

Minutes

River Road Community Organization (RRCO) General Meeting River Road Annex; August 17, 2009; 7:00 p.m.

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

Board Members Absent: Eileen Nittler, Kate Kelly

Members of the Public Present: Dale Weigant, Pat Reilly, Lefty Dundee, Bob Coleman, Joan Bradley

City Staff: Lorna Flormoe—Neighborhood Services; Jon Ruiz—City Manager

Introductions and some issues of interest

- Pat Reilly noted that he has been riding his bike to work this summer along the Willamette Bike Path.
- Dale Weigant acknowledged the great support from River Roaders for the tax levy that passed in May.
- Becky voiced her interest in working on a Neighborhood Action Plan, Sustainability, and steps to improve the River Road corridor.
- Jan Spencer is focused on a resilient neighborhood, energy, and food security.
-

Public Comment:

- Jolene was enthusiastic about a 'free poetry box' she found on Park Avenue.

Strategic Neighborhood Action Plan (SNAP): Lorna Flormoe from the Neighborhood Services described SNAP as a method to gain a strategic vision of your neighborhood that is broad ranging about specific interests, issues, and needs. It is a roadmap for the neighborhood and the city. It would be initiated by the neighborhood with support and in collaboration with the city. It is unique to each neighborhood but formatted alike for all neighborhoods for working purposes.

Outreach to populations not currently involved is difficult. Education is a two-way activity. SNAPs would take 9 months to a year to complete. A planning committee would represent various demographic groups in the neighborhood and develop an outreach plan. The Lower River Road Concept Plan and other planning-related documents already developed (RRSC Transition planning report, etc.) would provide a good foundation for a SNAP for River Road. A guidebook will be ready in October and an open house will be held. A neighborhood can apply to be a pilot of SNAP—two pilots will be selected among neighborhoods that are interested and deemed “ready”.

A neighborhood survey will be available through October, and can be circulated in the neighborhood via electronic or hard copy formats. The results of the survey are intended to help neighborhoods with the initial steps of developing a SNAP, though likely more refined surveys would be needed for each neighborhood. The current URL for RRCO doesn't seem to be capturing the surveys that have been completed by our neighbors.

Beth asked if RRCO could put up a FaceBook page or set up Twitter to reach other demographic groups, especially younger neighbors.

There were many questions about whether to work on more studies, such as the Infill Opportunity Siting, and Lower RR Concept Plan.—Many expressed the sentiment that we have done a lot of outreach and created a lot of planning documents already, and do we really need to do more of this? Isn't it time to start implementing some of the things we have already identified as priorities? Neighborhood leaders are fatigued and ready to see results, not more churning of the same ideas. Disappointment was expressed that the SNAPs seem to be substitutes for updating neighborhood refinement plans and getting hard code changes—the real goal of our neighborhood and others. Lorna replied that SNAP as an overlay plan could be action oriented, modeled after neighborhood plans in Vancouver, WA. We can make of SNAP what we want to make of it. We could synthesize documents already completed. SNAP will be used to justify requests made of the city.

Bob Coleman related a story of seeing a woman in a wheelchair tip over right in the roadway (Fir Lane) because of uneven terrain between River Road and Maurie Jacobs Park. He thinks a sidewalk is needed. He was also unhappy that there is no signage on RR that points out MJ Park.

City Manager: Jon Ruiz, Eugene City Manager, was present to visit with us. He started out by circulating a survey 'Eugene Counts' and inviting us to give our comments. He reiterated that conversations about process versus products happens all across the community, from our neighborhoods to the City Council. He talked about the City Council's intent to give the neighborhoods their independence. Eugene Counts is an effort to allocate our resources appropriately.

Jan asked what will happen when there is 'no economic recovery.' Carleen asked about jobs, large amount of money going to 20th century transportation projects, and the need to develop a 21st century transportation system. Jon stated that the hope is that the stimulus funds will provide lasting economic benefits by supporting existing businesses. The next economy must be strategic and competitive and forward thinking. The land use inventory will be presented soon, which will define our future Urban Growth Boundary. Jon added that Eugene's wages are 17% below the state median.

A discussion followed about speeding on RR between 8:00 and 10:00 p.m. and a lack of Eugene police on during that time, and someone told a story about a traffic accident on RR in which no ticket was issued. Jon replied that a traffic enforcement group plans for coverage of the region. Jon reported that he has ridden along on patrols and was recently in the RR neighborhood.

Board Work Session

We reviewed the list of items for the September agenda for a Board Work Session as it was laid out at the last meeting. It was suggested that we invite a person to speak with us about the Beltline project and Rob Inerfeld to talk with us about next steps for getting the transportation recommendations in the Lower River Road Concept plan implemented.

The September agenda and yearly follows:

September: Board Work session

- (10 min) – Review calendar

- (15 min) – Publication schedule: Newsletters, post cards, E-news, website, park catalog, R-G op eds, funding
- (30 min) - Charter follow up –edits, plan for ratification
- (15 min) - SNAP - follow up
- (20 min) - Beltline Project update / LTD-EmX – Eileen will help find a speaker
- (20 min) - River Road corridor follow up/fixes; traffic study - Becky will contact Rob Inerfeld

October: General meeting: Jan's fusion n'hood safety program

- Neighborhood Safety - N'hood Watch, CERT/First Responder, Food Security
- Perhaps ratify charter amendments

November: Board Work session

December: Dessert Potluck - General meeting

January: Board Work Session

February: RRR! Possibly (no meeting)

March: Elections - General meeting

The meeting was adjourned. Minutes submitted by Carleen Reilly, Co Chair