



## Eugene Neighborhood Summit 2009 Collaborating for a Livable Eugene

Thank you for registering for the 2009 Eugene Neighborhood Summit. We're excited that you will be attending. This year's summit brings neighborhood association members from across Eugene together with elected officials, City staff, other public agencies and a variety of community organizations to focus a day on **Collaborating for a Livable Eugene**. Planning and support for this event was in itself a collaboration between neighborhood leaders and the City of Eugene Neighborhood Services program.

Neighborhoods are perfectly situated to take on an increasing role for improving Eugene's livability. Neighborhood associations have close ties with the city government and the City's Neighborhood Program is vital to our community. Neighborhood associations also have abundant opportunities to collaborate with many of Eugene's non-profit and volunteer organizations. How can those working relations improve? The 2009 Neighborhood Summit has been designed to facilitate making positive connections.

How can we combine our collective efforts to address some of our community's pressing problems? These are uncertain times in Eugene, the country, and all over the world. We are moving into unfamiliar situations that will call upon new ideas, new collaborations, and improved methods for planning and decision-making. There are also many new possibilities! While the City searches for ways to reduce costs and still be able to continue maintaining services to residents, the time is well suited for all of us to find new ways of working together for a more livable Eugene.

Based on input from a pre-summit survey, discussions in the summit planning committee, and with the Neighborhood Empowerment Committee, we have planned a fast-paced combination of large sessions, small breakout groups, and information displays, with time for allocated for networking with elected officials, City staff, other neighborhoods, and representatives of various community organizations. Both the continental breakfast and lunch will be eco-friendly vegetarian with vegan options.

### **Schedule:**

The Summit will begin at 10 a.m. and end at 4 p.m. If your group will be setting up an information booth or table, please come early to set up so that your display will be available when people arrive at 10 a.m.

The tentative schedule for the day is:

- 10:00 AM** Sign-in, continental breakfast, visit information tables and displays, time to mix and mingle and network
- 10:30 AM** Opening plenary session: welcome, remarks by Mayor Piercy, overview of the day
- 11:00 AM** Visit information stations; mix and mingle and network
- 11:15 AM** First breakout session for brainstorming on collaboration ideas
- 12:00-12:50** Lunch, visit information stations, mix and mingle
- 1:00 PM** Second breakout session for brainstorming on collaboration ideas
- 1:50 PM** Plenary session
- 2:15 PM** Circulate and dot-vote for favorite collaboration ideas. Network as time allows.

- 3:15 PM** Final plenary session: regroup to discuss results of dot-voting and post-summit follow ups and next steps.
- 4:00 PM** Adjourn

### **Topics for Discussion in the Breakout Groups**

When neighborhood board members and people who had attended the 2007 summit were asked about their top priority issues for the 2009 summit, their most frequent responses were Land Use Planning, Sustainability, Transportation, Capacity Building, and Governance (transparency, community involvement, neighborhoods/City relationship, etc.). Next came Public Safety, Emergency Preparedness, and City Budget. There were also votes for Parks and Open Spaces, Affordable Housing/Homelessness, and Accessibility.

This year's summit is devoted to the top requests and several other issues. We have planned breakout groups for the following topics:

- Sustainability
- Land Use Planning
- Public Safety
- Traffic and Transportation
- Parks and Open Space
- Human Rights/Diversity/Equity
- Infill Compatibility and Opportunity Siting

These are specific areas of concern but they interconnect with one another and with the larger trends in our economics and environment, and way of life. If other topics become important in the course of the morning, they can be discussed in the afternoon.

The groups will be facilitated and will be divided if they become too large. Participants will be asked to create ideas and methods that will enhance neighborhood/city collaborations on the specific topic for the group. We hope each breakout session will identify high value ideas and strategies for further discussion and action.

The summit will provide opportunities for arranging follow-up activities and next steps on these topics, whether by meetings, email listservs, new ongoing groups, and other kinds of connections.

**Directions to the Summit:** The Wheeler Pavilion is located in the Lane County Fairgrounds complex at 796 W 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. The Wheeler Pavilion is the large round building with a conical roof close to 13th Avenue, near but slightly north and west of the Exhibit Hall.



# col·lab'·o·rate - to work, one with another; cooperate

In the spirit of the Neighborhood Summit theme, **Collaborating for a Livable Eugene**, the registration materials solicited examples of successful collaboration methods between neighborhood associations and the City. Here are a few highlights of what was submitted. We hope that these examples will inspire your thoughts and ideas for the small group brainstorm sessions.

## **Active Bethel Citizens**

Tree by Tree is a Bethel neighborhood tree gleaning project that is a collaboration between the Bethel School District, Active Bethel Citizens, and ECOS. The program encourages citizen volunteers to adopt neglected fruit and nut trees in the neighborhood to enhance neighborhood food production. The fruit and nuts will be made available to participants and Food for Lane County.

