

WHITEAKER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

A CITY OF EUGENE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

PO Box 11692, EUGENE OR 97440

Whiteaker Community Council Board Meeting: July 21, 2021

Attendance:

Board: Ian Winbrock-Chair; Gail Caru-Vetter-Vice-Chair; Dilenia Cardona-Treasurer; Angie Byers-Secretary; Thea Lee; Jennifer Hoover; Andrew Martin; Theresa Burchell; Anand Holtham-Keathley
9/12

Jain Elliott; Sue; Stephen Fuller-Rowell; Majeska Seese-Green; David Light

Action Items

Board will read EWEB Information provided by Anand

Board will read SFR

Angie: Sandwich boards, minutes, and youtube videos

Ian: Draft Grant for the Fir/Lombard

7:00pm / Agenda review and approval of July 14th general meeting minutes

7:05pm / Public Comment

Dilenia Cardona: I need a few things, including a scanner, file folders and other office supplies, and Quickbooks. *Ian:* Can we talk about it next week during the grant working group? *Dilenia:* The quicker the better on these items, as we'll need the scanner pretty soon after receiving the receipts.

Ian: Dennis Sandow will send us the final version of the Neighborhood Matching grant program once it comes from the city. *Andrew Martin:* The transportation subcommittee will start meeting next week, and we'll address the Fir/Lombard Ln Matching Grant.

Clean-up:

Angie: Should we hold our ice cream social in person this year? *Dilenia:* Can we rent an ice cream truck instead of having the in-person event. *The group prefers to offer an ice cream truck versus an in-person social.

Jennifer Hoover: Charter Committee Update: One of the provocations that need to be dealt with include the structure of our elections. We've built a structure that would allow communication with the Whiteaker membership. Staying in communication is really important. Also, checks and

balances are a major point of work. Also, simplifying it is important. Due to our various versions of our WCC charter, I'm using the city example of the charter as a clarifier. We are missing a number of individuals in our neighborhood, so we need to improve our communication, and clarify what we're doing and why. We are also spearheading continuity binders to allow for smooth transitions from board member to board member. *Gail Caru-Vetter (in chat)*: I am concerned that we are a unique neighborhood and that the "template" charter from the city won't reflect our vision or our specialness. How was it decided not to use the last version of the charter that was developed and submitted to the city? *Ian*: I'm concerned with this, too, as our charter was developed with our non-profit status reflected. Most neighborhood organizations are not not-for-profit status. *Majeska Seese-Green (in chat)*: I also share Ian's concern and interest. Would like to be able to connect with Jennifer and others on it. (Past chair.). Ian and GAIL's concerns....*Gail Caru-Vetter (in chat)*: There was an enormous effort behind the version of our charter that was submitted to the city. The lack of action on the part of the city doesn't reflect that effort. I hope we don't lose out on that work because we are following a template. That's my main concern. *Dilena*: We are thinking of the general membership first and foremost. We will present these proposed changes for a vote.

Ian: I'd like our subcommittees to be able to present updates in August.

Thea Lee: The EPD volunteers are back in place, and will be used in our neighborhood. Most of this group is made up of retired officers. Also, I'm getting lots of calls concerning us having a Block Party. I'm letting people know we are not hosting a block party. *Anand Holtham-Keathley (in chat)*: <https://www.whiteakerblockparty.com/> *Andrew Martin*: I know that Hop Valley has all of their staff coming in on the day of the Block party, so businesses should expect a crowd.

Anand Holtham-Keathley: I'd like to see if Sun Oven (<https://www.sunoven.com/>) will donate, say, 5 of these to start a pilot project. I'd like to reduce the opportunity for fires started. *Stephen Fuller Rowell (in chat)*: Sun ovens are great. I used to sell them at Real Goods

Sue: We usually have a number of live music events in Scobert Gardens 7/28: Chico Suave at 7pm. August 4th Darmica Hershel. Jain Elliott (in chat): chico Schwall live and in person—facebook event

Ian: Holly Hine approaches the board on possible sponsorship of an event. I will send the information to the board for discussion.

