

## **Ardenwald-Johnson Creek NDA Minutes for 4/8/2008**

The meeting was called to order at 6:33. There were 17 people in attendance:

|   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Macy Bishop                             | Don Olund                           |
| Joe Campbell, Treasurer                 | Ronn Palmer, Chair                  |
| Sherri Campbell, Vice Chair             | Theron Park, Providence Milwaukie   |
| Marianne Colgrove, Webmaster            | Carolyn Tomei, State Representative |
| Bryan Dorr                              | Officer Weber, Portland Police      |
| Michole Jensen, BMAL                    | Carol Wilkins, BMAL                 |
| Officer Kelly Kindrick, Portland Police | Marten Wilkins, BMAL                |
| Renee King, Providence Milwaukie        | Jill Younce                         |
| Roshella New, BMAL                      |                                     |

### **Theron Park, new Director of Providence, Milwaukie**

Mr. Park has been in health care administration for about 10 years, and in Portland since September 2007. The hospital has been growing and will continue to grow, with new physicians coming into the community of health care providers. Every year they try to measure the value of services provided to the community for free. In 2007, it was about \$9.4 million of community benefit. Focus groups and surveys in 2007 showed that four areas are of high priority to the community: services for low income & other vulnerable communities, diverse communities, the elderly, and behavioral health care. They provide about 20 different services: training for family practice physicians, health fairs, space to community groups, medication assistance, immunizations, and families that are 200% below poverty level get services for free.

**Questions:** What kinds of services are there for mental health care? Providence Milwaukie is not an in-patient facility for behavioral health care, so they usually handle cases through the emergency room — they evaluate and then send to another facility that has the expertise for this kind of specialized care. Providence Health Care Portland is working on a dedicated behavioral facility, separated from the emergency room, which could be shared with Milwaukie. That is probably about a year away.

Ronn also announced that Renee King, our liaison at Providence Milwaukie, will be moving to another position. Carrie Kikel from Providence Portland PR will be coming to Milwaukie. They are working on support for our breast cancer awareness concert in August.

### **Treasurer's report (Joe Campbell)**

We are making applications for two grants:

Meeting needs - \$700

Reading program - \$1368, which will finish our \$4000 grant this year

Other expenses include:

\$25.93 pizza

\$500 K-9 unit

\$50 corporation fee

\$4,980.59 is our current balance

### **Police Reports (Officer Kindrick)**

Officer Kindrick introduced Officer Weber, who is the neighborhood liaison for Sellwood. There were two larcenies in Ardenwald – items from a vehicle near southern boundary and another one near Tideman Johnson Park, not far from 45th. There were several larcenies in adjoining neighborhoods – it continues to be most prevalent crime in SE Portland. At least half are car prowls: don't leave valuables in your car.

In the springtime there are lots of people out and about on the Springwater Corridor. Again, the biggest issue is theft from cars. Also some problems with drinking, parties, etc. Full time bike details were cut, but Officer Kindrick will ask the commander for permission to do intermittent ATV patrols in June, July, August, maybe September.

**Question:** Are there any signs with numbers to call police? Not posted in the park but the same numbers always apply:

- 911 for emergencies;
- 503-823-3333 for non-emergency calls in Portland;
- 503-655-8211 is the non-emergency number for Clackamas County;
- 503-786-7500 is Milwaukie police dispatch.

Any increases in graffiti or gang activity coming south? We don't see many gangs around here. There are a lot of taggers, but they are not gang-related tags. There are generally two types of graffiti – bored young men 18 - 22, and younger kids looking for kicks. If you see someone tagging, call 911 and get as good a description as possible.

### **Carolyn Tomei, State Representative**

Representative Tomei didn't have a formal presentation, but was happy to talk about whatever we liked. She is chair of human services committee, vice chair of transportation, and is on the committee for state hospital. Mental Health crises are a true problem in our state. Also, Rep. Tomei has been working to add state troopers after years of cuts. They have added 100 in 2007 plus about 30 more in 2008.

**Question:** when will we see a full time state legislature — things are constantly going on throughout the country and the world and we need to be prepared for it.

**Answer:** First we need to start meeting every year. We had a trial run in February 2008 and it was very effective. With the economy turning down, that will cause budgetary impacts, but we do need to find a way to meet every year.

**Question:** What is the state's role in transportation issues, such as the Sellwood Bridge, inner southeast light rail, and the I-5 Bridge?

**Answer:** Rep. Tomei helped secure \$250 million for light rail. Transportation is also looking at the Sellwood Bridge, which will take a huge amount of money. It is considered safe for cars (not trucks or buses). Oregon is particularly prone to economic down-turns since most of our revenue is based on income tax, and there are more needs for services when there are more unemployed. We aren't like the Federal government, who can run a deficit budget – Oregon is obligated to balance the budget each year.