## **Amazon Neighbors**

Partnerships have been established among neighbors, Temple Beth Israel, and Harris-Eastside School to help with school gardening and composting projects.

## **Crest Drive**

Residents and City staff worked together to develop an alternative design for several busy streets in the Crest Drive area identified for repair and bringing up to City standards. The process was contentious at times and took more than two years but the construction is due to begin in May.

## **Jefferson Westside Neighbors**

The Jefferson Westside Neighbors worked with City staff developing an experimental Opportunity Sighting workshop last summer which helped define the process by which future City/neighborhood discussions may agree on locations for dense infill.

## **River Road Community Organization**

In the River Road neighborhood, the annual River Road Rocks! celebration has been planned by the neighborhood and supported by the City's Neighborhood Services. City staff have attended with maps and literature to discuss land use, infill, stormwater, and redevelopment issues.

River Road and the City have hosted a series of public forums to discuss ideas for mixed use redevelopment along lower River Road Razor Mixed Use Study Area. The forums have been well attended and have gathered many comments while educating neighbors about important land use issues.

Friends of Rosetta Park is working with the City on maintenance for Rosetta Park without the use of herbicides. Friends of Rosetta Park is also exploring the prospects of a Neighborhood Watch program for the neighbors near Rosetta Park.

## **Whiteaker Community Council**

Public Works staff and Whiteaker Community Council collaborated on an extensive public involvement plan for studying the feasibility of closing several crossings to help get outside funding for a Railroad Quiet Zone. The result was a conclusion reached mutually by both Public Works staff and Whiteaker Community Council (and than City Council) that there are no crossings that are suitable for closure.

In April 2008 the Great Whiteaker Cleanup Parade with over one hundred participants, many in costumes led by Samba Ja, were winding through Whiteaker alleys and sidewalks scouring the areas of trash. To organize the event, the WCC coordinators met with Eugene Police Department representatives to determine how the event could be legally carried out without attracting or necessitating a police presence. (Getting a permit would have had the unintended result of police escorts blocking traffic.) This coordination was successful, and a good time was had by all.

### **Neighborhood Matching Grants**

Neighborhood matching grants have aided the cooperative creation and redevelopment of parks in the Friendly, University, and West University areas. In Crest Drive, residents around Lafferty Park banded together and obtained a matching grant from the City. The neighbors worked together, removing invasive species, planting native growth, selecting and installing new play equipment, while the City repaired retaining walls and resurfaced the play area.

Other creative and successful projects include the Jefferson Westside Neighbors PlanJam workshops focused on opportunity siting and infill standards held several times with help from the City Planning Department.

### **Olympic Trials**

The University of Oregon, City, and neighborhood associations in the immediate area collaborated on the arrangements for the Olympic trials which were very successful without causing undue disturbances to the neighborhoods.

### **City Programs and Volunteers**

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan was created out of collaboration between various City departments including Parks and Open Space, Public Works Maintenance, Police, Fire, Planning and Development, other agencies including EWEB, LTD, ODOT, 4J, Bethel School District, and Lane County and many community organizations including neighborhood, biking and walking groups. The Plan, 18 months in the making, outlines goals and action items to help make Eugene a better, safer place to bike, walk and utilize other modes of active transportation.

Parks and Open Spaces (Stream Team, Volunteers in Parks) and the Eugene Police Department (Volunteers in Policing) have very active volunteer programs that help maintain parks and open spaces and public safety throughout the city.

### **EWEB**

The Friendly Area Neighbors, City of Eugene, and EWEB are working together to find ways to allow safer access for all residents to the viewing platform above the College Hill Reservoir.

### **U of O Arena**

Neighborhood associations near the new arena site have worked with the City and University in addressing parking and other issues concerning the new UO arena and the impact to residents.

## **Some Background:**

### **What's Happened Since the first Summit in 2007**

The City Council first set up a "Neighborhood Initiative" as a council goal at the 2005 Council Retreat. Little was done immediately that involved the neighborhoods. Support for the initiative was renewed at the 2007 Council Retreat and it was renamed the "Neighborhood Empowerment Initiative." Its aim was to build strong neighborhoods, developing community leadership and working collaboratively with residents to deliver City services and achieve neighborhood priorities.

In preparation for the first neighborhood summit in 2007, department directors and staff from the Neighborhood Services office visited neighborhood association meetings with a list of possible items for action. After input from the neighborhood associations a revised list was brought to the summit. Summit participants voted on their importance. This produced 23 items in ranked order of priority. The top three were then discussed in breakout groups.

In May of 2007, the City Council approved an updated Neighborhood Empowerment Action Plan that reflected the 2007 Council Retreat, action items drawn from staff and from Neighborhood Associations, and the results of the 2007 Neighborhood Summit. A committee of City staff from numerous departments plus an advisory group of representatives appointed by neighborhood associations meet together on a monthly basis to advance this Action Plan.