Ian: Safe Sleep Sites: Today the City Council moved to approve the Chase Commons Park (bw 50-60 tents), 2nd and Garfield (tent and park; 50-60 spots); 450 HWY 99 as a Rest Stop (up to 20). This would allow for up to 140 sites for individuals to be housed. Claire Syrett advocated for our neighborhood, pointing out that we get the brunt of sites in or around our neighborhood. Also, she pointed out that, when housing individuals, WJ should be top of mind for the first individuals to get those spots.

7:15pm / Program Coordinator Position candidate recommendation

Gail Caru-Vetter: We are excited, because we have a fantastic candidate to whom we'd like to offer a position. We shared all of the candidates' information with the board. We met some fabulous and interesting people. This position is funded through our Covid relief grant money. This person's focus will be around our vaccine clinics, as well as other public health-related issues. This person will also help us find other grant funds to continue our impact in the neighborhood. We're hoping they will want to stay with us for a long time. Doriandra Smith is our candidate of choice. *Ian*: Will the board be able to vote on extending the contract after the probationary period? *Gail*: Yes, it's an option for the board and the candidate. We will be assigned 1 point of contact for the position, which will be Ian.

Motion: Gail motions, Thea seconds for hiring this person. 9/9 approves.

7:45pm / Contractor management

Ian: I would like a single board member for each of our contractors.

1. Dilenia: Contract person with Andrea Garcia
2. Angie: Contract with Brent and Jo Studios/other website
3. Ian: Contract with WCC Program Coordinator, Doriandra Smith
4. Doriandra/WCC Program Coordinator: Emma Jones (Graphic Design), Holly Hine (Graphic Design), and Micheal Rhea (videography)

Dilenia: Will Doriandra also handle the food and music vendors? *Ian*: Yes, I'm hoping she'll be the contact for all of the individuals connected with the clinics. *Thea*: I'm wondering if Margaret could continue doing procurement, but she would work with Doriandra. *Ian*: I'm suggesting that we no longer have board members taking on these roles. *Gail Caru-Vetter (in chat)*: We are calling the position "Program Coordinator" because we really want them to organize all levels of the WCC programs (as approved by the board). *Jennifer*: Is there a back-up if someone is ill, goes out of town, etc...? *Ian*: That's a great suggestion. I think we should have some redundancy built in. I think those people that we listed should choose the back-up. *Gail*: In no way does this limit our options to contribute. The goal is to make those things optional versus us worrying an event can't happen due to lack of availability of board members. The difference is that we'll coordinate it with Doriandra. Part of the reason we liked her is due to her delegation abilities. This is expanding, not a limiting factor. *Jennifer*: Are we going to have a separate grant writer? *Gail*: The board approved that we hire 1 person. Our number one need is for someone to assist Ian in executing the grant. We want to make sure she can help us continue finding funding for her position. The goal is that this person will help us write grants. *Jennifer*: Is there a reason we cannot hire a grant writer? *Majeska Seese-Green (in chat)*: There's some state law on grant writers doing fundraising for their own pay. Little known fact. Will want to talk to someone about that. Sorry, it's state law on contractors (not grant writers) raising money that they are paid from. *Ian*: My plan is to empower Doriandra to write grants. All grants are different. In reality, it is in a grant writer's duty to get additional funding, though it is a small part of their duties. We're hiring them for the two grants from the OHA: FEMA through December of 2021, and Vaccine Confidence through June of 2022. Hopefully, they will get another grant after that to

continue supporting our work. *Gail Caru-Vetter (in chat)*: finding money to continue the work of a 503C is completely above board. If we, as the WCC Board, choose to use that money to extend a contract, that is also above board. *Jennifer*: Can a board member learn those steps as she is, as a backup to Doriandra. *Gail*: Ian is currently doing that work, and is familiar with the process. We're working on setting up systems so that with any transition, this doesn't fall apart.

