

## **Minutes**

### **River Road Community Organization (RRCO) General Meeting River Road Annex; January 19, 2009; 7:00 p.m.**

#### **Board Members Present:**

Jan Spencer, Steve Norris, Jolene Siemsen, Marilyn Mohr, Eileen Nittler, Carleen Reilly, Kate Kelly, Becky Riley, Rob Handy

#### **Members of the Public Present:**

Pat Reilly, Stewart Mones, Julie Hulme, Beth Parsons, John Parsons, Julie Schaum, Chris Girard, Phil Richardson

Jolene Siemsen gave the welcome and did introductions.

#### **Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

#### **Board Reports:**

River Road Rocks, on February 7, is coming together. Carleen noted that the Eugene City Council is holding a retreat that day so neither Andrea Ortiz nor Kitty Piercy could likely attend. Nancy Nathanson, Vickie Walker, Rob Handy and Bill Fleenor are the elected officials who will be present. Other speakers will be: Dale Weigandt from RRPRD, staff from the city planning division. The Learning Palace will hopefully be able to provide daycare. NEHS catering program may provide food for sale. If they can't, Eileen will contact other not-for-profit organizations to see if they will sell food and/or coffee.

More volunteers are needed. Jan said that 10-12 organizations are tabling, including the volunteer library, EWEB, two churches, NEHS health clinic, Victory Garden, and the Red Cross, who is presenting an emergency preparedness clinic. There is also going to be a self-reliance and greening the neighborhood clinic.

1:30-3:00 Conversations with elected officials

3:15-5:00 Greening and emergency plans

Beth: Where can we get a schedule?

Jolene: On the website

Julie Schaum ordered posters and they should arrive tomorrow. Steve, Carleen, Jan, Pat, Beth and Eileen volunteered to help set them up. Eileen will send contact info for those volunteers to Julie.

#### **Public Presentation:**

Chris Girard and Phil Richardson (Parks and Open Space) discussed Pesticide Free Parks and Rosetta Park. There are several pesticide free parks in Eugene. City staff maintain the parks (24 acres per worker), and when a community wants a pesticide free park, a few things are done differently with landscaping and mulching. There are higher labor costs.

Chris: There is some resistance to p.f. parks, just due to aesthetics.

Becky: If city staff maintains parks, why do we need volunteers?

Phil: Volunteers are a bonus. It's good to have neighbors involved.

Jan made a motion that RRCO endorse the concept of Rosetta Park being pesticide free.

Beth: She's concerned that there is currently a weed base we won't be able to deal with in the spring. Also, can volunteers identify weed seedlings?

Pat: Didn't the city already designate it?

Becky: No.

Beth seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Stewart Mones owns a property with a house on the corner of RR and Oakleigh. He would like to use it for his medical practice, a model called "Ideal Medical Practice" where he would have few or no employees and would see fewer patients per day than HMO doctors do. He would like RRCO's endorsement in a letter of support for City Council, who is requiring him to annex and to make some minor updates (ADA ramp, for instance) as he changes the property from residential to commercial.

He started the annexation process in July 2008, and it's slated to be on CC's agenda in March or April, 2009. There is not a lot of support at the city level for new businesses in RR, and he thinks a letter of support would help.

Jan: I like the idea and will endorse it.

Pat: What's been the response from the neighbors?

Dr. Mones: Good so far.

Carleen: Last year, Jen Hornaday raised awareness for Cadogen Park at RRR. Why don't you?

Dr. Mones: Might do that.

Jolene: We can't endorse this business unless we're open to all businesses at RRR.

Steve: What other changes do you want to make?

Dr.: About 1/3 of the hedge on the west side would be removed, the rest reduced, he requires parallel parking with only three spaces.

Rob: It's a wonderful plan. Be sure to include ADA code in parking, and think about alternatives to asphalt, such as permeable surface, and notes that individuals have been asked to tack on a street annexation. Should this be an issue, bring it to RRCO.

Dr.: I've been thinking about parking a lot and an architect is sure parallel parking would work.

Becky: Is the city requiring a sidewalk?

Dr.: Not yet.

Rob: Recommend Dr. Mones draft a letter and forward it to Jolene for review and approval. Dr. Mones agreed to do so.

### **Board Updates:**

Marilyn has signed up for radar gun training on 01-31 with EPD. Rob suggested RRCO advertise the training in an e-newsletter.

### RRPRD:

Steve and Dale Weigandt went to SCCO meeting in December, and received a favorable response to RRPRD extending its boundaries into SC, however, the logistics of such a move are overwhelming. They may circulate a survey, and may request transition funding to do so.

Carleen: Is there a timeline?

Steve: April for a survey.

Jolene: Is RRPRD board in agreement with the idea?

Steve: Yes.

Becky: Are legalities worked out?

Steve: I think so. I'll ask.

### Rasor MUC Planning Process

There was a public workshop on January 15 to consider transportation issues. It was well attended. There will be a second workshop on March 19 to consider land use planning. The Citizens' Advisory Committee will complete their findings by June 2009.

### Neighbor Leader Council Summit

Jan: We need ten people from RR to attend the neighborhood summit on March 7. It will be made up of 20-25 neighborhood organizations and elected officials and COs/NOs.

### Op Ed

A decision was made to write one or two op-ed pieces for the Register-Guard to explain what the MUC is, and why RRCO supports it. One article will focus on land use, the other on transportation. Becky agreed to write them. Jolene will contact the R-G to see if they will run them.

Meeting adjourned at 9:08. Minutes submitted by Eileen Nittler.