

Neighborhood Associations Council of Clark County June 13, 2011 meeting notes

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Chairman Doug Ballou.

Those in attendance were: Holly Gaya, CCPIO; Marelyn & Jim Curtis, Truman; Rob Guttridge, CC Environmental Services; Sandra Bennett, East Fork Frontier; Sue Lintz and Henry Hughes, E. Minnehaha; Jeff Mize, Clark County Public Works; Dick Clairmont, Clark County Railroad Advisory; Shane Gardner, Clark County Sheriff's Office; Avril Massey, North Salmon Creek; Paul Scarpelli, N. Salmon Creek; Andrew Ness, Port of Vancouver; Angie Lyons and Josh Townsley, Habitat for Humanity; Bridget Schwarz, Fairgrounds; Ila Stanek, West Hazel Dell; Steve Smith and Darcie Robertson, North Salmon Creek; Michelle Girts, Pleasant Highlands; Joe Walsh, Safe Communities Task Force; Cleve Thompson, Clark County Department of Community Services; Bud Van Cleve, NE Hazel Dell; Doug Ballou, NACCC;

Announcements:

Medical Marijuana Dispensaries: Some neighborhood leaders met with Commander Mike Cooke and Sgt. Shane Gardner to express concern about medical marijuana dispensaries opening in Clark County. NACCC unanimously agreed Doug should write a letter on NACCC's behalf to the Board of County Commissioners in support of quick action, an emergency ordinance or moratorium, which will allow a set time to research regulations including zoning and permitting medical marijuana dispensaries. Cmdr. Cooke has met with County officials to discuss next steps. If you would like a presentation regarding medical marijuana dispensaries and/or illegal drugs in Clark County, contact Cmdr. Mike Cooke at 397-6079 or Sgt. Shane Gardner at 397-2104.

Bosco Farm Park: Truman Neighborhood Association, Vancouver-Clark Parks, Benny's Rod and Custom Pizza Café, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts and approximately 100 neighbors dedicated the new Bosco Farm Park at 3601 NE 39th Street on Saturday, June 4. Steve Stuart presented the park and scissors were given to anyone who wished to cut the red ribbon. Other dignitaries included Glen Bedell, Construction Engineer; Jim Moeller, State Representative; Adrian Cortes, Park Commissioner and Jilayne Jordon, Parks Communication Specialist.

Kate and Clarence LaLonde Park: On Saturday, June 11, the NE Hazel Dell Neighborhood community along with volunteers and sponsors dedicated the new Kate and Clarence LaLonde Park on 99th Street. It was attended by over 100 neighbors who enjoyed root beer floats, fruit, cake and sunshine.

NE Hazel Dell Neighborhood Association received a Silver Award from Neighborhoods USA for their newsletter. Congratulations to NE Hazel Dell and thank you to all county associations who publish informative newsletters.

Minor-League Baseball in Clark County: Bridget Schwarz asked NACCC if they would be interested in partnering with the Vancouver Neighborhood Alliance in hosting a community forum regarding the current negotiations with a minor-league baseball team that may locate to Clark County. Hosting a minor-league team would necessitate a new stadium and potentially an entertainment tax. NACCC agrees with providing information to the community, recognizes the proposed stadium will be built at Clark College in the City of Vancouver, but understands there may be a countywide entertainment tax. NACCC will participate in the forum. Bridget will work with the Alliance to determine a date and venue and keep NACCC informed.

Evergreen Habitat for Humanity

Angie Lyons and Josh Townsley represented the Evergreen Habitat for Humanity and discussed their current projects that include two subdivisions in Clark County. Evergreen Habitat for Humanity (EHFH) is an organization that builds and rehabilitates simple, decent houses with the help of homeowner (partner) families. This is accomplished through volunteer labor and tax-deductible donations and materials. Habitat houses are then sold to the partner families at no profit and are financed with affordable, no-interest loans. The homeowners' monthly mortgage payments are then placed into a revolving fund that is used to build more homes. They are currently starting a new development in the Battleground area and if you would like to volunteer time or make a contribution, contact Habitat for Humanity at (360) 737-1759.

