

WILKES EAST NEIGHBORHOOD QUARTERLY MEETING

March 28, 2011

St. Aidan's Episcopal Church

Vice President, Marc Thornsby, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and welcomed all attendees.

Marc introduced the current board members.

Kris Freiermuth – President

Marc Thornsby – Vice President

Nancy Pyburn – Secretary

Billy Simmons – Treasurer

Curt Duval – Land use Rep

Bob Lundbom – Communications

Lee Dayfield – Member-at-large

Greg Hartung – Member-at-large

Dan Clement – Member-at-large (absent)

Marc thanked all the volunteers for distributing the newsletter. He conveyed thanks from the association to supporting businesses including Jazzy Bagels @ Main and Powell, Parkrose Hardware @ 106th and Sandy, Starbucks @ 181st and Glisan, Growers Outlet @ 162nd and Glisan, and SOLV.

There will be no annual cleanup in 2011. It was asked from the floor if the board would explore a metals or electronics collection. (ACTION REQUIRED)

Attendees were encouraged to explore the WENA web site. It is simply the best!

He extended many thanks to all who contribute to defray meeting expenses, as volunteers passed the basket.

State of the County Report from Diane McKeel, County Commissioner

Human Trafficking

Average Age of youth (mostly girls) being recruited into sexual exploitation is 12-14 years old. Emphasis is being placed on prosecution of traffickers, services for victims, and heavier penalties for johns. Six to eight bills have been introduced

into the legislature to pursue these ends. Senator Ron Wyden is actively pursuing in Congress, Safe Shelters for victims. Stickers with help line number have been posted in all establishments that sell liquor.

East County Courthouse

Ground Breaking scheduled for June 2011 and opening for 2012. So far it is on time and under budget.

Economic Development

Increased efforts are being made to create a healthy business environment. A business advisory council has been created for recruitment and retention of new and appropriate business to the county.

Commissioner McKeel chairs the East County Transportation Committee and they are looking at a cross county corridor.

Veterans Affairs

A task force has been created to assess how all departments are serving Vets. Priorities include outreach to returning Vets and special training for employers putting Vets to work. Of particular interest is the fishing project at Bridalveil.

Gang Prevention

Commissioner McKeel urged people to contact state legislators and urge continued funding for the Gang Task Force. School Superintendents are being urged to work with the gang prevention unit and community policing efforts to unify as many people as possible around this issue.

Commissioner McKeel announced the county will be hosting the County Association conference . This will bring around 3000 people to our area creating an estimated nine million dollar impact.

She also encouraged citizens to get involved. Volunteers do make a difference!

Claire Nystrom from the Multnomah County Health Department

Claire distributed an assessment/survey for attendees to fill out. The County Health Department wants resident input.

Maren Peterson, Outreach Coordinator for Unlimited Choices

Unlimited Choices is a non-profit organization to provide housing rehabilitation services at no cost to make homes more accessible e.g. ramps, railings. They also can provide no interest loans to homeowners living in their home to be paid back when they sell or refinance the home. The service is for moderate to low income residents. All work must be done by licensed and bonded vendors.

Theresa Delaney-Davis, Reynolds School District Chair

During the budgeting process, the district leadership keeps three guiding goals in mind: academic achievement, fiscal management, and community confidence.

Academic Achievement

Due to raised expectations, reading and writing scores have improved. Social studies and Science will be the next emphasis.

Fiscal Responsibility

A shift has turned the thinking to revenue based budgeting. Spending must be aligned with revenue sources. A survey is available on line asking for community input on spending priorities. Meetings are set up to receive public testimony and will be televised.

Community Confidence

State School Superintendent, Susan Castillo, holds Reynolds up as a shining example of improvement. Spread the good news. Theresa Delaney-Davis thanked the Reynolds School Board for their hard work during a hard time but with great eventual results.

Brian Martin, City of Gresham Associate Planner

Brian spoke of the compatibility between new development and existing structures and made available a working draft of code changes and desired timetable. The revisions clarify

definitions, add standards, and give options.

New codes address:

Scale: size and bulk of new buildings and privacy issues.

Flag Lots: setbacks and property boundaries as well as hedge fence placement.

Buffering and screening: fences, walls, shrubs to separate businesses from residential and to be sure this doesn't overlap with setbacks.

Height transitions: to limit heights and form transition zones near property lines. Transition zones also are proposed to coordinate movement from one type of neighborhood to another, e.g. single family to business.

Uniform fences for new subdivisions: uniform walls facing streets with required landscape area between the wall and the street.

Review of all lots <6000 ft.

Next steps: April 11 and May 17 hearings. June 21 City Council enactment.

Reynolds School Board Candidates

Robert Lee, Bruce McCain, and Brad Fudge, each running for open positions on the school board (May election) gave an overview of their respective priorities.

Nadaka Nature Park Update

Upcoming cleanups: April 16th in conjunction with SOLV
April 22nd with students from Hollydale
Elementary School

A June 18th Festival is planned for the park in collaboration with St. Aidan's Episcopal and Eastrose Unitarian Fellowship. The celebration will be preceded by a morning cleanup with music, food, and play in the afternoon on the Nelson Property. Volunteers are Needed to plan and supervise.

Lee Dayfield introduced Jim Labbe from the Audubon Society. They discussed partnerships to collaborate on projects for the

greater benefit of all. It was moved and seconded that WENA partner with the Audubon Society of Portland and supported by other community organizations, apply for grants from Metro and East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District in order to develop the community garden, orchard, nature based play area and wildlife enhancements on the Nelson Property.
The motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of the October 18, 2010 minutes

Moved, seconded and passed to approve minutes.

Important dates to remember

April 4 –Institutional Master Plans community forum @ city hall
April 11 – Residential Dist. Compatibility commission hearing @ city hall
April 12 – Urban Forestry Mgmt Plan work session, @ city hall
April 16 – Earth Day 2011 Nadaka cleanup @ Nadaka Nature Park
April 23 – City recycling of block Styrofoam, cell phones, florescents
May 2 – Renewable Energy community forum @ city hall
May 17 – Residential Dist. Compatibility council hearing @city hall

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With no further input or business to conduct, Marc adjourned the meeting @ 8:30pm.