

## **Neighborhood Associations Council of Clark County September 12, 2011 Meeting Notes**

7:00 to 9:00 PM

Location: 4700 NE 78<sup>th</sup> Street, Vancouver, WA

Doug Ballou, Chair – introductions.

In attendance: Sue Lintz, E Minnehaha; Henry Hughes, E Minnehaha; Doug Ballou, NACCC; Art Stubbs, Green Meadows; Avril Massey, NE Salmon Creek; Dick Clairmont, CC Railroad Advisory; Bridget Schwarz, Fairgrounds; Milada Allen, Felida; Stephan Abramson, Pleasant Highlands; Ed Frankel, Pleasant Highlands; Sandra Bennett, East Fork Frontier; Rob Guttridge, Clark County Environmental Services; Lynda Maguire, E Minnehaha; Jim Windus, Downtown Vancouver Association; Peter Dubois, Clark County Environmental Services; Jonnie Hyde, Clark County Public Health; Paul Scarpelli, N Salmon Creek

At the NACCC meeting in June, George Vartanian announced that he was moving to the City of Vancouver and would no longer be the Fairgrounds NA NACCC representative. Bridget Schwarz with the Fairgrounds Neighborhood is the new NACCC representative.

Doug Ballou announced that the Public Safety Facility at the Fairgrounds will be holding the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Open House this Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 4 PM. Doug encouraged everyone to plan on attending and participating in this community event. A flyer was distributed to members.

The joint NACCC/VNA Baseball forum was held on August 31<sup>st</sup> and was attended by approximately 60 people and included a panel of experts to talk about bringing class A baseball to Vancouver. The focus of the discussion was mainly on considering alternatives to the entertainment tax as a way to participate in this project. More about this will be discussed during the roundtable session later in the meeting.

### **Guest Speakers**

Jim Windus, Downtown Vancouver Association: Jim was invited to the NACCC meeting to share another perspective regarding the proposed Clark County District Heating. Back in June NACCC heard from Mark McCauley, Clark County, and David Palmer of Schneider Electric regarding the Clark County District Heating proposal. Jim went over some of the basic facts regarding the proposed project regarding location, size of plant, fuel source and studies that have been prepared by Schneider Electric. The facility is proposed to be located in the old Corwin Beverage company facility. Schneider Electric has appealed City of Vancouver ruling/interpretation that the proposed biomass plant isn't an allowed use under city zoning codes.

A level 1 study was completed regarding the feasibility of the plant and a Level 2 study is currently underway. The first study claimed that the project is carbon neutral but Jim disagrees with this and stated that the environmentalist will likely challenge the validity

of carbon neutrality of the project. Jim claimed that only a fraction of the plants heated water will be used for heating/cooling of five county buildings and that existing 11 boilers will be retained for use as backups. Most of the capacity of the unit will be used for power generation, rated at almost 5 MWs. Jim has experience with this type of facility having worked in Paper Industry where biomass facilities/boilers were used to generate steam for industrial process and electricity for plant operations. Jim stated he has met several times with County representatives and Schneider folks regarding study figures and has not got straight answers regarding some of the figures in the study.

The plant will need to be interconnected with BPA and must go through a 14 to 18 month process to gain approval to connect to BPA Transmission system. Jim claimed that the financial incentives for this project are significant, 30% federal government subsidy and will receive double renewable energy credits.

They must obtain a permit from the SW Washington Clean Air Agency to discharge and that the emissions are regulated by Federal and State laws. Jim is concerned about emissions and the concentration of the burning of biomass fuels in the downtown Vancouver area and impact on air quality, livability. Jim claimed that hog fuel burned in the plant will have high water content (green) and also increase the emission as diesel fuel will be need to keep boiler running. Truck traffic in the area is another concern.

On July 12<sup>th</sup> the County awarded Schneider Electric contract and paid \$395,000. Jim said that Schneider must break ground on the project before end of year to get the 30% credit and that is why the accelerated process to get this project moving.

The appeal will go before a Hearings Examiner scheduled for September 28<sup>th</sup>.

