

**CITY OF TIGARD
COMMITTEE FOR CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT
Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Basil Christopher called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. The meeting was held in Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue Fire Station 50 at 12671 SW Walnut Street.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chairman Basil Christopher, Sue Carver, Bev Froude, Connie Ramaekers

Members Absent: Gary Jelinek, Rex Caffall, Patti Anda, John Harris

Staff Present: Liz Newton, Assistant City Manager; Susan Hartnett, Assistant Community Development Director; Dianna Weston, Community Events Coordinator; Marissa Daniels, Associate Planner

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Liz Newton introduced Dianna Weston who is the City's new Community Events Coordinator. Basil asked each member to introduce themselves and to include how long they have been volunteering in Tigard. Bev got started when a neighbor asked her to volunteer at a voting booth and she has been involved ever since; Basil got involved in the mid 1990's as a CIT Facilitator, he is also the ODOT Region 1 Bike and Pedestrian Coordinator; Connie has been volunteering in Tigard since the 1980's and currently works for the Tigard Tualatin School District as part of Tigard Turns the Tide, a group that works to combat underage drinking.

Susan Hartnett introduced herself. She first got interested in Planning while working in her Neighborhood Association in Portland. She then got her Masters at PSU and worked for the City of Portland for 15 years. She is thrilled to be in Tigard, and said it is interesting to learn a new job and a new community at the same time.

Basil welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF JULY MINUTES

There was a motion by Bev, seconded by Sue, to approve the July 15, 2009 meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried as follows:

AYES: Christopher, Froude, Carver, Ramaekers

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

EXCUSED: Caffall, Jelinek, Harris, Anda,

NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORKS UPDATE

First Liz reported there have been some staffing changes affecting the Neighborhood Network program. The City hired Dianna Weston to be the Community Events Coordinator, there is no longer a Citywide volunteer coordinator position, and Joanne Bengtson has been reassigned to take over the logistical piece of the Neighborhood Network program. Liz said the City determined more resources were required to make the program successful, and to expect to see more of Joanne.

Liz passed out one application for a Neighborhood Network Steering Committee. Liz explained for Susan and Dianna that the CCI confirms the membership of the Neighborhood Network Steering Committees. Each Committee can have from four to seven members, and more standards may be needed if there becomes competition for membership.

Liz also passed out a list detailing the Neighborhood Network Steering Committee membership. She said tonight's application for Richard Shavey is represented as 'pending' on this list. About the application, Liz said the applicant called her several times and is very interested in becoming a land use coordinator for Area 1, located near Summerlake Park. Basil asked if this section of Tigard was very active in City affairs. Liz reported that this is an interesting section of Tigard, because the students here actually attend school in the Beaverton School District. This area has active home owners associations, and is therefore easy to get in touch with. Liz thought this area has pretty strong leadership.

There was a motion by Sue, seconded by Bev to confirm Richard Shavey as a member of the Neighborhood Network Area 1 Steering Committee. The motion carried as follows:

AYES: Christopher, Froude, Carver, Ramaekers

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

EXCUSED: Caffall, Jelinek, Harris, Anda,

Next Liz reported back to the CCI about the projects that had been suggested for the annual Neighborhood Network grant program.

Area 10 suggested a school zone be added on Grant Street, and the City will conduct a study in this area. City staff wanted to wait a few weeks into the school year to conduct the study. Mike McCarthy said, at first glance, this area looks like a good candidate for a school zone. Liz will get back to Area 10 as soon as the study is completed.

Another suggestion is a sidewalk in front of Fowler Middle School. Liz talked to Community Development Director Ron Buch, and there may be money left over from other projects to improve the existing asphalt pathway.

The third project Liz discussed was sidewalks on 121st, but this project is very expensive and beyond the scope of the Neighborhood Network grant program. Liz said she received many calls, all of whom were very gracious and understood the enormous cost of the project. She said many of them offered suggestions on cheaper alternatives to improve safety in the meantime. Basil agreed about the large cost of the project, as this is a long section from Walnut to Hollow Quail. Bev asked if this project was on a list to be upgraded, and Liz responded yes. She said further that Mike McCarthy made a good point saying he didn't want to spend lots of money on a temporary fix, only to rip it out later to make way for a permanent solution.

Liz shared with the CCI that the City's Engineering Department moved from the Community Development Department to the Public Works Department. She said that this new expanded department will need some time to regroup.

Neighborhood Network Area 3 tried to organize a cleanup of Greenberg Rd, but after 1,100 postcards were sent out and an invitation was posted on the web, only five to six people signed up so the event was cancelled. Bev asked Basil, since he lives in this area, if he had volunteered to participate, he replied no. Also, there was a graffiti cleanup in this area, but soon after the area was heavily tagged again. Liz said this area may be in need of some targeted enforcement. The City received lots of calls in response to the graffiti.

FANNO CREEK CONFERENCE HISTORY

Liz reminded the Committee about their discussion at the last meeting. City council wants to hold an event similar to the Fanno Creek Conference (FCC). The City's original FCC was similar to the Oregon Republican Party's Dorchester Conference. Topics discussed at the Conference each year were similar to the issues the City is facing today, such as light rail, parks, etc.

On roles and responsibilities, Liz stated that it will be up to the CCI to work on developing topics with Marissa. Dianna will work on the logistics of the conference. Liz said she is hoping to have the topics solidified by mid January and the conference needs to happen by next June.

