

Neighborhood Associations Council of Clark County
Meeting notes – August 9, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Doug Ballou. Those in attendance were: Doug Ballou; Neil Chambers, Andresen/St. Johns; Andrew Ness, Port of Vancouver; Daniel Weaver, Railroad Advisory Board member; Roy Heikkala, Blue Ribbon Task Force Chairman; Pete Mayer and Jean Akers, Vancouver-Clark Parks & Recreation; Bridget Schwarz, NUSA; George Vartanian, Fairgrounds; Ed Frankel, Pleasant-Highlands; Avaril Massey and Barbara Anderson, North Salmon Creek; Jan Bazala, Clark County Community Development; Milada Allen, Felida; Bud Van Cleve, NE Hazel Dell; Holly Gaya, CCPIO; Art Stubbs, Green Meadows; Henry Hughes and Sue Lintz, E. Minnehaha; Sandra Bennett, East Fork Frontier; Jim & Marelyn Curtis, Truman; Susan Gilbert, Enterprise/Paradise Point;

Announcements:

- The Clark County Fair had great attendance at Friday's opening. It will continue until Sunday, August 15. Go out and enjoy your fair. There is something for everyone.
- The Clark County Public Safety Complex Open House will be on September 18, 2010. Please pass along the information to your neighbors and if you wish to have a booth at the event, contact Sgt. Mike McCabe at 397-6079 or Mike.McCabe@clark.wa.gov.

Parks Blue Ribbon Commission: Pete Mayer, Jean Akers and Roy Heikkala provided an overview of the newly formed Parks Blue Ribbon Commission. Representatives from Battle Ground, Camas, Ridgefield, Vancouver, Washougal and Clark County will be exploring options for sustainable financing and governance of our parks, trails, open space and recreation programs. The goal is to provide adequate funding to enhance our parks and recreational services for future generations to enjoy. Preliminary recommendations are expected to be out by December 2010 and a final set of recommendations by February 2011. Neighborhoods are encouraged to provide input early and often as the work of the Parks Blue Ribbon Commission moves forward over the next several months.

Jean Akers shared information about the process to acquire park property, especially the need to keep discussions and interest on specific sites confidential given that the County has limited flexibility in acquiring properties other than at assessed market value. Discussion ensued regarding attempts to acquire land for parks in the N. Salmon Creek area.

Neighborhoods are invited to attend the monthly meetings. For more information visit the Web site: <http://www.ci.vancouver.wa.us/parks-recreation/about/future.htm> or contact Pete Mayer at 619-1109 or Pete.Mayer@cityofvancouver.us.

Townhouse Ordinance: Jan Bazala is looking at improving the current Townhouse Ordinance and seeking input from interested citizens. Insufficient parking was identified as a significant problem common to most townhouse developments. The narrow lots and sidewalks at the curb present challenges with ADA compliance due to mail boxes on the sidewalks and garbage/recycling containers set by the street. Other issues include: lack of parks (green space), narrow roads and sight distance issues caused by developed lots near intersections. Doug mentioned that these developments work best when there is public transportation nearby and shopping within walking distance. Jan encouraged everyone to send their recommendations to him. Jan.Bazala@clark.wa.gov 397-2375 x4499.

Neighborhoods USA (NUSA): The 2010 Neighborhoods USA annual conference was in Little Rock, Arkansas. Bridget Schwarz shared a video of President Clinton's keynote speech which focused on the value of neighborhoods and community building. After the video, thoughts and perspectives on the speech were discussed briefly. Meeting participants appreciated and thanked Bridget for sharing this part of the conference. Next year's NUSA conference will be in Anchorage, Alaska and the neighborhood association's in that community have signed an agreement with NUSA regarding hosting of the annual conference. This is unusual, since most conference host agreements are signed by the hosting city government.

Comprehensive Freight Access Study: Anne McEnerny-Ogle presented a letter written by the Board of County Commissioners requesting the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC) conduct a comprehensive freight access study of the entire transportation network west of and in connection with Interstate-5. Anne stressed the previous studies didn't take into account the cumulative impact of different plans. She wanted Clark County neighborhoods to be aware of current planning which includes significant transportation changes. Previous planning efforts, including the Fruit Valley subarea plan did not involve west-side neighborhood associations that would be impacted by increased truck/freight traffic through established residential neighborhoods.

Appreciation: We appreciate the visitors who attend our monthly meetings. Andrew Ness from the Port of Vancouver and members of the Clark County Railroad Advisory Board are regular attendees. Additionally, the Clark County Sheriff's Office, Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation, Clark County Public Health and the Vancouver School District are also part of our group as well as representatives from businesses such as CRC. Thank you for coming and keeping us informed.

