database, or maybe work on a project to more people involved on the north side of Johnson Creek. She stated that she could help go out on a Saturday and talk to neighbors, or help get our website up and running and update information on it. Jason stated that our neighborhood could expand on the city website, but Jason does not have control over the website or access to the website. The IT group at the city has control. He stated that it would be easier to link and update the link as things currently stand.

Kristen talked about having laminated notes posted at the Tideman-Johnson Park to let people know where to go concerning issues with the park and the surrounding area. The signs could invite people to attend our neighborhood meetings and list the scheduled dates and time for the upcoming year. Sherri also mentioned that it should have the neighborhood boundaries posted so neighbors would know which neighborhood they live in.

Carlotta brought up the idea of having our Russian neighbors attend meetings, and to have a Russian translator available to help get them involved. Several people in attendance brought up how to get a Russian translator at our meetings and Kristen stated that she would talk with Galina at SEUL. Another idea was to approach Reed college students or Sylvania PCC students and see if they would volunteer their time, and a final idea was to have some of the Russian students that attend Ardenwald School come to the meeting and interpret. This brought up discussion concerning funding for a Russian newspaper that we purchased with grant money a few years back, and the Ledding Library that is currently trying to expand its Russian literature.

At this point Melissa Ray, who led the arts program this past summer, stated that the program was such a huge success that funding has now been given to keep the

program self-sustaining. This was the program that the Ardenwald/JCB helped start with grant money last year. Carlotta and Sherri both discussed ways to get information concerning the art program project out to the public and Sherri stated that she would contact someone who writes about art for the Clackamas Review. Marten Wilkins stated that the Oregonian also has an Art & Literature section every Thursday that may be interested in art programs and schools.

Getting back to discussion about increasing neighbor involvement at our meetings, Lisa Gunion-Rinker stated that going door-to-door and talking with neighbors in the area with the most crime would be a good place to start. Melissa Ray stated that having a monthly social time helped the PTO get more parents involved and helped build community. Another thing we can do is to post on the city website for volunteer help for upcoming projects/events. There may be many people out there who want to be involved, but don't know how to start.

**Report on the 42<sup>nd</sup> Street Open House on December 15th:** Carlotta Collette,  
Neighborhood Chair

Carlotta started discussion concerning the project and stated that there will be another open house with time for public input, but wasn't sure of the date for that event yet. Brion Barnett, Civil Engineer for the City of Milwaukie will be setting up this open house.

The attending neighbors reviewed the plans for the street and the various corners that would be impacted by tree removal. 42<sup>nd</sup> Street and Olsen, 42<sup>nd</sup> Street and Meadowcrest, and 42<sup>nd</sup> Street and Filbert were the corners most discussed at the meeting. As it stands, it was determined that 2 large cedar trees and one bigleaf maple tree would be removed in the current project. The other flora discussed were mainly of small concern such as cherry laurel hedges. Neighbors were concerned about the removal of the 2 big cedar trees as these trees are actually older and in better shape than the trees the neighborhood managed to save on 40<sup>th</sup> Street and King Road project. Carlotta stated that the neighbor who owned the trees wanted them removed to let more light into his house and because he didn't want to move the fence that borders his property.

This brought up more discussion concerning the value the trees add not only to the property, but to the neighborhood. Neighbors attending the meeting wondered if the neighbor knew all the perks of having such trees in the neighborhood and wanted to know if thinning the trees would be an option. Neighbors in attendance felt that it would be easier and less expensive to move the fence than to cut down the trees. Questions were also raised concerning the possibility of skinny sidewalks near these trees. It was decided that the neighborhood needed more information about these particular trees and the reasons why the neighbor did not want to keep them. (e.g., lien on his property because of the sidewalk, etc..) Other neighbors on the street have wanted to keep their trees. The 2 cedar trees are near the corner of 42<sup>nd</sup> Street and Olsen Street.

After reviewing the proposed size of the street and street travel lanes, the size of the sidewalks, and size of the project many neighbors in attendance had questions concerning speed zones and the impact the widening of this street will have on our neighborhood. There was discussion concerning how to put in more curves on this street to move traffic through at a more reasonable pace. Many people voiced the opinion that currently the street is narrower and the speed is posted at 25 mph, but that

most people speed through the area at very high speeds. Neighbors wanted to know why 13 ft wide travel lanes were necessary, and why 6.5 ft wide sidewalks were needed? Neighbors also felt that not having a designated bike lane was not safe, and that more stop signs will be needed on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street. There was discussion concerning turning the school crossing areas into speed bumps, and adding islands, curves, or roundabouts like those seen on Portland's Northwest 25<sup>th</sup> Street as traffic calming devices. In general, the opinion of the neighbors in attendance was that they wanted to promote a more pedestrian friendly neighborhood, and the current plan needed more neighborhood input.

At this point Susan Stone brought up discussion concerning basic problems of philosophy. She stated that in a project like this in our neighborhood it should be made clear that the idea of the project is not just to get people through our neighborhood quickly, but to calm traffic, save trees, and bring out the value and improve the of quality of life in our community. This project will have direct impact on our neighborhood and our quality of life. She invited everyone to attend the Saturday morning work sessions that are scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month from 8:00am to 9:30am.

