

# Neighborhood Associations Council of Clark County (NACCC) Meeting notes – October 13, 2008

## **In attendance**

Bud Van Cleve, NE Hazel Dell Neighborhood Association; Barbara Andersen, North Salmon Creek Neighborhood Association; Sue Lintz, E. Minnehaha Neighborhood Association; James Olson, Prairie Highland Neighborhood Association; Neil Chambers, Andresen/St. Johns Neighborhood Association; Erin Thompson, Clark County Elections Office; John Allen, Railroad Board; George Vartanian, Fairgrounds Neighborhood Association; Sam Kim, Greater Brush Prairie Neighborhood Association; Sgt. Mike McCabe, Clark County Sheriff's Office; Don Wastler, Proebstel Neighborhood Association; Adam Beck, East Minnehaha Neighborhood Association; Brian Wolfe, Port of Vancouver; Katy Brooks, Port of Vancouver; Sandra Bennett, East Fork Frontier Neighborhood Association; Doug Ballou, NACCC Chair; Art Stubbs, Green Meadows and NACCC Vice Chair; Holly Gaya, Clark County PIO; Leslie Morrison, Gateway to Adult Transition Education Program (GATE); Kellie Henderson, Clark County Juvenile Probation; Milada Allen, Felida Neighborhood Association.

## **Welcome, introductions and announcements**

Doug Ballou called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Everyone attending the meeting introduced themselves.

Doug announced a change in the order of the agenda, starting with guest speakers and ending the meeting with neighborhood leader round table announcements and NACCC business regarding continuation of working on a meeting conduct policy. No one opposed meeting agenda change.

Doug started the meeting off addressing the recent economic downturn and acknowledged the impacts will affect everyone. Local governments are being forced to cut services and lay off good people who have served many years, businesses are restructuring, schools are looking at a state deficit of \$3 billion and neighborhood associations will experience changes in their work with the community and quality of life. This is a difficult time and the extent of the affects is still uncertain.

However, on a lighter note, John Allen noted the railroad has new customers and is chugging on.

**Kellie Henderson, Clark County Juvenile Justice  
Safe Communities Task Force**

The Safe Communities Task Force is a group of committed partners who have come together to identify and/or develop solutions, interventions and prevention strategies to reduce youth violence and crime in Clark County. There has been an increase in gang activity in Clark County over the last 24 months. Legislators encouraged communities to work together which was the stimulus for the new task force.

The group strives to promote public safety by incorporating the best and most innovative practices of community partnership and reduce youth violence and crime. They make resources and information available to community members regarding intervention and prevention strategies for at-risk youth.

The steering committee meets every four to six weeks. It is currently focusing on completing a community assessment and planning a Parent Workshop on February 28, 2008. Kellie will be sending more information and is asking neighborhood leaders to include notice in their newsletters. Stay tuned for updates.

**Erin Thompson, Help Americans Vote Act – Accessible voting machine for Americans with disabilities.**

Erin demonstrated the accessible voting machine which Clark County has had since 2006. Recently, the county received grant funding to spread the word about the voting machine which allows people with disabilities to vote independently and privately.

Erin thanked neighborhood leaders for putting information in their newsletters and asked them to continue to keep the community informed. The accessible voting machines will be available for persons wishing to use it on October 15, 2008. Additionally, the Elections Office will be open Saturday, October 18 from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. for voter registration for people who are not currently registered anywhere in the state of Washington. Additionally, Erin asked for community recommendations about other services that could make voting more accessible for people with disabilities.

**Leslie Morrison, Gateway to Adult Transition Education Program (GATE)**

Leslie visits NACCC every October to remind us about the GATE project. GATE serves Clark County students between 18-21 years old with special need. The program provides real-life experiences which teach independent living, community access and job skills. GATE partners with Vancouver Public Schools and provides a learning environment that engages and empowers students to develop knowledge and essential skills to become a competent, responsible, and compassionate citizen. There are other similar programs in and around Clark County. They work together and welcome opportunities for students.

Leslie said students are available to fold newsletters, wash windows (first floor), rake leaves and provide services to the community. She was pleased to announce 70% of her students now have paid employment.

You may contact Leslie by e-mail at: [leslie.morrison@vansd.org](mailto:leslie.morrison@vansd.org) phone: (360) 313-1050. GATE is located at 3100 E 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Vancouver, WA 98661.

## **Neighborhood Leader Roundtable**

### Art Stubbs, Green Meadows and NACCC Vice Chair:

- Art is representing NACCC on the Livestock in Urban Areas Task Force. He will provide updates at our monthly meetings.
- Art is also representing NACCC on the Clean Water Board which has just completed a program matrix. Because of DEQ requirements, Clark County has identified projects that will cost an estimated \$12 million. However, the budget is \$4 million. There will be some difficult decisions and Art will continue to keep us informed.

### Barbara Anderson, N. Salmon Creek:

- Barbara announced the upcoming 2008 Clark County Neighborhood Roundup ~ *Chili Cook-Off and Bread-Making Challenge* on November 15<sup>th</sup>, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Clark County Public Works Operations Center, 4700 NE 78<sup>th</sup> Street, Vancouver. The Roundup is this year's neighborhood leadership event and in addition to good vittles NACCC members who attended the Neighborhoods USA Conference in Hampton, VA last May will share information from their favorite seminar. The Clark County Sheriff's Office will provide information about the Neighborhood Watch Program and Leah Lothspeich with Fire District 6 will be available to introduce you to the Map Your Neighborhood Program.