Roundtable:

North Salmon Creek Neighborhood Association:

- NSCNA skipped their July meeting but remain busy and active.
- They are excited about the new Salmon Creek Farmers' Market on Thursday evenings.
- There is some concern about getting in and out of the neighborhood once the construction on the park and ride increases.
- NSCNA has two "flight" coupons for a ride in a glider. Barbara is considering ways to use the gift certificates as fund raising opportunities. Anyone interested in selling raffle tickets as a fundraising event???

Green Meadows Neighborhood Association:

- Art encouraged everyone to donate to the local food bank. The need is greater this year. He also suggested that everyone bring items for the food bank to our next meeting. Doug will include Art's invitation in the September NACCC meeting notice.

Felida Neighborhood Association:

- Milada announced a Veterans' Stand Down on Monday, September 20th at The Vancouver Elks Lodge, 11605 SE McGillivray Blvd. (Transportation is available from the VA Campus Building 7 in Vancouver.) The Stand Down is open to all veterans in need and their families. For more information contact Karla Been at 360.696.2326 or Jeri Flowers at 360.993.1924. Services provided include: a hot meal, help with obtaining veterans' benefits, employment services, personal hygiene supplies, housing assistance, health screening, VA Health Care registration, counseling and flu shots.
- Milada Allen and Sue Lintz volunteered to serve as NACCC representatives on the Military Appreciation Committee. Those in attendance supported their appointment to service as NACCC liaisons with the Military Appreciation Committee. For more information contact Milada at gaudeamus@earthlink.net or 573-4030.
- Felida will host their annual volunteer recognition event at the Clark County Public Service Center on October 27th.
- The Salmon Creek Farmers' Market attended Felida's July 4th Celebration dressed as vegetables, to announce the new Thursday afternoon/early evening market. The market provides fresh fruits and vegetables as well as a sense of community and an enjoyable outing.
- Felida would like to encourage Vancouver Clark Parks to partner with the neighborhood associations at future events.

Neighborhoods USA: Bridget suggested NACCC sponsor a candidates' forum after the primary election. Anne confirmed the League of Women Voters will be hosting their annual forum but said neighborhoods are a focus of their outreach. NACCC could provide volunteers for the event and outreach to the community. Neighborhoods could also support/co-sponsor with the League of Women Voters on the candidate forum to increase participation and interest in our democratic process.

Pleasant Highlands Neighborhood Association: Ed Frankel is the vice-president for the association and is active in the community on a number of fronts. He admits he simply can't say no.

- Pleasant Highlands is concerned about BPA's plans for a new power line corridor.
- The neighborhood is experiencing some neighborhood crime.
- The plan to widen the street at NE 119th St. and 50th Ave. to accommodate more development and sewage lines is causing some anxiety in the neighborhood. This intersection has had several accidents and is a safety concern to neighbors.

Port of Vancouver: Andrew said Far West's contract will go to the Commission for approval tomorrow. The contract will include covenants related to land return/transfer if contract is terminated, minimum number of jobs, wages, etc.

Truman Neighborhood Association:

- Marilyn said the next Truman Neighborhood Association meeting will be on September 21st. It will focus on crime watch. And, the association has a new deputy liaison who will be introduced. They will also have a few other guest speakers.
- Truman is working on their next newsletter.

East Minnehaha Neighborhood Association:

- Parks has purchased ten acres of land in the East Minnehaha Neighborhood Association. Sue is pleased and said it is a beautiful piece of property and will be a nice park.
- The neighborhood yard sale was a big success.

East Fork Rural Neighborhood Association:

- The Veterans' Traveling Memorial was in La Center for four days. Sandra said the memorial was quite moving.
- There is a weed that resembles Kudzu growing from close to J.A. Moore Road to east of Daybreak Park. Sandra has contacted the Weed board for identification.

Railroad Advisory Board:

- Daniel said Anderson Dairy has closed the deal in Brush Prairie and is working to improve the building. They will be good neighbors.
- Eric Temple bought seven acres nearby for a trans. load facility.
- Omega is still looking for property.

Fairgrounds Neighborhood Association:

- George said there are still some issues with the subdivision on 29th Avenue.
- He suggested we invite the Vancouver Neighborhood Alliance to our monthly meeting. He would like to see more collaboration with the City of Vancouver neighborhood associations.

The next NACCC meeting will be September 13, 2010.

Respectively Submitted,

Bridget Schwarz and Doug Ballou
August 9, 2010