Safe Communities Task Force

Joe Walsh provided an overview of the Safe Communities Task Force. It unites businesses, government, faith-based organizations, youth agencies, law enforcement, schools, juvenile court and others for the purpose of building a healthy, violence-free, and gang-free Clark County. Nearly 150 individuals and organizations support the work of the Safe Communities Task Force. Eliminating gangs in our community requires a comprehensive approach.

The Safe Communities Task Force mission is to reduce violence and gang involvement in Clark County through collaboration among local government, schools, law enforcement, social service providers, and the general public.

They don't provide direct services to the community. Instead, they provide a hub through which resources can be developed, implemented, accessed, and evaluated. This approach is designed to reduce duplication of services, eliminate resource gaps, and improve cooperation among key agencies.

In other words, if you have a gang-related concern and don't know where to go for help, give them a call. They will point you in the right direction. And if you want to be a part of the solution, also give them a call. They will find a way for you to help.

Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month from 10 am to noon at the YWCA Clark County, located at 3609 Main Street, Vancouver WA 98663. The purpose of these meetings is to share information about upcoming programs and events, learn the latest trends in local youth gangs, and foster connections among youth-serving groups. Joe Walsh, Program Coordinator, Safe Communities Task Force (360) 397-2130 x5204 Joe.Walsh@clark.wa.gov

Clark County Drug and Alcohol Program

Cleve Thompson has been with Clark County 19 years and announced that the jail population has declined because of the ongoing alcohol and drug services. Even with the recent budget crisis, Cleve and his team have procured grants and continued to provide alcohol and drug services and referrals.

The program connects with individuals, businesses, government, education, law enforcement, social services, youth, volunteers, and other advocacy groups to provide services that reduce the impact of substance abuse in our community. Additionally, the program works closely with the Clark County Superior Court Therapeutic Specialty Courts: Family Treatment Court, Felony Drug Court and Juvenile Recovery Court which offer services and treatment to help participants stay off drugs and alcohol, get re-established in the community and reunite with their families.

Available adult and youth treatment services include:

- Assessment and referrals
- Outpatient alcohol and drug treatment
- Treatment programs specific to individuals with both mental health diagnosis and alcohol and drug addictions
- Treatment programs specific to pregnant, postpartum and parenting women
- Opiate substitution treatment
- Childcare for clients while they are in treatment
- Outreach programs
- HIV/AIDS education and prevention
- Youth services including intervention programs, adolescent case management and dual recovery outpatient services
- The Alcohol and Drug Program also funds youth substance abuse prevention

Cleve also suggested that if you wish to donate time or money, consider The Rock. Contact Cleve for more information. Cleve Thompson, Clark County Department of Community Services, Alcohol and Drug Program. Cleve.Thompson@clark.wa.gov (360) 397-2130 x7823

West Hazel Dell Boys Home Ila Stanek provided an update on the New Visions home in West Hazel Dell. The home is located at 7515 NW 15th Ave., Vancouver, WA. Recently, at a Board of County Commissioners Hearing, neighbors, facility staff and boys who live in the home testified. Commissioner Boldt would like to meet with

everyone involved to address concerns and resolve issues. The neighborhood is questioning why New Visions didn't obtain the required conditional use permit and the lack of supervision at the home.

New Visions is a for-profit organization. There are five boys living in the home at this time. At a work session on May 23, Commander Keith Kilian said, since January 2011, the Sheriff's Office responded to the home 23 times, there have been 11 felony arrests, eight youth on youth assaults and six assaults by boys on supervisors.

Ila stated the livability of the area has declined and the business association is very interested in why the business has not complied with Clark County law.

After a vote, Doug was asked to send a letter on NACCC's behalf in support of the neighbors concerns and the business association's issues with the failure of New Visions to obtain a conditional use permit.

Neighborhood Roundtable was eliminated due to the late hour. Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:05 PM.

The next Neighborhood Associations Council of Clark County meeting is scheduled for July 11, 2011.