

Neighborhood Associations Council of Clark County

January 12, 2015

7-8:30 PM

Clark County Public Works 78th Street Operations Center
4700 NE 78th Street, Vancouver, WA

Meeting notes

Welcome and introductions: Doug Ballou, Chair

In attendance: Doug Ballou, NACCC; Holly Gaya, Clark County; Dan Enright, CCSO NOW; Art Stubbs, Green Meadows; Sgt. Shane Gardner, CCSO; Jesse Kirkdall, CCSO; Erin Nolan, CCSO; Chuck Atkins, Clark County Sheriff; Cheri Larsen, Clark County Parks; Christie Brown-Silva, Sifton and Heritage; Maureen Smith, Meadow Glade; Allan Jones, NE Hazel Dell; Duncan Hoss, CCSO; Terry Allen, Felida; Milada Allen, Felida; Roger Entrekin, Meadow Glade; Bob Butler, East Minnehaha; Tephon Abramson, Pleasant Highlands; and Cheryl Burkey, Truman

Announcements:

- There will be an open house to inform public about rural industrial land proposal on Wednesday, Jan. 28 at the CASEE Center, 11104 NE 149th St., from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

The proposal covers 602 acres south of Brush Prairie on both sides of State Route 503, including the Ackerland property to the west and the Lagler property to the east in the vicinity of Northeast 119th and 149th Streets.

If the land bank is established, zoning would change from agricultural to light industrial. No heavy industrial uses would be allowed. The land could provide work sites for local residents near the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad.

More information is at www.clark.wa.gov/planning/landbank/index.html. Anyone interested may sign up for email to receive project updates, including public hearing schedules when determined.

- Join others in the community with a passion for sustainability and become a Master Composter/Recycler. Register for a free volunteer training and learn about composting, recycling, worm bins, and other ways to healthier, green living on Thursdays 6-8:30 p.m. Feb. 5-April 9, 2015. This is a community service program. For more information and applications: www.columbiasprings.org/mcr or call (360) 882-0936 ext 224.
- Cheri Larsen is the new Parks Program Assistant and will be our contact person for the Volunteer Program for the next three months. She will provide NACCC with lists of upcoming volunteer events.

Sherri Hedger, a temporary Parks employee, will also be playing a bigger role this year, primarily in the field.

- *The Trail Band* will be performing at Skyview High School on Feb. 15 at 3 p.m. The performance is being hosted by the Kiwanis with a portion of the proceeds helping fund the Kline Fishing Derby for kids in April. Milada Allen is selling tickets. (360) 573-4030 or timberline713@gmail.com.

The Trail Band is an eight-piece ensemble that creates an energetic blend of brass and string arrangements of traditional and original music featuring five great vocalists. They have performed hundreds of public and private appearances across America and Japan. Seven successful albums have established *The Trail Band* as the premiere historic music ensemble from the Northwest. Cornet, tenor horn, tuba, fiddles, hammer dulcimer, guitars, penny whistle, mandolin, piano, saxophone, spoons, bones, drums, bass, and recorders combine with their rich vocal harmonies to create a diverse tapestry of sound.

Sheriff Chuck E. Atkins

After a 35-year-career with the Clark County Sheriff's Office, on Dec. 22, 2014 Chuck Atkins was sworn in as our newly elected Sheriff. He started as a patrol deputy and worked his way through the ranks up to Assistant Chief of the Enforcement Branch.

Sheriff Atkins was welcomed to our meeting and began by acknowledging the wealth of experience sitting around our meeting table. He likened it to the years of experience, expertise and talent in the Clark County Sheriff's Office.

This is week two of the transition. It is going smoothly but sometimes feels overwhelming. The command staff meets every morning to address new issues and check in with each other. Primarily, Sheriff Atkins wants to focus on efficiencies and identifying redundancies. He is tasking his command staff to talk with the line staff about their concerns and what they think would improve service and the effective use of resources. During the transition, he is focusing on keeping the continuity of service, building on existing strengths, identifying and addressing inefficiencies. This includes hiring new people. Some may come with extensive experience but he believes outside recruits should be balanced with local talent who may or may not have a lot of law enforcement years behind them. Sheriff Atkins said his Office will build on and create new partnerships with every organization that is willing to work toward common goals.

The Sheriff talked about Central Precinct's need for improvement. It is inadequate in many ways, including security. He said this is a priority for his staff and the community. This is just one of many issues, all of which require funding. Currently the jail is looking at housing inmates in Skamania County. The plan would help Skamania County and produce revenue for Clark County. However, for now, there won't be big changes. Each decision and potential change is being carefully assessed.

Sheriff Atkins took questions, encouraged people to check out and consider attending the Sheriff's Citizens' Academy (<http://www.clark.wa.gov/sheriff/community/citizenacademy.html>). He is committed to attending NACCC when he could and keeping us in the loop.

Title 40 – Amend the Clark County Home Business Provisions (Section 40.260.100) to remove the limit on the maximum number of non-resident employees for major home businesses.

Doug led discussion about the potential impacts to neighborhoods if the home business ordinance restrictions are eliminated. A unanimous vote authorized sending the draft letter to the BOCC with a minor addition that describes negative impact.

