

River Road Community Organization

April 20, 2009

General Meeting follow by Board Meeting

Board Members Present: Jolene Siemson, Kate Kelly, Carleen Reilly, Marilyn Mohr, Jan Spencer, Becky Riley, Beth Parsons

Board members absent: Eileen Nittler

Other River Road Residents Present: Pat Reilly, Julie Hulme, Robert Graves, Carl O. Roach, John Lehmann, Ray Neff, Matt Sprecher, Dona Shields, Pegeen Zygaitis, Joan Connolly, Paul Spencer, Rick Rubin.

Whiteaker Residents Present: Glen Mandzak, Melinda Vanderhaar, Dennis Sandow, Anastasia Sandow, Lee DeVeau;

Other: City planner Ken Guzowski

Jolene Siemson, Chair, called the meeting to order, and asked for introductions around the room.

Public Comment: Jolene announced that Rep. Nancy Nathanson will hold a neighborhood discussion on Saturday morning, April 25 from 11:00 to 12:00 at Terry's Diner in the Riviera Center.

John Lehmann spoke of his candidacy for school board Eugene 4J Position 2 in the May 19 Special Election. He lives in Coburg. He asked for bold actions to change schools.

Razor Mixed Use Center. Jolene asked the members of the Razor MUC Citizen's Advisory Committee to introduce themselves and give their reasons for participating. Members present were Becky Riley, Jolene Seimsen, Joan Connolly, Ray Neff, and Carl Roach. Past member Dennis Sandow was also present. They each spoke briefly.

Ken Guzowski, city planner for Razor MUC, reviewed the draft concept plan as of April 9. He summarized the February workshops on transportation and March workshops on land use with optional building designs. He reported on the neighborhood survey and the marketing survey. A Willamette Greenway report was prepared by Lane Council of Governments to provide background regulatory information and propose recommendations for guiding new development along the river. Now that the CAC has worked through all the technical reports, it is time to start completing a conceptual plan and set out implementation mechanisms.

Ken reviewed the map and the recommendations that came out of the public input for traffic management, buildings, low income housing, community gardening, public gathering space, access to river and so on. The audience then asked questions about the plans thus far.

There were questions and comments about:

- whether there are incentives to build according to the neighborhood plans,
- concerns about a lack of expressed goals,
- the bike and pedestrian friendly nature of this plan,

- the need to weave a lot of needs and values together to address the varying desires of people in the neighborhood in a process that respects everyone,
- whether the current economic collapse is reflected in this plan,
- whether someone from outside the community should be surveying the needs of River Road and how the public tax dollar is being invested,
- that the buildings could be 5 to 6 stories high,
- that the signal at Fir Lane wouldn't work and would produce many rear-end collisions,
- that it is possible to slow down traffic with the use of police patrols,
- that traffic could be encouraged to use the Northwest Expressway and reduce the speed limit on RR to 30 MPH,
- that there is a need to plan for a civilization that is not based on cars, preserve green spaces and community gardens, grow up not out and *not* be held hostage to parking requirements,
- that the multi-way boulevard recommended by Mark Gillem doesn't seem to be reflected in this plan, (Ken stated that the multi-way boulevard is precluded by the decision to not take any additional right-of-way from owners. EmX would have a dedicated lane down the middle of RR.)
- that there is nowhere along the bike path to stop for a cup of coffee or to pick up a bag of groceries,
- that bike lanes have developed nicely, but we need to slow down the speed on RR to be able to ride our bikes safely,
- that the increased traffic on RR is caused by the development in Santa Clara as they go through our neighborhood,
- that we need safety, reduced speed, and accessibility to the river,
- that we need green businesses such as Green Eye Auto and the produce seller,
- that we need solar access, gardening, aesthetic criteria, down-zoning, and the addition of all government property to the riverfront park.

Jolene noted that Becky, Kate, and Julie Schaum are pursuing options for getting a farmer's market in the neighborhood. Also, LTD will be making a presentation at the May RRCO meeting about their plans for public transit in our neighborhood.

Greenway neighbors. Anastasia Sandow described the demographics of their neighborhood in the Fir-Lombard-Briarcliff area, which is part of the Whiteaker neighborhood. She located their area on the map and pointed out the pictures of what they love about their neighborhood. She described how their sustainability plan came about with copies of the plan available for us to read. They are asking RRCO to give formal support to their plan and issued an invitation to the RRCO Board to attend the Whiteaker Community Council meeting on May 20.

Jolene noted that the RRCO website contains more detail about the Rasor MUC at riverroadco.org. In June, Rasor MUC recommendations will be submitted to the Eugene Planning Commission.

Board meeting

Election of officers. Eileen Nittler was elected by acclamation as RRCO secretary for the coming year. Jolene was also reelected as Chair for another year. Jolene handles the agenda and the newsletter. Jan is our representative to the Neighborhood Leadership Council (NLC), and Carleen attends the Neighborhood Empowerment Initiative Committee (NEI). Discussion of the

need to elect a Co-Chair or Vice Chair ensued with no decision.

Rosetta Park. Jan announced a potluck in the park on May 29. A date will be picked for the Rosetta Park Olympics for an outdoor frolic.

Stormwater amendment. Becky will be circulating by e-mail (within a week) a response to be made on a stormwater amendment to MiCAP that is being appealed in a lawsuit to LUBA. Marilyn is an intervenor and can forward the response. Please respond immediately if you want to sign onto this response as an RRCO Board.

WCC. Jolene says that we will converse by e-mail about who will go with her to the WCC meeting on May 20 and whether we want to support the Greenway Area Sustainability Plan.

Seneca Biomass project. Beth will prepare a statement and circulate it by e-mail for others to consider signing on as a neighborhood comment. Individuals may also submit comments to LRAPA.

Adjourned at 9:20 p.m.
Carleen Reilly, Acting Secretary