Motion: Point of contact for all contractors: Ian motions. Thea seconds. 9/9 yes.

8:00pm / EWEB water reservoir construction

Anand Holtham-Keathley: EWEB is considering clear-cutting a portion of the forest, which is under their purview. I suggest we support the motion to stop EWEB, and take it to the Neighborhood Leader's Council. *Andrew*: Is this a replacement for the Friendly neighborhood reservoir? The area they're planning on clear-cutting is the coolest part of Eugene. If the entire city does not get a reservoir due to a few trees, I'd be hesitant to sign on. I need more information. *Stephen F-R (in chat)*: Replaces the College Hill tank. *Jain Elliott (in chat)*: Saveewebforest.org. *Thea Lee*: If this is what Anand is talking about. The news piece I saw said that the area was in a field. Any trees removed would be replaced. *Stephen F-R (in chat)*: I would suggest we speak with our eWeb commissioner before taking a position. *Ian*: The link Jain shared is from the group. *Gail*: This purchase was made 40 years ago with the intention of building this reservoir. The goal is to provide water security in case we lose our main water supply, which is the McKenzie River. The confusion is in doing 2 reservoirs at once, which would reduce dump truck runs. I suggest we table this for a future vote. *Jain Elliott (in chat)*: EWEB is saying right now they need one reservoir but want to build two for the future. With conservation only one probably is needed. With one most trees could be saved. *Andrew*: When you think about the urban tree canopy. Whatever allows us a smaller footprint will save a lot of trees somewhere else (due to urban sprawl). I think that's why I struggle with the call to action to save trees in one spot. If this allows people to live in town, and not out of town. *Jain Elliott (in chat)*: More time might mean not giving input. This is going to happen fast. *Gail Caru-Vetter (in chat)*: The project includes a restoration of native oak savannah to offset the loss of the mature fir trees. *Ian*: I will bring this up to the NLC on the 27th to get the pulse from them. Let's table this for our next board meeting. *Jain Elliott (in chat)*: Eugene does not have enough trees. There was an article about that recently in the RG. The trees are suppose to be cut in August

8:15pm / Whiteaker History Presentation

Ian: We are asking that the board listen, and give a gut check. Is this work we should continue? In our next meeting in August, we would have a deliberation, motion, and vote. *Stephen Fuller-Rowell*: It will be helpful to look through the documents I shared with Ian prior to the August 18th meeting. This process started under the previous Chair of the WCC, Chris Gadsby, and supported by Ian as an At-Large member and the current Chair. John Whiteaker supported the Confederates during the Civil War, as well as the Exclusionary Act limiting Black Americans from living in parts of Oregon, including Eugene. As we live on Kalapuya land, changing it to anything other than a Kalapuya name would be continuing to reduce the importance of recognizing this as stolen land. Eugene does not have a trauma-informed way to move through name changes. We would be creating this. Our vote next month will be to continue working on

the name change or to discontinue the work. It will be very helpful to have read the information shared from Ian. Feel free to email me with any clarifying questions. *Gail Caru-Vetter (in chat):*

Is there any applicability here in the Federal effort to rename problematic place names nationally? *Dilenia:* Dan is working through our historical documents recently received from the

Whiteaker Head Start. He's a good source to connect with when you get to the 1970's and

beyond. Dilenia will send contact information to Stephen. *Gail Caru-Vetter (in chat):*