Pete Dubois, Clark County Environmental Services: Pete shared with us plans about Clark County partnering with a non-profit organization to build what is called a "Living Habitat House". Pete provided a hand out and walked through key elements of what is being proposed. Currently, Clark County owns a piece of property located just east of NE 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue and South of 99<sup>th</sup> Street that currently has a dilapidated house on it. The plan is to replace the house with a new house that meets extremely high environmental standards but yet is affordable. Pete requested help from neighborhood leaders in volunteering time to help build this new house. It was suggested that as work progresses that NACCC members could visit the site and learn more about the new environmental friendly building practices being used in this house. The plan is to remove the existing structure within the next few weeks and a request for offer will go out to various non-profits groups to request proposals. Evergreen Habitat for Humanity has expressed an interest in participating in this project and there could be others who may have an interest. This project is located within the NE Hazel Dell NA boundaries.

## **Neighborhood Roundtable:**

Rob Guttridge, Clark County Environmental Services. Rob provided several handouts available from Environmental Services, including a new directory. The Recyclist Tour at the West Vancouver Materials Recovery Station will be held on October 22 from 9:30 to 11:30 AM. Call Sally Fisher at 360-397-2121 for more information. Money is available for Neighborhood Associations that missed the Spring event and this is a second opportunity.

Milada Allen, Felida. Announced West Precinct Open House and encouraged other neighborhood associations to come out to the event and share information about what is happening in your neighborhood. Veterans Advisory Board is holding a fund raising event on September 14<sup>th</sup> to benefit local veterans. On September 19<sup>th</sup> they will be traveling with a group from this area to Olympia to lobby for yellow stickers that first responders could easily identify people with medical/mental health issues. Requested a letter of support from NACCC. Felida is organizing a Children's Holiday Celebration for needy children on December 9<sup>th</sup> at Thomas Jefferson Middle School. Flyers were handed out about fundraising event at Burgerville in Salmon Creek.

Paul Scarpelli, North Salmon Creek. Farmers Market continues through end of September, every Thursday from 3 to 7 PM. They will be at the Open House at Public Safety Complex on Saturday.

Sandra Bennett, East Fork Frontier. Shared information about Medical Marijuana and drug prevention. Material was from Drug Watch International and focus was why medical marijuana is not medicine.

Sue Lintz, East Minnehaha. Sue testified regarding the temporary ban on Medical Marijuana Dispensaries at Commissioners special hearing and supported 12 month temporary ban while details of the permitted land uses can be agreed. Sue announced they were partnering with Walnut Grove to hold a Children's Holiday Event on December 15<sup>th</sup>. They have two confirmed donations for the event. Property owner requested NACCC support of their efforts to have a sustainable living home and have offered to provide tours of their property to see what they are doing.

Dick Clairmont, Railroad Advisory Board. Dick reported that the Modoc Railroad School is considering re-locating from Modoc County California to Yacolt. The school teaches all aspects of railroading careers and they have been in business since 1996. They will operate on County Railroad. Jon Holiday is the new County Railroad Coordinator. He has been busy getting the rail road trestle that burned earlier this year repaired.

Stephan Abramson, Pleasant Highlands. Steve reported that they will have a neighborhood association meeting early in October. Traffic has been a very big issue for their neighborhood, especially at 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 115<sup>th</sup> Street. There was

discussion regarding Chuck's Produce proposed locating at 115<sup>th</sup> and Highway 99. Concern was expressed that the County might cut them a deal regarding traffic impact fees for the project.

Jonnie Hyde, Clark County Public Health. Jonnie reported that she is working on the Public Health Chapter of the Comp Plan and would be seeking input later this Fall on the initial draft. These will be posted on-line for review and comment.

Bridget Schwarz, Fairgrounds. Bridget reported on the public forum to discuss bringing Class A short season baseball to Clark County held on August 31<sup>st</sup> in the Commissioners Hearing Room. The focus of the discussion was on options for financing.

Art Stubbs, Green Meadows: Shared story about working with his son, John Stubbs, who is currently PTA president, regarding an issue at Sacajawea Elementary School about proposed cut in school program. People were up in arms but because of a good working relationship between NACCC and VSD this helped get the issue resolved quickly.

Meeting adjourned at 9 PM  
Next meeting scheduled for October 10, 2011