

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS COUNCIL OF CLARK COUNTY

JUNE 9, 2008

### MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Doug Ballou at 7 p.m. after the Council had an informal dinner.

Those in attendance were: Doug Ballou, Dick Clairmont, NE Hazel Dell; Schuyler Hoss, Gov. Gregoire's office; George Vartanian, Fairgrounds; Sue Groth, Port of Vancouver; Fred Sanchez, Pleasant Highlands; Christie Brown Silva, Sifton; Neil Chambers, Andresen/St. Johns; Sandra Bennett, East Fork Frontier; Sue Lintz, East Minnehaha; Megan Hill, East Minnehaha; Gloria Sommer, Andresen/St. Johns; Robyn Kim, Greater Brush Prairie; Barbara Anderson, No. Salmon Creek; Holly Gaya, Clark County PIO; Art Stubbs, Green Meadows; Bud Van Cleve, HE Hazel Dell; Bridget Schwarz, NUSA; Susan Gilbert, Enterprise/Paradise Point; Stacey Johnson, Fisher-Mill Plain.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Doug announced that the last meeting of each quarter (June, Sept, Dec, and Mar) will be dedicated to the membership with only neighborhood concerns on the agenda.

He announced that NACCC had received a letter from Rep. Deb Wallace who indicated that she was very supportive of the "Take A Second Look" proposal.

Doug then brought up the Rural Lands Task Force subject in response to Susan Gilbert's e-mail to Gordy Euler wondering why no one from rural neighborhood associations was on the task force. There then ensued a discussion about the Commissioner's desire to choose people from the rural county who didn't have agendas. Some members contended that most people who volunteer for task forces and who are not active in other county issues may have their own personal agendas vs. those active in community affairs took a more holistic view of livability issues. It was announced that one task force member has resigned so that post may or may not be filled.

Doug then brought up a discussion about NACCC forming a Dispute Resolution Committee to handle internal problems within the membership that may arise. The general consensus was that we had had no internal problems since NACCC was formed until this year's one incident so that perhaps clear rules for disputes should be outlined instead of having a specific committee formed. It was decided after some discussion that a committee consisting of Bridget Schwarz, George Vartanian, and Barbara Anderson would work up a "position paper" that will outline ground rules for disputes and how we can best handle them as a group. Doug said that NACCC's main purpose is to build strong neighborhoods with all of us working

together. He also indicated that we are in the business of teaching citizens how to access government

#### NUSA CONFERENCE

Presentations were given by the five people from Clark County who attended this year's NUSA conference in Hampton, Virginia (Bud Van Cleve, Barbara Anderson, Holly Gaya, Bridget Schwarz and Doug Ballou.) Those who have attended past conferences indicated that this year's was particularly good and extremely informative. Bridget, a NUSA Board Member, outlined what the NUSA Board's responsibilities were and announced that she had been elected for another three-year term as a board member. She said that the conference consists of three parts: 1. Five workshops; 2. Neighborhood Pride tours of the city in which the conference was held; and 3. Awards for innovative ideas. The NUSA conference will be held in Spokane next year and we are working on ways to have more of us attend.

Doug said it was nice to go to a smaller area much like our community for a change. He was most impressed by the keynote speaker who was the former City Manager for Hampton. He spoke on how to change the view for neighborhood associations to less negative involvement to more on what we do to enhance the livability of our community. Each district in Hampton had a neighborhood liaison and their focus is on developing assets of their neighborhoods. Doug said the main principles were a grass roots approach, focusing on strengths, listening to people because questions were important, consensus building with follow through being extremely important. Doug was impressed that Hampton has a neighborhood "college" that teaches local government 101 to its citizens.

Some of the comments from the attendees were: "Great tours, rich in historical flavor"; "fabulous hospitality"; "highlight was seeing youth involved in workshops"; "Seeing the Emancipation Tree where the Emancipation Proclamation was read." Barbara Anderson shared her pictures of the conference in a slide presentation.

Doug was pleased when the Hampton attendees indicated that they wanted to form their version of NACCC because they were impressed by our organization and how we bring people together to discuss issues.

#### NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE

SUE LINTZ – E. MINNEHAHA – Sue said that annexation is coming. Her group is discussing how they stop paying for parks once they are annexed. She received good comments on their newsletter. Barbara Anderson indicated that anyone who wishes to access the weekly mailings we neighborhoods receive from the county can log on to her website and any citizen can access what we see each week.

#### GLORIA SOMMER – ANDRESEN/ST. JOHNS

Gloria appreciated NACCC's support and involvement on the propane company issue and said they had a good turnout at their meeting.

#### CRC UPDATE

Doug had drafted a letter from NACCC in response to the recently-published DEIS on the Columbia River Crossing. They are looking for public comments and he urges all who have an interest to respond to the DEIS content. The deadline is July 1. There then ensued a discussion of his draft letter and it was decided that NACCC could not support any single build alternative outlined in the study due to the complicating issue as well as wildly diverse opinions throughout the county. It was decided that NACCC could not recommend a "no build" alternative, and that there was general agreement that some action should be taken to address the problems identified in the study. Doug will prepare a revised draft letter that reflected the comments from the neighborhood leaders attending the meeting and send out a new draft for comments prior to July 1 deadline.

Due to the late hour, the neighborhood roundtable was suspended until the next meeting. Susan Gilbert asked that the roundtable be first on next month's agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Gilbert, Secretary

Doug Ballou, June 10, 2008, reviewed and approved