

**River Road Community Organization (RRCO) General Meeting
May 18, 2009; 7:00 p.m.**

Board Members Present:

Carleen Reilly, Jolene Siemson, Jan Spencer, Eileen Nittler, Becky Riley, Kate Kelly, Beth Parsons

Board Members Absent:

Marilyn Mohr

Other attendees:

Pat Reilly, Irene Ferguson, Mary Johnson, Joan Bradley, Ken Guzowski (City of Eugene planner), Betty Dusaint, Ed McMahn (SC), Bruce Eveland, Tom Schwetz (LTD Planning and Development), Ed Necker (LTD Board), Ruth Linoz (LTD Transit Planner), Ray Neff, Jennifer ?

Jolene called the meeting to order. Introductions were made.

Public Comments:

Carleen got a notice from Trainsong that there will be a neighborhood clean up and they need volunteers. June 7, 2:00.

Pat Reilly announced an upcoming meeting about taser use by the police, sponsored by Citizens for Public Accountability. It will be at EWEB, May 21, 7:00-9:00.

Jan announced upcoming events:

May 19, 7:00 at the park, Robert Bolman will speak on "The Elegant Collapse: Toward a Complete Bottom-to-Top Restructuring of Human Civilization." May 29, 6:00 potluck at Rosetta Park.

Irene recommended neighbors take part in the CERT training (community emergency response training), as she had just done so and had learned a lot. She distributed fliers.

Public Presentation:

Lane Transportation District (LTD) spoke about public transit services in the area. Three speakers were present. Ed Necker spoke on funding, Ruth Linoz on route planning, and Tom Schwetz on Bus Rapid Transit (BRT, also known as EmX).

- LTD funding is provided by the federal government, state government, local payroll and self-employment tax, and fare collection. The local payroll tax brings in 75-80% of LTD's operating revenue. The biggest expenses are gasoline and personnel. Federal stimulus dollars will be used to maintain routes and expand BRT.
- Route Planning: Ruth discussed how routes are established and what criteria are used to decide where and how often a bus should run. There are four RR area buses—51 and 52 run to and from downtown, 3X is a commuter bus to UO—3 times in the morning, 3 in the evening, and 55 is a connector through the neighborhood that only goes one way.
- BRT: In 2001, BRT was approved as a key element of the regional transportation plan by Eugene, Springfield, Lane County, and LTD. □ BRT was favored over light rail because it is appropriate in scale and cost for a community our size. BRT is similar to light rail, except it runs on gas and only costs 10% (\$6 million/mile) of what light rail does. BRT has many advantages, including designated lanes and off-board payments which speed

boarding, and the eight miles of BRT are used 244,000 per day. [Not sure what this number is. LTD web site has various figures for average daily EmX boardings, ranging from 2,700 to 4,500, and max. 6,600-8,000.] There are plans to eventually expand BRT throughout the cities of Eugene and Springfield. Though BRT can run in traffic or in a single dedicated lane for short distances if necessary, dual lanes (one for each direction of travel) are required to achieve rapid transit efficiencies. Most of the funding for construction of new BRT lines will come from the federal government.

It was mentioned that if someone wants more bus service in their area, it is advantageous for them to attend meetings and speak clearly and specifically as to why a route would benefit them and their community. River Road could get EmX sooner than is presently planned if we lobby local (and federal) decision-makers.

Board Discussions:

Kate made a motion to elect Carleen Reilly to be co-chair of the board. Eileen seconded, it was approved unanimously, and Carleen accepted without making a speech.

Jolene will speak at the Whiteaker Community Council on Wednesday, May 20 from 8:00-9:00 about the Razor MUC. Carleen and Kate may join her. There was discussion about what will be presented. Becky proposed handing out the Op-Ed piece she'd previously written, and Jolene has already sent it around by email to ask for board member feedback. Comments are due tomorrow. Jan proposed a joint neighborhood bike path promenade.

Beth attended a meeting sponsored by Mayor Piercy on the Seneca BioMass, and reported that all but one of the scientists present were in favor of the plan. Mayor Piercy is noncommittal at this point.

June's meeting will be a board work session.

There may or may not be a June newsletter, but articles should be sent to Carleen for editing just in case ASAP.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15

Minutes submitted by Eileen Nittler