

Ardenwald/Johnson Creek Boulevard (JCB) Neighborhood Association Minutes for 10/10/06

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:32pm by Ronn Palmer, Vice Chair. 23 members attending the meeting included: Greg Chaimov (Vice Chair, Island Station), Norm Scott, Michelle Bussard (Director, JCWC), Brian Newman (Metro Representative), Officer Kevin Krebs (Milwaukie), Jeff & Chris Davis, Pam Murray-McGraw, Alex Campbell (City of Milwaukie Resource and Economic Development Specialist), Joe & Sherri Campbell (Treasurer and MAL), Chelsea Bantz (Milwaukie High School), Officer Heidi Helwig (Portland), Nancy Matich, Mike Mingard, Marlena Hansen, Cheryl Ausmann-Moreno (Chair), Michole Jensen (MAL), Jim Wightman, Carol & Les Wilkins (Land Use Representative), Kristen Wiener (SEUL), and Lisa Gunion-Rinker (MAL).

Officer Kevin Krebs, Milwaukie Liaison:

Officer Krebs reported neighborhood incidents for the month of September. He stated that the overall crime rate is decreasing in the neighborhood, but that currently there were 3 reported burglaries that may be connected to the 30+ burglaries that have occurred in Sellwood. He further stated that 2 of the burglaries in our neighborhood were committed by the same man and he believes that the third burglary may be an individual from a transient camp located in Portland. The Milwaukie Police are working with the Portland Police and the Railroad to clean up the area in the coming months. Also reported in the month of September were 2 abandoned vehicles, one theft, one criminal mischief act, one assault that was domestic in nature, and one traffic accident in Ardenwald. Cheryl stated that teenagers were bothering a trailer on 40th between 7 and 11pm, and that teenagers were skateboarding on 42nd and King. She asked Officer Krebs if he was aware of these kids and if they had caused any other problems in the area. Officer Krebs stated that he was not aware of any issues with teenagers, but that a small utility trailer was stolen from the corner of 40th and King construction site. He said there have been many instances of utility trailers and equipment being stolen from construction sites in the county. Les asked Officer Krebs if the 42nd and King auto yard was in compliance with city ordinances because they were parking tall vehicles that impaired a driver's vision to vehicles coming from the right. Officer Krebs stated that there should be no vehicles parked off of the lot, and he will talk to code enforcement about this issue. Pam and Michole brought up concerns to Officer Krebs about a dog on their street that is tied up outside and barks all the time. Officer Krebs asked if anyone had spoken to the owners of the dog and both responded that many neighbors had talked to them concerning this issue multiple times, but that nothing has been resolved. Officer Krebs recommended that the neighbors call the non-emergency police number: 503-786-7500 when the dog is barking and be available to sign a complaint when the officer arrives. The owners will be given a warning so they know about the barking dog and have the opportunity to take care of the issue. This prompted another neighbor to ask Officer Krebs about motorized scooters and what road and safety standards they must follow. Officer Krebs stated that the person operating the scooter must wear a safety helmet at all times and that they must follow the regulations laid out for all motorized vehicles.

Ronn thanked Officer Krebs for his report and Officer Krebs left the meeting to go on call.

Officer Heidi Helwig, Portland Liaison:

Officer Helwig reported that there was very little crime in Portland side of our neighborhood in the month of September, but expanded on the issue of burglaries brought up by Officer Krebs.

She stated that the burglaries have all been during the daytime and that the intruders enter into homes by kicking in back doors to homes. No homes with dogs have been broken into. The bureau believes that the burglaries are being committed by transients living under bridges in the area. She also warned neighbors to be alert for suspicious people on their street and to be mindful of door to door canvassing this time of year. She also advised attending neighbors to be careful on recycling nights and that no one should be coming onto your porch or into your yard to get recyclables. If you have concerns about suspicious activity on your street please contact the non-emergency police number: 503-823-3333.

Officer Helwig next presented information to attending neighbors concerning sex offenders in the 97222 zip code. Officer Helwig stated that there were 45 registered sex offenders in our zip code, but that only 6 of those offenders were considered to be predatory. She passed around photos of these individuals for neighbors to view and listed some of her concerns with the living situations of some of these offenders. She stated that some of these individuals live right next to parks and that if they enter the park it is considered a misdemeanor. If they are seen talking to any minors in the park it is considered a federal offense. She stated that she only knew of one transient that has caused problems in the past, but no problems have been reported recently. Attending neighbors asked if leaflets of these people could be put up in the area with pictures of people to raise awareness of this issue. Officer Helwig said that currently Oregon only lists pictures of people that are very violent on the state website. Officer Helwig thanked attending neighbors for their time and left the meeting.