Thank you, Stephen. In your communications with the tribes, was there a name they felt would be appropriate to replace "Whiteaker"? *Andrew:* Thank you. This was really awesome, and

important work. I would be interested in the potential for white-supremacist backlash. That

backlash would also come from those that feel an attachment to the name of this place. Before

we can really take a position on this, I would encourage us to work and have dialogues with the

neighborhood. I think we should have an inclusive public process, and bring others along. We

risk causing more harm than good. We're not looking for total consensus, but we do need

people to feel heard and that the process is fair. *Stephen:* I think there's a lot of work that still

needs to be done on the research side. I think it will not be until sometime next year until the

board itself will be in a position to answer any "yes or no" questions. I think there needs to be a

subcommittee including commercial, residents, etc... to work on the research issues. We may

decide it's not worth it, and it is virtue signaling. We could choose to live with the name, but to

increase awareness of the name using it to raise consciousness. There have been similar

projects in Oregon that have been damaging to tribes. I would call this "open-heart surgery". It

should leave us with an open heart, healing heart, at the end of it. It's not just to show we're

more "woke" than other communities. It's a process that the community should grow through. It

should make it an easier place to live than it currently is. *Andrew:* It's important to know that the

tribes will help us if we're ready to move forward. We should also include Black community

members and their input. *Stephen:* One of the individuals I spoke with is a Black Eugeneian

whose family has lived in Eugene for over 80 years. It's astonishing the pain that continues to be

experienced. *Gail:* It was very uncomfortable for me to move to a place that phonetically sounds

like "White Acre". The Biden administration is currently working on renaming public lands, under

the leadership of Deb Holland. We do have tribal leadership at that level. Have we looked into

the federal process? Were there names that the tribes felt would be appropriate? *Stephen:* The

name Whiteacre is in reference to "white Soil". The Human Rights Committee has a group

called "We See You" to review all place names in Eugene, and to see if they have white

supremacist connections. They are behind us in our work. I have been attending the meetings in

that working group. We are currently trying to get access to the Lane Co Historical Society

archives, which have been closed. That's held up the work. We should be working in parallel

with the HRC. The cultural resources department of the Kalapuya Tribe, they would like a

communication to the tribe when we've decided to move forward with a name change. Place

naming is a science in itself, and they have experts in this within their tribes. *Andrew Martin (in*

chat): High levels of public participation are really about designing processes that take the

power to make this decision from us and give them to the community. That doesn't mean a vote

- it means processes that build a common understanding and amplify marginalized voices. The

more we engage the public, the more we should be willing to give up our power to make the

decision. And to be clear, we should be doing a lot of public participation. *Stephen:* The reason

the Kalapuya will not weigh in until after the work of agreeing to change the name is that it puts

them in positions of triggering generational trauma. I've never experienced it firsthand like that.
Theresa Burchell (in chat):

<https://fiveoaksmuseum.org/this-is-kalapuyan-land-tribes-and-languages-map/>. *Ian:* This doesn't give land back to the Kalapuya, begin talks of reparations, but it does give us an opportunity to design values for how to interact in the future with marginalized communities. We need to be, first and foremost, trauma informed. How can we build capacity in this organization for future board members to work towards restorative justice. *Stephen F-R (in chat):*

Most of the land from the Kalapuya Hills north to the Columbia between the Cascades and the Coast Range. *Ian:* I'm proposing how we can move forward with our community without the indigenous community, as they are not willing to work through the part of the process where the neighborhood decides if we are willing to change our name. *Stephen:* They would offer guidance in selecting a name. My contact info: sjfr2@aol.com

8:45pm / WCC at the Market

9:00pm / Lane County Vaccine hesitancy RFQ

Ian: Vaccine hesitancy grant. The actual document is providing us with additional money to continue the work we're already doing. I'm motioning that we apply for the Request for Quotation. I would replicate what we're doing already. The county is prioritizing BIPOC and rural communities, as well as poorer communities. It is up to \$85,000. *Stephen F-R (in chat):* 97402 still has the lowest vaccination rate in Eugene

Gail seconded. 8/8 yes.

9:15pm / Future Agenda Topics

- Stephen F-R Re-naming Project and Subcommittee including community members
- Check in with SubCommittees (Charter, Transportation, WCAT, Public Health and Safety, Parks and EPD).
- Gail Caru-Vetter (in chat): Yes, and we should set aside some time for Doriandra to introduce herself
- Special Meeting to vote on EWEB, in-person meetings, and additional expenditures,

9:30pm / Adjournment