In the past, the City would find a pro and con speaker for every topic, and then hold table debates and discussions about the issue. Liz shared the Street Maintenance Fee as an example topic, and whether or not to increase the fee to include money for right of way maintenance as an example debatable issue. Some things, she reminded the CCI are a state or federal law and could not be influenced by input received at the FCC. Liz said the Council is expecting the conference to have at least 2-3 topics.

Liz reminded the committee that there is no money in this year's budget to hold a civic leadership academy, but that civic leadership could be a topic for discussion at the FCC.

The last piece of the event, Liz explained, is the portion about what it takes to be a Tigard City Councilor. She suggested this portion be held after lunch so people could choose whether to stay for this portion of the conference. When Basil asked if there were any parameters for the City Councilor portion of the event, Liz shared that this would be a new idea for the Committee to develop. The original recommendation to hold this type of event came from the Committee who also suggested the Mayor's stipend be increased. They suggested this event would not be a commitment to run for City Council, but just an opportunity to come and hear current Councilors share their experiences. This Committee also suggested the event be open to anyone who would like to attend, but that invitations are sent to all of the City's volunteers.

When Basil asked Liz about the details of the event, she sent over the following specifics:

- Issues debated do not have to be City issues.
- Each speaker will give a quick, 5 minute, point or counterpoint argument, followed by a table discussion, and report back to the group.
- After discussion, votes will be cast, either in favor or against, for each issue.
- The event should be invigorating, stimulating, and engaging.
- The event will be held sometime in May.
- City Council expects an event similar to what was done in the past.

Bev shared that she believes the CCI should make the event modern for today. Susan agreed, saying what worked in the 1990's may not work now. Bev continued that the CCI should pick the issues of tomorrow, not the issues of today.

FANNO CREEK CONFERENCE TOPIC DISCUSSION

Liz first shared that the issues debated should be balanced. For example, on an issue like keeping the pools open, some may try to stack the deck in favor of funding the pools through a special district. This would not necessarily be a good thing for the conference.

Basil asked, because attendance declined in previous years, if the conference is successful this year, will City Council fund the conference for next year. Liz said this would most likely be the

case. Basil continued saying many people debate community issues online now, stressing his concern that people are missing out on face-to-face civic engagement. He asked if this could be the overall goal of the conference.

Bev asked about getting community input on the topics, and Marissa said that once the CCI comes up with some debatable topics, we can post them online on the Neighborhood Network websites, in Cityscape, and give them to City Council to review and provide comment. Connie liked the idea of getting additional input on the topics.

Sue said she is just hoping they can get enough people to participate. In her neighborhood of 21 homes, only five came to the Council meeting about a sewer reimbursement district in their neighborhood. Connie shared that personal invites really do help. Susan said from her experience at the City of Portland, requiring registration really can help to create a buzz about the event. Liz said also that choosing a nice meal and sending out packets in advance can help to stir interest. Other ideas were suggested such as getting Council involved and sending the invitations directly from the mayor, writing articles in Cityscape to build some suspense about the event, or take out an ad in the Tigard Times.

Basil clarified that the only thing the CCI is being asked to do is to come up with topics. Susan suggested that the topics really will be what draw people to the conference. Liz said that the City will be doing a Community Attitudes survey soon, and that some ideas for topics may come out of that.

Connie expressed concern that so many of the CCI members are missing.

Marissa took note of the following topic suggestions:

- Street Maintenance
- Highway 99W Beautification
- Street Improvements
- Water Quality
- Future of School Funding (art, choir, sports)
- Minority equality, bullying
- Increase gang activity, tagging
- Underage drinking
- Facilities: Community Center, Recreation, Police
- Right of Way Maintenance, *A place to call home.*
- Animals: coyote, deer, raccoon, mosquitoes (West Nile Virus)
- Code violation abatement
- Disaster Preparedness, swine flu

When Basil asked Connie if there were any issues specifically facing the schools, she added minority equality, bullying, increased gang activity, tagging, and underage drinking to the list.

Sue added animals to the list after sharing with the group a conversation she had heard on the radio. The group had a lively discussion about this topic, specifically about what the City should do about the coyotes in town. Susan suggested, with all of the discussion the CCI had on this topic, it may make a great topic for the conference. Marissa suggested this be a topic for the beginning or end of the conference because it is generally lighthearted.

The CCI also talked in depth about Code violation abatement. Susan shared that currently the City has no authority to go in and take care of problems then put a lien against the property to recuperate costs in non-compliance situations. However, this is something the City could look to doing in the future. Sue was very excited about this possibility; she noted some of the right of way on Sattler that is in dire need of some attention.

The Committee will continue this discussion at their next meeting, meanwhile, Marissa asked everyone to be thinking of possible topics over the next month.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEXT AGENDA

- Marissa passed out a September Cityscape article and asked the Committee to be on the lookout for youth members who may be interested in participating on the CCI.
- Connie passed out information about a Creating Invincible Youth event being held on October 3, 2009. Tables are still available free for exhibitors, Tigard Police and the Fire Department will be there. The event will have a Spanish translator. She is expecting 300-350 people to attend.
- Connie also shared that the STUD (Stop Tigard Underage Drinking) kids will be assisting Tigard officers in compliance checks. She shared her appreciation for the Tigard officers who help to further this program.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Christopher adjourned the meeting at 8:40 PM.