The I-5 bridge is \$4.2 billion – more than the whole region would spend on regular transportation upkeep. The federal government would pay a big portion and states would divide the cost. We need to step back and ask, "Is that where we want ALL our transportation money to go?" The main problem with that bridge is only during rush hour, enabling commuters from Clark County. Why should we subsidize people who have cheaper homes, less land use planning, and pay lower taxes in Clark County? There are provisions for mass transit on the I-5 bridge, and a toll bridge is an option, but it would have to be very expensive to pay for the bridge.

**Question:** What is the cost of TriMet and how come they run so many empty buses?

**Answer:** That is not in Tomei's jurisdiction, since TriMet is funded through a local business tax – we might want to get TriMet to come to one of our meetings. Often buses are empty during rush hour because all the traffic is running one-way.

Rep. Tomei also reported on visits she made to several homes of elderly citizens. Project Independence, which is unique to Oregon, lets elderly people get care and services in their own home. It is more cost effective and more humane than assisted care facilities. Just in Clackamas County alone, there are 130 people on the waiting list. This will be more and more of an issue as the population gets older.

Another big health care concern is veterans coming home with brain injuries -- in prior wars, they probably would have died. Now they have immediate care on the field and much bigger health care needs when they return.

**Question:** Oregon is facing some significant financial challenges -- what is the legislature looking at to deal with alternative funding sources?

**Answer:** Someone always brings up sales tax, or some kind of consumption tax, but no one will ever vote for it. For example, the cigarette tax polled really well, but then was voted down. Also, there are lots of tax breaks built into the constitution with no sunset clause and it takes more people to vote down a tax break than to implement one.

Milwaukie did a great thing putting in a gas and utility tax to help pay for deteriorating streets – the council was very brave to pass that. Unfortunately, we still have few options to deal with the impact of regional traffic in Milwaukie.

**Question:** Aren't tax breaks a method the state often uses to bring businesses to the state?

**Answer:** There are more and more studies showing that they aren't effective in the long run – those companies don't stay. There are other things that bring businesses in: the business and social climate, amenities, Portland great place to live. People love to come to Oregon – why should we pay them to come here? Also, we have an opportunity to be a "green" state and really attract some innovative companies.

**Question:** What's going on with all these little companies sneaking mental health facilities into neighborhoods? Probably what made people most angry was that the county tried to sneak it in on the consent agenda without a transparent process. Milwaukie had to buy the property, which was not a sustainable approach. There need to be safeguards other than the course Milwaukie had to take. City needs to have stronger municipal codes.

**Answer:** She doubts that sort of problem with secretive processes will happen again. However, the Psychiatric Review Board is working on ways to fund transitional housing in community-

based facilities. It has to be a multi-pronged approach – the state, city and county all have to take steps. Clackamas County does not currently have it's share of residential, transitional facilities -- they do need to be near a hospital but it should be cases in which people are making the transition out of a hospital facility.

### **Transportation (Michole Jensen)**

The Citizen's Advisory Committee on light rail will wrap up by June. A small but very vocal group against light rail can often take over a conversation, even when 80% of the room is supportive. The anti group never shows up at formal committee meetings. People who are supportive must make their voice known.

### **Announcements**

**Elections** are coming up in May. There will be board meeting on Tuesday May 6 at Sherri & Joe's house, 7:00.

**Garden Tour** will probably be on Sunday June 22nd. Construction will be under way at the school so we are looking to start the tour at Ardenwald Park. The planning group requests a \$300 advance for seed money to pay for an ad in the Sellwood Bee and supplies costs. The money will all be returned. Sherri moved to advance \$300 and Catherine seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Summer Concerts** are coming together. Ronn will give reports as they develop.

**Luau** Sherri would like to plan a Luau – perhaps on last Thursday of July. She will be teaching uke classes in July and is trying to get in touch with the Hawaiian community.

**Ardenwald construction** Any information on start of school construction and impact on neighborhood? Community meeting in May, ground breaking in June. Dates are in the Pilot.

**SEUL** has funds available through ONI to support meeting attendance such as translators, babysitters, bus fare. Info will be available from SEUL on how to use the funds.

**Friends of Tideman Johnson** Marianne submitted a new grant proposal for \$10,000, which will include 4000 plants, a kiosk, interpretive signage, and supplies to support ongoing work parties.

**Neighborhood Directory** Roger Haas asked Ronn about a neighborhood directory. There is not a lot of interest in providing a directory of our names without knowing the purpose.

### **March Minutes**

Sherri moved to approve the March minutes, and Michole seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17.

Submitted by Marianne Colgrove, April 17 , 2008