

Neighborhood Associations Council of Clark County

March 14, 2016

Meeting notes

Welcome and introductions: Doug Ballou, Chair

Guest Speakers: Councilor Chairman Marc Boldt

In attendance:

| Neighborhoods: | | County Staff: | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Doug Ballou | NACCC, NE Hazel Dell | Marilee McCall | Clark County PIO |
| Art Stubbs | NACCC, Green Meadows | Jeff Mize | Clark County PW |
| Neil Chambers | Andresen/St. Johns | Commander KC Kasberg | CC Sheriff's Office, Central Precinct |
| Sandra Bennett | East Fork/Frontier | Julie Rawls | Port of Vancouver |
| Lynda Maguire | East Minnehaha/Roads End | | |
| Sue Lintz | East Minnehaha/Roads End | | |
| Susan Gilbert | Enterprise/Paradise Point | | |
| Bridget Schwarz | Fairgrounds | | |
| Milada Allen | Felida | | |
| Roger Entrekin | Meadow Glade | | |
| Dick Clairmont | NE Hazel Dell | | |
| Julie Arenz | NE Hazel Dell | | |
| Ann Foster | North Salmon Creek | | |
| Ed Frankel | Pleasant Highlands | | |
| Stephan Abramson | Pleasant Valley | | |
| Judy Bumbarger-Enright | Sunnyside | | |
| Dan Enright | NOW program | | |
| Barb Cabe | Truman | | |
| Barbara Anderson | Clark County Parks Advisory Board | | |

Announcements/Roundtable:

- **New Sign-in Sheets:** New sign-in sheets have been created with your e-mail and phone information so you only have to initial beside your name. Please verify e-mail and phone number on the sheet so that we can update the system with corrected information if necessary.
- **NUSA Memphis Conference announcement; opportunity to meet neighborhood leaders.** County will fund one person to go to the conference. They will be sending a representative from E. Minnehaha. They submitted their newsletter for an award and have been notified that they are finalists. Bridget mentioned that Fairgrounds was 2nd place for Neighborhood of the Year in 2004, and that she has served three 3-year terms on the NUSA board. NE Hazel Dell NA has funded people going to the conference in the past. It was suggested that there might be options to explore so that more people can go. Marilee gave estimated cost of \$1600 for conference cost including airfare and hotel with timeline of Wednesday, May 25 through Saturday afternoon, May 28.
- **Spring Paddle Event April 23-24 at Vancouver Lake.** Free classes and opportunity to try kayaking and stand-up paddle board.
- **Employee of the Year recognition:** Nominations have been received and vote will be held after roundtable tonight.
- **State of the County update:** SOTC event will not be held until next spring, but Spirit Awards will be held this fall, August or September, as its own event.

- **Paradise Point property:** Barbara Anderson updated us on current status. Pat Lee, county staff, has been given direction to “hold” on the process for the Pearson property. Doug sent in an official letter for the record from NACCC that was approved by the group. Susan Gilbert, Enterprise/Paradise Point NA, proposed that a compromise be discussed if the issue was the 5-acre property with the dwelling that is currently being rented; that the residence piece could be sold and the remainder approved.
- **Cowlitz Casino site:** On behalf of NACCC and citizens of Clark County, Doug crafted a letter to EPA regarding the proposed wastewater injection system at the Cowlitz Casino site. Susan Gilbert delivered that letter and testified in front of the EPA. The EPA was “blown away” by the NACCC letter once they understood that the organization represents 180,000 citizens of Clark County. At this time, the hearings are still proceeding. Susan noted that they’ve been involved through a 13-year process and there is a lot of bureaucracy and politics involved, but they will remain involved to the end. Oral arguments on appeal for March 18 in Washington D.C., then there will be a decision. They may take it to the U.S. Supreme Court. There is a concern because tribes are a sovereign nation. At one point the Cowlitz Tribe signed an irrevocable resolution to honor the county rules and ordinances. Susan Gilbert said she would continue to educate the federal government on issues of concern. The tribe is sovereign for their property but not for the off-site impacts to neighboring properties. A question was asked if the sewage injection has ever been put into an aquifer/water source at another location. Parties involved claim that the water to be injected is safe to drink – but it’s not being recycled and used as drinking water.
- **Parks Advisory Board update from Barbara Anderson:** The PAB has completed the Parks Comprehensive Plan. Have now established the following subcommittees:
 - **Business/Grants**
 - **Sports**
 - **Marketing/Partnerships**
 - **Trails/Open Space/Intertwine**
 - **Parks**

Parks Advisory Board Standards and Training is one additional short-term subcommittee. Barbara encouraged anyone that would like to volunteer, please contact her to get more information.