Local Traffic Issue: Michole Jensen, MAL

Michole Jensen reported on the 32nd Street closure issue to attending neighbors. He proposes that the neighborhood write a letter asking Portland and Milwaukie to give a one day courtesy notice concerning any detours that will be occurring in our neighborhood to the Ardenwald/JC NDA. He further proposed that both Portland and Milwaukie give the neighborhood 30 days notice in writing prior to initiation of any project. He stated that the normal parameters are that the traffic coordinator sets the time and this is supposed to be 7 days before the detour actually starts. He found that the Ardenwald School was notified, but neighbors residing on the detour route were not notified. It was also noted that the detour route was not properly marked and that cars and buses were not directed to the right area. The time of the detour was also not marked correctly as it was supposed to last from 9am to 4pm daily, but buses were not notified and were still on the detour route throughout the evenings.

It was determined that a letter from the neighborhood board with a petition of names from the neighborhood would be sent to both cities and that Michole would write up this letter.

Another neighbor brought up the concern of 36th Street not having a school zone sign and Cheryl stated that it is not considered a primary school route by the Chief of Police. She stated that if the neighborhood wanted to bring this issue forward we need to get a petition started.

UPDATE/REVIEW

Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC): Cheryl Ausmann-Moreno, Chair

Cheryl stated that the speed check sign will be available one day a week throughout the city and that the City of Milwaukie is still working on the insurance issue. She also stated that Chief Kanzler is still working on the photo radar issue.

Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting: Cheryl Ausmann-Moreno, Chair

Cheryl stated that the citizen's advisory committee is meeting at the Public Safety Building on Harrison Street at 7:00pm tomorrow night. She said that the City Council will also hold a special session to discuss the sewage issue on October 19th.

Walk-Bike to School Day: Sherri Campbell, MAL

Sherri stated that a fun time was had by all on October 4th for walk/bike to school day. Kazoos and other fun items were handed out to kids with about 100 people showing up for the event.

Plant-Seed Exchange: Lisa Gunion-Rinker, MAL

Lisa stated that about six or seven people came and shared their collected seeds and plants. Everyone went home with many new finds and plethora of daylilies donated by Carol Wilkins.

Treasurer's Report: Joe Campbell, Ardenwald/JC Treasurer

Joe reported that a \$500 check from Wal-Mart to the neighborhood was received as a donation for the Ardenwald Secret Garden Tour fundraiser and that it has been given to the school with the rest of the proceeds. Joe also reported that the signage and flyers from Fast Signs for the neighborhood concert events will be paid this week. Also \$700 from the general fund will be used to purchase a sign for the Tacoma Street entrance to our neighborhood. The proposed site of the sign is near the historic Kane House.

Holiday Party Committee: Cheryl Ausmann-Moreno, Chair

Cheryl asked for volunteers for form the holiday party committee. Pam Murray-McGraw and Marlena Hansen volunteered to help with the planning.

Regional Transportation Issues: Brian Newman, Metro Council Representative Dis. #2

Brian thanked everyone for their interest in regional transportation issues and the planning and process that Metro is developing to meet citizens needs. He briefly outlined for attending neighbors what Metro was by describing the four service areas: 1) Planning; 2) Parks; 3) Garbage/Solid Waste; and 4) Regional Facilities. He then went on the describe what Metro Grants are being used in Milwaukie right now such as the almost completed Northman Village Project and the sidewalk improvements that are occurring such as on 42nd Street in our neighborhood.

Brian then started discussion about transportation issues and what Metro plans to include in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Brian explained that Metro plans to reinvest in infrastructure in older, established communities, and that Milwaukie has out-competed many other cities for Metro dollars due to good staff project submissions. He described the concerns raised by cut through traffic for many established neighborhoods and how the Sunnyside Freeway will try to facilitate growth on the edge and filter traffic along pre-specified corridors. He also brought up discussion of projects that will make transportation easier such as the I-205 Light rail Project that is underway and the proposed McLoughlin Light rail Project. He explained that the McLoughlin Light rail Project will take 1 year of research to complete environmental specifications, meaning that currently the proposed project would start in 2009 or 2010 and be completed by 2014 if all goes well. He stated that there are many policies, projects, and programs that need to be completed and established over the next 20 years to ensure that infrastructure for projected growth in the tri-county area is met appropriately. He said that this is an enormous undertaking and that Metro will be adopting a regional transportation plan next fall and submit it to Washington DC for approval.