This is the letter that was sent to the Board of County Councilors, Clark County staff, and the Clark County Planning Commission:

Neighborhood Associations Council of Clark County

January 12, 2015

Board of Clark County Councilors
Councilor David Madore. Chair
Councilor Tom Mielke
Councilor Jeanne E. Stewart
P. O. Box 5000
Vancouver, WA 98666-5000

RE: Comments on proposed amendments to the Coun8's Home Business provision.

Dear Councilors:

This letter is in regard to the proposed amendment to the County's Home Business provisions (Section 40.260.100) to remove the limit on the maximum number of non-resident employees for Major Home Businesses.

I am writing on behalf of the Neighborhood Associations Council of Clark County (NACCC), representing 29 Clark County Neighborhood Associations and have approximately 150,000 people who live within these neighborhood boundaries.

We agree that home businesses provide an important contribution to our local economy and should be encouraged and supported without undue regulation. In fact, section 40.260.100 as written currently does just that by allowing home businesses in residential zoned neighborhoods with up to three employees. We know many people who operate successful home businesses within the provisions of this code. They do not create a neighborhood nuisance by going beyond what the code provides. When a business grows to the point where more than three employees are needed then it is time for that business to consider relocation to a commercial/industrial zoned employment areas where their business does not have an employment constraint.

NACCC and its membership, leaders of County neighborhood associations, believe that to remove the employee limit would result in a negative impact on the quality of life in residential neighborhoods with regard to public safety, welfare, transportation and infrastructure needs. We request that no changes be made to Section 40.260.100 (Home Business Provisions) of the County Code.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this proposed amendment to the County's Home Business provisions.

Sincerely,
Doug Ballou

Chairman, NACCC
cc: Mark McCauley, County Manager
Marty Snell, Director, Community Development
Jan Bazala, Planner, Community Development
Clark County Planning Commission
NACCC Membership and Neighborhood Representatives

Clark County Employee of the Year:

Keeping with tradition, NACCC will recognize their choice for Clark County employee of the year at the State of the County event on March 12, 2015 at Skyview High School in Salmon Creek. The event begins at 3 p.m. Doug asked everyone to consider possible nominations and contact him with names. We will vote for our employee of the year at our Feb. 9 meeting. Please send nominations to Doug by email: dougballou@comcast.net

Roundtable:

- Stephan Abramson with Pleasant Highlands Neighborhood Association suggested that everyone write a letter addressing their concern with the proposed changes to the Home Business Ordinance and include a copy to The Columbian, Friends of Clark County and One Thousand Friends of Washington.
- Cheri Larsen, the new Parks Program assistant introduced herself and said she will keep us informed of volunteer activities. She also encouraged neighborhoods to consider adopting a park or a county road. She is available to assist you at: (360) 397-2446 ext. 1689.
- Dan Enright and Allan Jones talked about some recent successes with the Neighbors On Watch (NOW) Program. They said that while patrolling at Winco they were thanked by many people who were in the store's parking lot. However, Dan and Allan emphasize that we need many more NOW volunteers. Both Dan and Allen are available to attend neighborhood meetings and they are asking us to use our newsletters to let people know about the program. It is a commitment and the background checks take a very long time but it is definitely worthwhile and makes a huge difference in our county. For more information, contact Dan Enright at: danlesfc@comcast.net or (360) 699-2050.
- Dan Enright also said the Sunnyside Neighborhood is planning their third meeting. They are creating an extensive email list and use it to keep their neighbors informed and engaged. The association appreciates their CCSO liaisons making time to attend their meetings.
- Duncan Hoss is the interim Commander at Central Precinct. If you have questions or concerns, please contact at 397-6195 ext. 2112. He has only been in the position a very short while and is still learning his way around but is available should you need him.
- Commander Erin Nolan is back at West Precinct after working downtown for ten years. Welcome Commander Nolan. We're glad you're back. You can contact Cmdr. Nolan at 397-6079.
- Sgt. Shane Gardner introduced Jesse Kirkdall an intern from the Skill Center and talked about his trip with the Explorers to the Winter Academy <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WmEC855aFL4>. For the second year, Clark County has sent the most Explorers to the event. Shane said the Explorers will have a March fundraiser which will assist in sending Explorers to the national academy.

The annual shift bid is scheduled for Feb. and the transition will be in early March. Sgt. Alex Schoening will replace Shane as the Outreach Sergeant and Alex will launch the NextDoor Web notification system.

- Bob Butler attended on behalf of Sue Lintz with the E. Minnehaha Neighborhood Assoc. He said the next E. Minnehaha meeting will be March 4, when they will hold elections and host John Gaynor who will talk about the Clark County HAM radio operators and the Eyewarn emergency team.
- Roger Entriken with Meadow Glade Neighborhood Association said his group is still learning to walk but making progress getting everything in place for effective communication.

- Christie Brown-Silva with Heritage and Sifton Neighborhood Associations said her phone has started ringing and people are asking to be involved with the neighborhood associations.
- Thank you Cherryl Burkey for filling in for Barb Cabe and the Truman Neighborhood Association while Barb isn't feeling well. Hope you visit again and hope Barb recovers quickly.
- Art Stubbs with the Green Meadows Neighborhood Assoc. continues to haul food for the Food Bank that Nancy now chairs. He said they are serving an average of 70 families five days a week. Art also thanked the Sheriff and his team for attending our meeting.
- Bridget Schwarz and Sandra Bennett called in before the meeting to say they wouldn't be attending tonight. Go Ducks!

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Next meeting scheduled for Feb. 9, 2015