Last summer current neighborhood boards and those who attended the first summit were surveyed to gather their reactions to the process and their recommendations for the second summit. The planning for the second summit has taken that survey's results into account in organizing the schedule and setting out the topics for breakout group discussions.

An important goal of this second summit is to brainstorm ways the neighborhoods and the City can collaborate better, especially on topics and issues emphasized by last summer's survey results. During informal discussions and in the breakout groups, participants will have a chance to develop new ideas and a sense of their relative importance in light of the challenges of the future. Then the real work begins: follow-up and next steps, continuing to empower our neighborhoods for a better Eugene.

The tables on the following pages, written last December, give the Neighborhood Empowerment committee's view of progress since the 2007 Summit. Ten of the items have made varying degrees of progress, nine items have had initial planning or beginning efforts, and four items have remained untouched.

# NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT ACTION PLAN UPDATE

February 16, 2009

Progress Indicator	2007 Priority Ranking	Action Item #	Action Item Title (abbreviated)	Update Highlights
★	1	11	Involve Neighborhood Associations earlier in land use proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Neighborhood Planner was hired in December of 2007 to assist Neighborhoods to be informed and effective participants in the land use review process.</li> <li>• The Minor Code Amendment Process (MiCAP) addressed several Neighborhood concerns including a requirement that applicants meet with Neighborhood groups prior to submitting significant land use applications.</li> <li>• Neighborhoods have been provided free access to the Regional Land Information Database (RLID) to assist their planning efforts.</li> <li>• 14 Neighborhood Leaders were given scholarships to attend the Oregon Planning Institute Conference in October.</li> <li>• Improvements to the City's land use application database have resulted in a friendly user interface and content.</li> <li>• Weekly email notices inform neighborhood designees about recently submitted applications, Limited Consultations, and Pre-application Conferences.</li> <li>• Changes to bring clarity to public hearing notices and posted signs are being considered.</li> </ul>
☆	2	12	Increase density in existing neighborhoods thoughtfully	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Infill Compatibility Standards (ICS) Task Team is studying infill related issues concerning single-dwellings, multi-dwellings, and subdivisions. Recommendations are anticipated in June 2009.</li> <li>• The Opportunity Siting (OS) Task Team is developing a process to work with residents to identify siting criteria of denser residential development that protects neighborhood character. Market and financial feasibility studies of hypothetical development sites has provided insights into funding challenges. Final recommendations are anticipated in June 2009.</li> </ul>

Progress Indicator	2007 Priority Ranking	Action Item #	Action Item Title (abbreviated)	Update Highlights
★	3	B2	Increase ongoing support for Neighborhood Associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Neighborhood Services Assessment report has been concluded with recommendations on program focus, structure and services. Implementation of the recommendations will be considered by an inter-departmental staff team. Public comment received will be used to guide implementation decisions.</li> <li>• Neighborhood Association's spending authority has been expanded for uses that include \$200/year for neighborhood-building event expenses (e.g., refreshments, entertainment, and insurance.)</li> <li>• An additional 1.8 staff persons have been added to the Neighborhood Services Program since 2007.</li> <li>• The Neighborhood Services office was moved to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Atrium to improve access to staff and services.</li> <li>• Neighborhood Services recently held a training for newsletter editors that will be offered on a regular basis. Additional training modules are planned for development in 2009 including effective meeting facilitation, revised/expanded neighborhood leader orientation, planning 101, website development/maintenance and public outreach.</li> <li>• The NEI has crafted performance measures to quantify the accomplishments of the initiative.</li> </ul>
☆	4	15	Neighborhood priorities guide service and funding decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neighborhood priorities as identified through the Neighborhood-based planning process (see item #14) can serve as a decision-making tool in future budget processes.</li> </ul>
★	5	4	Implement Neighborhood Matching Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14 projects awarded totaling \$66,500 in 2007.</li> <li>• 8 projects awarded totaling \$29,000 in 2008.</li> <li>• 4 projects awarded totaling \$10,000 in 2008 for Olympic Trials preparation.</li> <li>• 9 applications requesting nearly \$62,000 were submitted for 2009 cycle, \$70,000 is available.</li> </ul>
☆	6	13	Preserve residential zoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ICS Task Team is studying compatibility issues between residences and adjacent commercial uses.</li> </ul>
☆	7	18	Ensure safe routes for walkers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategic Plan contains many action items related to improving safety for pedestrians including: reinitiating the sidewalk infill program, launching a Share the Road education campaign, and developing a comprehensive Safe Routes to School program.</li> <li>• A Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee has been formed to prioritize and provide input on transportation-related projects.</li> </ul>
★	8	19	Design streets to meet both transportation and neighborhood needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transportation staff work more closely with Neighborhoods to design streets that reflect both transportation needs and community interests, such as Crest Drive Context Sensitive Solutions.</li> </ul>

