

# WHITEAKER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

A CITY OF EUGENE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

PO Box 11692, EUGENE OR 97440

Wednesday, July 14<sup>th</sup> General Meeting

In Attendance:

Board Present: Ian Winbrock; Gail Caru-Vetter; Dilenia Cardona; Angie Byers; Thea Lee; Theresa Burchell; Margaret Steinbrunn; Jennifer Hoover; Andrew Martin; Daniel Schmid; Anand Holtham-Keathley

11/12

Cindi Harper, Central Lane Operations Manager, EPD; Marcia; Majeska Seese-Green; Charlsey Cartwright; Sigh O’Nara; Dennis Sandow; Duncan Rhodes

**7:00pm** / Introductions, Meeting facilitation process and Agenda review

Gail Caru-Vetter, Vice Chair, WCC

**7:05pm** / Public Comment

Dilenia Cardona, Treasurer, WCC

*Angie Byers:* 9am on Sundays there will be a clean-up at Scobert Garden Park to assist the Whiteaker Community Market.

*Thea Lee:* There were recently four human-started fires in the neighborhood: two on Ninkasi wall, and two other locations. The railroad should get back to me to discuss the site of the fire. Parking Enforcement: They should be enforcing moving RV's parked in the neighborhood. More permanent sites are closer to being opened, probably towards the end of August. They are not doing sweeps, but are relying on calls. On Friday, Pastor Gabe will be working with businesses and the city to manage additional sites. He is currently in conversation to manage a 100 person site. If you would like to attend it's at 2pm on Friday at 3843 W 11th. *Jennifer Hoover:* Can I get clarification on this process? *Andrew Martin :* Parking enforcement is hiring some new folks to help with all of these issues. The director described it to me yesterday as "when you don't need the police but do need a city official" so I would expect better service from them soon. Anything parked for more than 72 hours is subject to being moved. You are not calling the police to deal with these parking problems, but a city official to handle it. You should have the make, model, license plate, and a photo to Eugene Parking, and you upload this information to the website.

They cannot do selective enforcement to increase revenue, so, if they come to your block, they will ticket everyone not following parking rules. *Gail Caru-Vetter (in chat)*: I hope that everyone will use the neighborly approach first and will have conversations with individuals before bothering the parking patrol.

*Dennis Sandow*: I live on the outskirts of Whiteaker on Fir Ln. in the Fir/Lombard/Briarcliff area. Our neighborhood has very little turnover. Everything rolls slowly down these lanes, so we can host seniors and those alternative transportation needs. We have two homes that currently house individuals with the need for increased mobility support. We have a 92 unit apartment coming into the neighborhood, and we would like to preserve the safety of this area. We need people to continue to be free from auto traffic, so that the residents can continue to use it the same way to which they've become accustomed. We want to preserve this area for those with support needs. We've written a neighborhood matching fund grant that would prevent autos from coming down Lombard and Fir Lane through using bullards. We've sent the grant matching to Ian, and would really like your support to get this funding as soon as possible.

*Dilenia Cardona*: I received the historical documents from the Head Start location. We will need help sorting the historical documents, and wanted to recruit Dan to see if we can help get it organized. *Dan Schmid*: I'd be glad to help.

*Ian Winbrock*: Safe Sleeps Site Update-how do we make sure our neighbors at WJ are not moved without another place to go? The city has committed to not moving anyone until they have a long-term place to stay. The board agreed to support the Safe Sites, but let them know that the burden of these places is disproportionately centered in the Whit and near the Whit. The Safe Sleep Sites will house up to 40 individuals each. The funding for staffing and operators will come from the state of Oregon. The linked article outlines the source of the funding. The sanitation from the sites will include 2 dumpsters, 4 bathrooms (at least 1 ADA accessible), a shower trailer available, but no permanent shower infrastructure, and no kitchen. We are depending on people to use propane stoves, during fire season, which has poor results. *Dilenia Cardona*: Has the city thought of having a mobile resource center?