Reminder that there are a few Parks Impact Fee concurrency districts coming up and expiring – the dollars must be reinvested or they will be lost:

District 10 – May 2016. Bill is working on an acquisition.

District 5 – September 2016.

District 6 – August 2016.

District 8 – February 2017.

Councilor Boldt was introduced: He said he was glad to be back! And now we're on a journey. There are some difficulties but there is movement forward. Part of the challenge is working through the charter – which is a new way of governing in the county. In our charter, the councilors have to volunteer to keep a degree of separation from the county manager to make the new organization work properly under the new rules. They have talked about an office reorganization to create a physical separation of the council/manager offices.

- He discussed the resolution that will come back to a hearing. There will be a vote on not allowing county to use a banked 1% real estate tax capacity without voter approval.
- **Servant Leadership Classes:** Directors, department heads and elected officials are taking classes on servant leadership. The trainer is from George Fox University.

- **Building relationships:** It's nice to see groups working together again and advisory boards and organizations working in partnership. Councilor Boldt has met with all of the mayors of the cities now. He is personally rebuilding those relationships one meeting at a time. The mayors have committed to meet on a quarterly basis. They have also committed to quarterly meetings between their city managers and our county manager.
- **Early adopter:** National Health Care – Mental Health/Drug Addiction and regular medical care. He is working on bringing the funding together. We're the first one in the state to go this direction. Give credit to Councilor Madore for making this happen. This is going to take a lot of work and funding, but it is a very good direction to go.
- **State Budget/Funding:** We had \$9M resource funds to move forward with the health care changes but in the last legislative session the dollars were transferred back into the State General Fund. The State pays for about ½ of the Prosecuting Attorney's office but they reallocated that funding back to the general fund as well.
- **Annexation with the City of Vancouver:** Lots of questions. Councilor Boldt has met with the Mayor Levitt twice on this issue. A new radio and records system are planned for the Sheriff's Office. We have invested in an input booking system and the Sheriff is offering this new system to VPD to network. We are working on interval control to gather budget numbers. Lynda Maguire mentioned that E. Minnehaha had a meeting last Thursday regarding annexation. She asked about Parks and would newly annexed properties be subject to the Metro Park fee and also be taxed by City of Vancouver for Parks, in essence be double-taxed? They are concerned that they will continue to pay Metro Park assessment and also a city tax. Art Stubbs commented that he would like to have a discussion on a Metro Park district somewhat like the library district. This has been looked at before and he would like to see the discussions continue. Lynda Maguire asked about the 2007 agreement that was signed by the city and "automatically" attached to the properties included within the agreement's defined boundaries. She wonders if this is truly a "done deal" or can property owners decline annexation. Councilor Boldt said that discussions are continuing on the agreement with the City to clarify the 2007 agreement and plan for the path forward. Art Stubbs stated that Green Meadows annexation would result losing \$1.5M to Clean Water program. How would the county make those dollars up? Is it possible to have an Economic Development region? Could Green Meadows become a park instead of a golf course? Is there a way to protect the ambience of the golf course open green space? Lynda Maguire said she would like to see transfers of pockets where the city has the streets but not the neighborhoods. This creates issues for fighting for sidewalks. They are county people but approaching the city for sidewalks and they don't have clear representation. These are the VanMall retirement homes – over 200 people. Boldt suggested having city and county elected officials work together to come up with some solutions for this area.
- Stephan Abramson asked about the Humane Society and if the relationship had been repaired. Boldt stated that they are already working on this and a work session was coming soon.
- Art Stubbs asked "How are we getting back on track from recession?" Boldt said that the Juvenile Detention is still struggling with staffing. Pat Escamilla is retiring. Ernie Veach-White may come back to help with the transition. We are trying to connect the schools better with the juvenile system. There are 41 beds – almost the smallest juvenile facility in the state. There are a lot of people and groups out on the streets working hard to keep young people out of the hall.
- Milada Allen: Community Service is a help but there's not enough staff to keep the program going. The participants learn work skills and leadership skills. They would like to see this program revitalized with mentors, supervisors, outreach. Currently overlooking the re-capture of these kids. Boldt: Have not taken many \$\$ for kids from mental health tax. They are reallocating some of these funds for youth.

Boldt: Fund most of the parks with REET/taxes – need to send the signal to get the \$\$ back out of the general fund and back to parks.