Progress Indicator	2007 Priority Ranking	Action Item #	Action Item Title (abbreviated)	Update Highlights
★	9	6	Increase communications from Neighborhood Association's'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding increased in 2007 to allow 4 newsletters per year.</li> <li>Training provided for newsletter editors.</li> <li>A subcommittee is reviewing the existing newsletter policy guidelines to address concerns related to editorial oversight and spending authority.</li> </ul>
★	10	3	Improve public involvement processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Various public involvement efforts by Departments have become more responsive, in many cases involving Neighborhood Associations. Examples include: South Ridgeline Habitat Study, Crest Drive Context Sensitive Solutions Process, the Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategic Plan, Razor Mixed Use Center Study, Infill Compatibility Standards and the Opportunity Siting project.</li> </ul>
☆	11	10	Define Neighborhood Associations' role in community policing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The recently completed Neighborhood Services Assessment recommends Neighborhood Services partner with the Police Department to develop a more comprehensive crime prevention program.</li> </ul>
★	12	17	Promote neighborhood identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Neighborhood Matching Grants have provided funding for several identity enhancing projects such as the 22<sup>nd</sup> and Garfield Intersection Repair Project and 8<sup>th</sup> and Blair public art and landscaping.</li> <li>The Neighborhood-based planning process (see item #14) can facilitate the identification of projects that promote neighborhood identity.</li> </ul>
★	13	16	Make parks safer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional funding was identified in FY07 to fund bike patrols for urban parks.</li> <li>Increased Recreation programming has improved legitimate uses in urban parks such as Monroe Park.</li> </ul>
★	14	7	Hold annual forums for Neighborhood Associations and elected officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1<sup>st</sup> Neighborhood Summit held in February 2007.</li> <li>2<sup>nd</sup> Neighborhood Summit planned for March 7, 2009.</li> <li>An online survey solicited suggestions from Neighborhood Leaders and Board Members to inform planning for 2009 Summit.</li> </ul>
☆	15	14	Set service priorities by neighborhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Neighborhood Planner was hired in October of 2008 to facilitate Neighborhood-based planning efforts. A primary goal of the proposed Neighborhood Plans is issue identification and prioritization on a neighborhood basis.</li> <li>Initial public outreach is underway and planning tools should be in place early this summer.</li> </ul>
☆	16	8	Affirm Council policy on Neighborhood Associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The recently completed Neighborhood Services Assessment indicated that the Neighborhood Organization Recognition Policy may need to be updated and revisited. It was suggested that the NEI Committee would be an appropriate venue to start this discussion.</li> </ul>
★	17	5	Support Neighborhood Associations in problem-solving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Problem solving assistance is an ongoing service of the Neighborhood Program. This assistance has been in the form of assisting associations with grant projects, community outreach, and meeting facilitation.</li> <li>Neighborhood Services plans to develop training modules in 2009 in the following areas: effective meeting facilitation, revised/expanded neighborhood leader orientation, and public outreach.</li> </ul>

Progress Indicator	2007 Priority Ranking	Action Item #	Action Item Title (abbreviated)	Update Highlights
★	18	1	Public Involvement participants should reflect our whole community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Draft Diversity and Equity Strategic Plan includes recommendations that address this issue.</li> <li>A NEI performance measure has been crafted that encourages neighborhood associations to develop a written plan for encouraging participation that represents neighborhood demographics.</li> </ul>
★	19	B1	Enhance communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NEI process continues to be an excellent venue for enhancing City-neighborhood communication by bringing together neighborhood leaders and representatives from a cross section of departments within the City organization on a monthly basis.</li> <li>The Neighborhood Empowerment Committee is currently studying the issue of enhanced communications: between Neighborhood Associations, between the City organization and Neighborhood Associations, between elected officials and Neighborhood Associations, and with other community organizations and Neighborhood Associations.</li> </ul>
★	20	2	Public Involvement tools should engage more people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Draft Diversity and Equity Strategic Plan includes recommendations that address this issue.</li> </ul>
★	21	9	Divide the larger neighborhood associations into smaller ones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The recently completed Neighborhood Services Assessment indicated that this issue bears further assessment.</li> </ul>
★	22	B3	Change existing structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Neighborhood Services Assessment included as a recommendation to formally recognize the Neighborhood Leaders Council. The NLC is currently deliberating the pros and cons of such a move.</li> </ul>
★	23	20	Emphasize customer service skills in City staff trainings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HRRS provides new employee orientation and ongoing trainings (including diversity trainings) that emphasizes strong customer service and positive working interactions.</li> <li>All employees are held to a high standard for customer service. When work sections have been faced with challenges, specialized trainings have been provided to deal with the issues in a specialized manner.</li> </ul>