

Fairmount Neighbors General Meeting
May 16, 2023, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Ford Alumni Center, 1720 E 13th Ave, Eugene, OR 97403

MEETING NOTES

Opening of meeting by Co-Chair Kay Rose

Attendance: 56 (including 5 board members)

1. Neighborhood Announcements
 - Garden Way: Neighborhood Meeting, June 1, 5:30 p.m.
 - Hayward Inn - Conference Room, 1759 Franklin Boulevard Eugene, Oregon
 - Hendricks Park Walking Tour, June 11, 1:00 p.m.
 - Theme: Kalapuya Ways
 - Board recruitment pitch.
2. Committee Updates
 - Karen Dunne on Emergency Preparedness committee. Areas of focus are:
 - Household preparedness (education and outreach)
 - Zone preparedness (coordination among immediate neighbors)
 - Neighborhood preparedness (connectivity among zones and with city/county emergency services through a network of radios operated by neighbors)
 - Provided fliers to assist community members as they gather emergency reserves
 - Discussed pooling resources and emergency preparedness skills in event of a disaster
3. Agenda Review
 - Recommendation to add discussion of [Franklin Boulevard Transformation](#) accepted by group following vote by 2/3 of Fairmount Neighbors residents in attendance
 - Topic added to end of meeting agenda
4. Cindy Koehler
 - Review of 2022 Neighborhood Survey noting Fairmount Neighbors Top Concerns
 - Survey will be posted on Fairmount Neighbors website in coming days
5. Reid Verner, City Land Use Supervisor, City of Eugene. Parking Requirements Presentation: Climate-Friendly & Equitable Communities
 - [Parking Reform Community Survey](#)
 - Background: Executive Order 20-04 issued with goal of reduction of emissions and to address housing crisis

- Why Parking? Parking minimums make housing more expensive, takes up a lot of space, incentivizes driving.
- Sequencing of requirements explained
- Looking for community input on which state option to choose
- They just completed community outreach and will use that in choosing option
- General support from the community members. Reassurance that this does not change rights of property owners for changes to their driveways
- Thus far, the same amount of parking is being built due to demand and lending requirements

6. City Councilor Alan Zelenka

- Explanation of parking requirements up for consideration.
- New City Hall Update:
 - City is in process of buying the old EWEB building near riverfront.
 - Recent purchase due to lowered price from EWEB proposal years ago. Purchase also makes sense now that riverfront is being developed to give greater accessibility to the building.
 - New City Hall will include a new fire station and community meeting spaces.
 - Currently in due diligence with building inspections taking place.
- City Budget for the 2023-2025 Biennium currently being negotiated
 - \$1.5 billion budget with \$15M budget gap
 - Budget committee gives recommendation to Council after three public hearings, wrapping up May 24
- Updates to camping codes to comply with update to state law being implemented now with new factors to prohibit camping: risk to public safety, accessibility for all city residents, 1000 feet buffer for educational facilities, 100 feet from river bank
 - Safe sleep sites created throughout the city with garbage services, portable bathrooms, and supervision. These stabilizing centers have proven to help people get into more permanent housing.

7. Franklin Boulevard Transformation Project:

- Rob Inerfeld, Transportation Planning Manager, City of Eugene in attendance; offered to display graphic of current plan to aid group discussion
- For neighbors not at February meeting—at which the project was also discussed—Rob elaborated on:
 - Goals of project, to make walking and biking safer, focus on this dense neighborhood for more housing, need to make Franklin Blvd safer
 - Limits to where roundabouts could be located due to space within each intersection and potential encroachment onto existing business sites
 - Reasons for current design discussed; attendees suggested alternatives

- Owner of Hirons (and shopping center) raised concerns regarding potential impacts to business if left turn from Franklin onto Orchard is removed; currently provides easy access to the shopping center. Without westbound left turn, cars will need to enter at Villard or take new left turn at proposed Walnut roundabout, turn right at 15th, and then turn right onto Orchard to access the shopping center
- Additional discussion regarding access from Villard and potential for reducing parking spaces by reorienting parking to improve safety of sidewalk access
- Councilor Zelenka shared discussions he's had with Market of Choice leadership during which Market of Choice stated that they support design plan; business has entered into long-term lease agreements at current location
- Neighbors expressed concern over adding a roundabout at the intersection of Franklin Blvd and Walnut, including impact to Hirons / Market of Choice commercial area and for those living on Walnut St between 15th and 19th Streets
- Neighbor circulated letter opposing the proposed roundabout at Franklin Blvd and Walnut Street; shared concerns that roundabout will greatly increase traffic through neighborhood

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.