All neighborhood leaders are encouraged to invite folks who you work with in your neighborhood association. You may decide to compete as a team in cook-off or just come and enjoy the food and workshops. This may be the perfect invitation for that person who would like to know more about neighborhood associations and get involved with yours.

The deadline for contestant entries is October 31. And, the Roundup Team would greatly appreciate RSVPs so they will have enough supplies on hand. For more information, turn on your computer's speakers and check out the Roundup Web site at: [www.inthecouve.com/roundup](http://www.inthecouve.com/roundup) or, contact Holly by e-mail at: [Holly.Gaya@clark.wa.gov](mailto:Holly.Gaya@clark.wa.gov) or by phone at: (360) 397-6012 ext. 5.

- Barbara read Ila Stanek's e-mail asking NACCC to write a letter requesting the Clark Regional Waste Water Dist. and Clark Public Utilities start a discussion with the Three Creeks Council about a rumored merger. Community participation should be encouraged. Ila is visiting family and celebrating Canadian Thanksgiving but still engaged with issues at home. Members in attendance agreed that on behalf of NACCC, Doug Ballou should work with Ila to draft and send a letter to the Waste Water District Commissioners asking for a dialog to begin with the Planning Commission regarding a proposed merger that would impact residents served by the district.
- North Salmon Creek is ramping up for their annual Halloween Decoration Contest. Nominations are now being accepted. The only requirement is you must live within the North Salmon Creek Neighborhood Association boundaries. Send the address of the home you are nominating to [NSCNA@inthecouve.com](mailto:NSCNA@inthecouve.com) or contact Barbara at 573-2240 or Carol at 433-2676.

Sgt. Mike McCabe, Clark County Sheriff's Office Outreach

- Mike reminded everyone about Make a Difference Day on October 25. The Clark County Sheriff's Office and Clark County neighborhood associations are partnering for the 7<sup>th</sup> annual litter pick-up.

Teams (or individuals) will meet at the Clark County Public Works Operations Center at 8:45 a.m. on Saturday, October 25. You will receive your bags and supplies. At noon, everyone is invited to meet for free pizza at Round Table Pizza at JM Plaza, 616 NE 81<sup>st</sup> St., Vancouver.

To register, please contact Sgt. Mike McCabe or Kasey Frazier with the Clark County Sheriff's Office Outreach Unit at 397-2211 ext. 3380 or e-mail: [Kasey.Frazier@clark.wa.gov](mailto:Kasey.Frazier@clark.wa.gov). Registrations should be received no later than October 22, 2008.

Bud Van Cleve, NE Hazel Dell Neighborhood Association

- Bud reminded everyone of the NE Hazel Dell Neighborhood Association's annual Children's Christmas Party on December 18<sup>th</sup> at Sarah J. Anderson School. He is expecting over 500 children and always welcomes volunteers and donations of food and children's gifts.

Sue Lintz, E. Minnehaha Neighborhood Association

- Minnehaha and Andresen-St. John's neighborhoods are in the City of Vancouver's 5 year annexation plan. Sue is concerned about continuation of the Metropolitan Park District Levy once these neighborhoods are annexed to the city. Sue and Gloria are researching Metropolitan Park District Levy in relation to park maintenance once an area is annexed into the city of Vancouver. Vancouver funds maintenance of their parks through the general fund rather than a levy. In essence, not only would these neighborhoods

have to pay a special levy to maintain parks but also contribute to the general fund for park maintenance throughout the city. Sue is concerned that this is double taxation and seems unfair.

Katy Brooks, Port of Vancouver

- The Port of Vancouver is doing well. They are currently working on their budget.

Milada Allen, Felida Neighborhood Association

- Felida Neighborhood Association in partnership with the Salmon Creek Lions, Clark County Sheriff's Department and the Greater Clark Parks District, hosted the Sgt. Brad Crawford Neighborhood Park dedication on Saturday, October 11, 2008.

The weather was beautiful and so was the event. It was well attended and everything was absolutely perfect.

Felida Neighborhood Association will continue to raise money for additional improvements to the park. If you would like to donate, please contact Milada at 573-4030.

James Olson, Pleasant Highlands Neighborhood Association

- James reported that the neighborhood has been generally quiet. The area is in discussions about the prospect of a new Frisbee Disc Golf Course at Pleasant Valley School Community Park.

Railroad Work Group, Neil Chambers and Sam Kim

- Sam and Neil have been serving on the Railroad Workgroup and recently submitted their findings and recommendations to the Railroad Board.

Sam Kim, Greater Brush Prairie

- Sam reported that their next neighborhood association meeting is October 14<sup>th</sup> and they will have as their guests the four candidates for County Commissioner. The meeting starts at 7:00 PM at Prairie High School Media Center.
- The neighborhood parade was held on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

George Vartanian, Fairgrounds

- George had no announcements for the Fairgrounds neighborhood.
- BYCX volunteers are starting to have train sides on weekends this fall. These include Halloween and Christmas tree. Package deals are available for families.

At 9:10 pm Doug Ballou asked members still in attendance if they would like to stay and cover the final agenda item, NACCC Meeting Conduct Policy, or defer to cover at a future NACCC meeting or a special NACCC committee meeting. Members voted to adjourn meeting at 9:10 PM.