- **Judy Bumbarger-Enright:** Cell towers in neighborhoods. Are the city rules different? Can there be buffers around residential? This is off Covington/76th – would like to see stronger regulations on cell towers. Would like notification of the pre-app to go out to wider notification than 500 feet.
- **Bridget Schwarz:** Request to be able to watch Board Time on CTV again. Request to have the chair shut down rude comments and possibly implement a penalty of 30-days-comments-only-in-writing as a possible “fine” for violation of the rules. Boldt: About a week from passing the rules for council.
- **Susan Gilbert:** Sent letter for proposal to sell the house and keep the rest of the property on the Paradise Point Legacy Lands. Others chimed in and said they should keep all of the land and preserve as originally intended. Boldt: Doesn’t see that sale of this property is likely to move forward.
- **Request to go back to Columbian for paper of record.** Bid opening will be tomorrow at hearing. BOCC will vote.
- **Question about the flyers that were placed on all cars in the parking garage on 3/8 titled “Real problems with Clark County’s Senior Employee”.** The fliers were put on all cars in the parking garage and the security cameras captured the people that did it. Boldt directed staff to pull them off.
- **Fee Holiday:** Are they going to reimburse Transportation Impact Fees (TIF) and Park Impact Fees (PIF) from general fund? Boldt: WS in April to figure this one out. It has really hurt funding. Jeff Mize clarified that TIF and PIF are very different things: TRAFFIC impact fees are the bigger loss at this point from commercial development. PARKS fees come from residential development and that sector is not receiving a fee holiday. Boldt: Biggest hurt is that grants must have matching funds and that “bank” of dollars of private share of matching funds has been depleted with loss of Traffic Impact Fees.
- **Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update:** Going pretty good. Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) will have some challenges. Oliver and planning dept. are working on penciling it out. CFP is the first hurdle. The other is the plan policies at the end of each chapter. Working on jobs more within the next couple of months, then will go back to the Rural Plan and portion of the rural areas of the community. We’re in a different age of farming and there are a lot of changes. We are on track for June completion of the plan, and the health element is back in the comprehensive plan. **Allegations against staff:** Hired an attorney from Seattle that does HR work. She will investigate allegations and bring back a report of findings. Will take about 3-4 weeks for the report to be compiled.
- **Paradise Point/Enterprise:** Still in discussions about overpass with the tribe? Has been up to talk to State Legislators. Kudos to Chris Cook for the stop work order.

Round Table

- **Bridget Schwarz:** Public hearing regarding the psych hospital is coming up on April 14. Rainier Springs will be the new 72-bed facility. 1/3- Medicare, 1/3 Medicaid, 1/3 private pay. 5.7% required free assistance, they are going to commit to 10% and will also have a focus on dual-diagnosis folks and crisis issues. Typical stay is estimated to be 7-10 days.
 - **Doug stated that their representative, Jay Skillings, will be at the next NACCC meeting to report and to answer any questions.**
- **Barbara Anderson** – Has Parks Impact Fee district maps for those that are interested.
- **Milada Allen** – Cougar Creek Park has approval to proceed and is going to be a positive project. April 8-9 Annual Klineline fishing event. Friday the 8th is for special needs; Felida has paid for 60 scholarships. Marilee noted that there is a link to information on the event on the weekly update webpage. July 4 Kids Parade: Good time for outreach, about 4500 people usually attend. ADA at Felida Park to be installed with special sensory equipment. They need volunteers.

- **Doug Ballou** – Weekend after Klineline is the Eco Fair on April 16th.
- **Marilee McCall** – Reminder that Dozer Days event is coming up in late April or May.
- **Art Stubbs** – Comment that there were great applicants for the Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator and that he enjoyed being on the panel.
- **Susan Gilbert** – Reminder that there is a lot of power in the voice of NACCC – representing 180,000 people. Know that working together and sending in a voice from the group makes a huge impression and makes a difference to decision makers.
- **Reminder of dates for Port of Vancouver USA Tours:** A flyer with dates for eight upcoming public tours of the Port was distributed. Government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's license or passport, is required to attend. Please leave cameras at home; they are not allowed on marine terminals. Reservations are required and tours fill up quickly. People are encouraged to call the port at 360-693-3611 or email RSVP@portvanusa.com far in advance of their selected tour date. For more information about public tours at the Port of Vancouver USA, visit www.portvanusa.com/community/know-your-port.
2016 public tour dates for the Port of Vancouver:
Tuesday, April 19, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Wednesday, May 4, 5:30 to 7 p.m.
Saturday, May 21, 10 to 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday, June 7, 5:30 to 7 p.m.
Saturday, July 2, 10 to 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday, July 19, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Thursday, Aug. 18, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned for discussion on nominees and vote for Employee of the Year.

Next meeting will be April 11, 2016
Clark County Public Service Center
4700 NE 78th St., Vancouver, WA