Brian thanked everyone for their interest and asked if there were any questions about specific projects. Cheryl asked about interest in the forgotten bridge project and Brian stated that there was a \$100,000 study for feasibility concerning a cantilever pedestrian bridge in this area. Brian also talked about the Trolley Trail bike path project and the impact that the Sellwood Bridge Project will have on the surrounding neighborhoods. He said that currently there was discussion by his colleague Robert Liberty about a separate level bike/pedestrian crossing. He clarified that there will be mitigation for side street projects when working on major increases in the traffic plan design. This means that money will be available to deal with traffic calming issues and sounds issues.

Natural Areas, Parks, and Streams Measure 26-80: Michelle Bussard, Director, JCWC

Michelle and Brian both spoke about the importance of the 26-80 measure for our area and how a yes vote will help preserve our unique quality of life, maintain and improve water quality, preserve fish and wildlife habitat and protect natural areas for future generations. Michelle pointed out that this measure is of special importance to our neighborhood and the City of Milwaukie as several of the proposed future projects included in this measure will be used to purchase land and complete parks along Johnson Creek, Spring Creek, and the Milwaukie Riverfront. Michelle stated that this measure will cost the average homeowner about \$3 per month and complete approximately 71 miles of river frontage and 12,000 acres. Michelle and Brian thanked everyone for their time and left the meeting.

Milwaukie Streets & Funding Issues: Alex Campbell, City of Milwaukie Resource and Economic Development Specialist

Alex spoke to attending neighbors and asked for their input concerning a City of Milwaukie Street Maintenance Program that will use a combination of funding that could include a PGE Privilege Tax of 1.5%, a Local Gas Tax of \$.02/gallon, and a Street Utility Fee of \$.35/trip generated. He explained that city staff are also looking for citizen concerns or other changes that citizens might recommend to the street project priorities. Please either email Alex at campbella@ci.milwaukie.or.us or go to the City of Milwaukie website and fill out a short questionnaire. Alex stated that the City Council will not discuss this proposal until December 19th and that it would be helpful if neighborhoods could provide a statement to the city council before that date. Alex thanked everyone for their time and left the meeting.

Children's Umbrella Parade: Chelsea Bantz, Milwaukie High School Student

Chelsea thanked neighbors for their attention and explained that in the past, the City of Milwaukie had a Children's Umbrella Parade that was tied to the Xmas Tree Lighting Ceremony each year. Chelsea explained that as her senior high school project she would like to bring this parade back. She is in the process of soliciting sponsors for the parade and with the mayor's help will be contacting local businesses. The date for the event isn't set quite yet, but will be either on December 9th or 16th at 4:00pm. Chelsea asked the Ardenwald Neighborhood for \$200 for the event. Les asked Chelsea if she already has permits for the event and she explained that she would need to raise money to purchase those. Sherri suggested that we help get the permit fee waived for the event. A motion was made to table this item until the November meeting and present this issue then. All attending neighbors were in agreement. Nancy asked Chelsea if she could wait until next month and Chelsea agreed that she could.

Approval of the September Meeting Minutes:

A review of the September minutes was performed and attending neighbors were asked to vote to approve these minutes. The motion to approve was given and seconded, with all attending neighbors voting to approve the minutes, and no neighbors voting in opposition.

Announcements:

- Greg Chaimov, Vice Chair Island Station Neighborhood, addressed attending neighbors and asked for their vote on November 7th. He gave a synopsis of what he has been involved in with the City of Milwaukie and other areas: Head of the Ledding Library Board, Spring Park master Plan completion, and West Linn Historic Review Board. Greg stated that he will work to unite Milwaukie and has a long history of working well with others and bringing people together. Greg stated that he has been endorsed by the Oregon League of Conservation Voters, Carolyn Tomei, and Linda Flores. Greg thanked everyone for their time and took his seat for the rest of the meeting.
- Jeff and Chris Davis announced that they are having a neighborhood open house on October 22nd for spooky Halloween fun! All neighbors are invited to attend from 3:00pm to 7:00pm to get a behind the scenes look at their fabulous display. Snacks will be provided and all children must be accompanied by an adult.
- Nancy announced that the New Century Players will be performing the great musical, Little Shop of Horrors October 6-21st at Putnam High School Theatre. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors.

Go to www.ardenwald.org for future events.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Thank you all for attending and hope to see you at a shorter, yet informative meeting next month!

Lisa Gunion-Rinker, MAL