Carlotta encouraged everyone to get their comments in to Brion Barnett at: [barnettb@ci.milwaukie.or.us](mailto:barnettb@ci.milwaukie.or.us).

**Report on Lents Sewer Crossing and the December Field Trip:** Carlotta Collette, Neighborhood Chair

Carlotta opened discussion concerning the recent outing to the Tideman-Johnson Park the proposed changes. Several people, Cheryl Ausmann-Moreno, Marianne Colgrove, Sherri and Joe Campbell, and Lisa Gunion-Rinker, who attended the walk discussed the issues that were still of concern, and brought the rest of the group up to date. The walk was very informative, but it was still hard to envision how the grading of the creek and the channels will actually look. The plans given out at the December 18<sup>th</sup> field trip were given to the Ardenwald/JCB land use planning member, Les Wilkins, to review and give feedback to the neighborhood with any concerns he identifies. There were still permit issues and temporary work easements that need to be taken care of by Maggie Skenderian. There were concerns voiced about a path that would lead to a dead end and not have access back up to the trail. There were concerns about which big trees would be taken out, and several neighbors requested that the trees be identified and marked so people would know which ones would be affected. Also of concern was getting the permits to save/move the plants in the area that our neighborhood has planted in the last 3 or 4 years. It was decided that our neighborhood should talk to the other neighborhoods who attended the field trip (Eastmoreland and Woodstock), and talk to the Johnson Creek Watershed Council (JCWC) to get further unified information concerning the upcoming project.

**Spring Garden Tour Discussion:** Carlotta Collette, Neighborhood Chair

Carlotta brought up discussion concerning the neighborhood spring garden tour, and asked for volunteers to work on this event. Eight people attending the meeting volunteered to help work on the tour: Lori Hauskins, Carlotta Collette, Lisa Gunion-Rinker, Marianne Colgrove, Cheryl Ausmann-Moreno, Susan Stone, Nancy Matich, and Melissa Ray. Two other individuals not at the meeting were thought to be interested in working on the project: Cindy Wilkins and Jeri Butcher.

There was discussion concerning having a calendar or visual for the tour such as a booklet discussing different types of gardens and plants. Carlotta suggested that the main area of focus of the tour be the Johnson Creek Blvd area since there were possibly already 3 gardens in the area that would participate. She suggested having Steve Johnson give a talk about the conservation of Johnson Creek and the surrounding area. It was thought that there were other gardeners near JCB that may want to participate in the tour. People were not sure how many gardens to have on the tour, but were certain that having the tour in May or June would be best for most gardens. Carlotta stated that she would set up the first meeting to prepare for the event.

**Land-Use Report:** Les Wilkins, Ardenwald/JCB Landuse Planning Representative

#### **Gramor Development on Oak Street**

Les updated the neighbors attending the meeting. He stated that currently the area proposed for development across from the Albertson's strip mall area is cut up and not a very neat area. He stated that 19 rental houses will be taken out during the project development. These houses are all 1936-1942 homes and are already owned by the developers. Les checked the rental housing market in the area and determined that people currently living in these houses will have no problem finding a home to live in around the surrounding area. Les stated that the Dental Building currently on the property will stay. He felt that a meeting between the Rail Road, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), and the City of Milwaukie needs to occur before the project is considered further. There are concerns about traffic in the area and there is discussion about changing the timing of the lights on Highway 224.

#### **Downtown Safeway Site**

Les updated neighbors on the downtown old Safeway site. The City of Milwaukie has given the go for this project and it will be ready to start soon.

#### **Milwaukie Plywood Site On 32nd**

This site is still undergoing soil clean-up and will be for a while. Les stated he had not heard about any purchase of this land yet.

#### **McFarland Site**

Les stated that there is currently 18 acres still available for development behind the McFarland Bark Mulch Business over near K-Mart and the new Lowes off of Highway 224.

Neighbors attending the meeting asked Les if the land behind the Albertson's strip mall was buildable and he said that it was or will be in the future. He said this would probably be an extension of the existing strip mall area. One of the neighbors brought up the issue that they had heard something about a proposal to put a Walgreen's in behind the Public Safety Building on Harrison Street. Les said that he hadn't heard about that yet.

Discussion among the attending neighbors brought up the homogenization of our community and what we want our community to look like in the future. Susan Stone stated that she and other City Council members will be attending a meeting in Lake Oswego to tour Lake Oswego and see how they transformed their city. Many neighbors present discussed their visions of what they want their Milwaukie community to be. It was felt that the ability to walk or bike to where one wanted to go was very important, and that the buildings erected in the community flow together and bring unification of

architecture to the area. Neighbors did not want to see large box stores in the area, but preferred having small local shops that fit more with the small town environment that is Milwaukie. This subject was also thought to be a great one for the Saturday Morning workshops held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month by the Milwaukie City Council.

**Grants:** Carlotta Collette, Neighborhood Chair, and Sherri Campbell, Vice-President

Discussion of upcoming grants by the Chair and the Vice-President was brought forward.

### **Ardenwald/JCB/Hector/Campbell Summer Reading Program Grant**

Sherri Campbell started the discussion by submitting to membership the grant for the Ardenwald/JCB Summer Reading Program. Sherri stated that reading program books have increased in price this year jumping from \$1.74 per book to \$2.14. This past year almost twice the number of children attended the reading program. Sherri stated that the Hector/Campbell Neighborhood voted to share the grant this year and work on the project. Joe Campbell, who normally has a helper every year, stated he will tend the table by himself this year so more books can be purchased. Sherri asked that a grant of \$1700 be approved and plans on purchasing 1000 books this year. Neighbors added that books for the event could also be found at the Waldorf School Annual booksale. The grant was approved by all attending neighbors.

### **Neighborhood Clean-Up Day Event Grant**

Carlotta brought up the Clean-Up Day event held the first Saturday in May (05/07/05). The event will start at 8:30am and go until 1:30pm. In the past, the event has cost approximately \$14,600 from all the neighborhoods. The site is located in our neighborhood at the Ardenwald School. Our neighborhood has also received \$900 from SEUL for this event in the past. It was decided that we should apply for the Clean-Up grant. Sherri Campbell mentioned that in the past SEUL had provided "Free Geek Cards" for people to recycle their computers and computer monitors. Kristen said she would check on this matter. There was also discussion about having Metro composting bins available for people to pick-up at the event. There was also discussion about having a Clean-Up Day on the Springwater Corridor Trail.

### **Other Grant Ideas**

Other grant ideas that were brought up for discussion were:

**-Neighborhood Watch Group** (discussed previously)

**-Neighborhood street sign toppers-** It was moved that Jason would get more information from Robert Faracity(?) concerning the regulations for sign toppers and hanging banners. It was moved to explore neighborhood street markers by grant or donation for our neighborhood.

**-Clean-Up 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Event** - Have a grant to buy mulch and plants and get permission to work on making 32<sup>nd</sup> street look really nice as a main thoroughfare in our neighborhood.

**-Help the Elderly in our Neighborhood** - Start an event to help the elderly in our neighborhood get yard projects done such as raking or house painting or other miscellaneous. This could be done in conjunction with the Boy Scouts or Milwaukie High School.

**Miscellaneous Discussion:** Carlotta Collette, Neighborhood Chair

Carlotta opened the meeting up for other discussion and issues. Victoria Potter and Mike Mendez brought up discussion concerning the proposed property development of their neighbor Norm Scott. They attended the visit last month to the property and wanted to state that they felt the proposed plan would place too many buildings on the proposed site. They were also concerned that the property would become rental property because of the close proximity to the railroad tracks and the industrial area. The proposed plan will have a dedicated hammerhead for police and fire departments which they felt was good, because currently Norm's driveway cuts across city property. The main concern for the neighbors was an increase in crime in the area, and that putting more houses near the end of the Springwater Corridor Trail would cause more theft problems. Victoria stated that they currently have problems with transients and drug issues now, and that Norm's house was even burglarized within the past year.

Les Wilkins, Land-Use Representative, stated that these were all issues that he had brought up at the last meeting. He felt that because there is a gateway from our neighborhood onto the Springwater Corridor Trail that how we deal with this crime issue should be planned out now before problems occur. He mentioned having signs posted, having an actual gateway or arched area, having increased lighting through this area which currently has none, and etc. Les stated that the City of Gresham dealt with these same issues by having the boy scouts -explorer age- take bikes, take walkie-talkies, and take routes to patrol on the trail. If they saw any problems or issues, they radioed the police to keep the area under control. He felt that the concerns of the Norm Scott's neighbors was valid and wanted further input from other neighbors near the project.

Dale Chambers, [www.freetrimetrides.com](http://www.freetrimetrides.com), attended our neighborhood meeting to promote the idea of a fareless trimet bus system. He came to give information to neighbors and ask for their support by signing a petition to get this idea before the council this year. The author of the petition, Mary Whitmore stated in a handout (summarized) that,

"I have been using TriMet for over 20 years. I saw a downturn in the economy that made it hard for a lot of people to come up with the bus fare. I asked questions about Trimet's budget and found that only 13% of TriMet's budget comes from the farebox. The added costs to TriMet of having fareboxes: the purchase, maintenance and repair of the fareboxes and the ticket vending machines; the pay, benefits, and retirement of the accountants, fare inspectors, and adjudicators; the printing and distribution of passes, tickets, transfers, etc. This is not cost effective and a fareless system would encourage more people to ride the bus, reducing air pollution and traffic. The money that is currently spent on handling money could be used to pay for more buses. Lower wage workers could keep more of their earnings, the unemployed and disabled riders could more easily look for work and get to service agencies. This would be another way to make Portland and the surrounding area be one of the most livable areas in the country." The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

See you in February!

Lisa Gunion-Rinker  
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