<https://www.registerguard.com/story/news/2021/07/02/eugene-oregon-legislature-funding-american-rescue-plan-safe-sleep-riverfront/7821059002/>

## **7:25pm / How to reach the City of Eugene Police Department**

Cindi Harper, Central Lane Operations Manager, City of Eugene Police Department; Marcia

When thinking of when to call 9-1-1, there's a couple of questions that need to be answered. Is it a life or death situation currently, or the potential for one? Should it be dealt with right now? The time to call the non-emergency is when you need CAHOOTS, with information for a crime that has previously happened, or with clarifying questions for if it is a police matter. We answer for the whole county. The important information to have ready includes: address, phone number, and

a description of what's happening. Write down an event number if you anticipate following up. If the suspect leaves or returns, please call us back to update us. For our medical calls, we have a protocol. They will ask you what's happened, and the type of response will be determined by your answers. This will not delay assistance, as those being dispatched may already be on their way. It just provides our first responders an opportunity to gather what they need. You may also get instructions from dispatch (due to new protocols) depending on what's happening medically. Recently, two lives have been saved due to specific instructions on applying a tourniquet.

*Dilena:* Is it appropriate to call the non-emergency line if you're not sure who to call? *Marcia:*

Yes, that's the ideal way to do so, as we may have phone numbers for other resources. We are here 24 hours, so we're easier to get into contact with, as well. *Jennifer Hoover:* How do I

address campers that are wreaking havoc? For example, someone came into my yard, and tore apart my flowers. He's done this before, and I feel like he's becoming more bold. Who do I call?

*Cindi:* If he's in your yard, not threatening or causing damage, then call the non-emergency. Your situation sounds like an appropriate call to the police. *Anand Holtham-Keathley (in chat):* Could

the non-emergency number be put in Chat? *Marcia & Cindi - 911 to Everyone (in chat):* The non-emergency number is 541-682-5111. *Sigh (in chat):* Also:

<https://www.eugene-or.gov/2928/Contact-Us>. *Andrew Martin:* Is the non-emergency line the best number to call if I find a needle in the neighborhood? *Marcia:* Yes. It's a call that takes longer.

It's Cahoots that usually handles needles. *Thea Lee (in chat):* HIV Alliance will pick up needles.

*Margaret:* You dispatch for EPD, SPD, Eug/Springfield Fire, South Lane, Lane Rural, and Lane Sheriff's, as well as CAHOOTS? *Marcia:* We take the calls, but we do not dispatch for EPD and SPD. We do take the initial calls for all of those organizations. *Thea Lee:* Your team are rock

stars. When should I ask for an event number? *Marci:* At the end of the call is a good time. It will make it that much faster and easier if you call back. *Thea Lee:* Is it still appropriate to call

the non-emergency if someone is threatening someone in the park, but walking off? *Marcia:* Yes, if there is any chance of immediate danger then call 9-1-1. *Cindi:* If there is a fire or medical

emergency, call 9-1-1. You will be in the queue for non-emergency. *Sigh O'Nara:* Does CAHOOTS have their own number? *Marcia:* No, we are the dispatch for CAHOOTS. *Cindi:* We

are strong supporters of CAHOOTS, and don't know what we would do without them. We've also been speaking with other agencies nationwide on our model. They want to know how we

screen CAHOOTS calls, how to get buy-in from employees, and we answer we're so pleased and happy to have them. *Ian:* I've sent a link about potential revenue streams regarding CAHOOTS

and other funding. <https://www.eugene-or.gov/3946/Community-Safety-Initiative>. Do you know if you have a set amount of funds to increase staffing in your office? A lot of individuals in our

community prefer non-police intervention. I might consider you to be part of the police department, so could you talk about how the funding would be used? Can you talk about how we

can make sure it's CAHOOTS that will be dispatched? *Cindi:* In the first round of the CSI money, we get 3.5 full-time positions. We have some other positions that come later, such as

technical support. Our business has changed, where everything we do is computer based. Through the budgetary process, we did not add technical staff to manage the transition. For your

second question, it makes sense that we dispatch CAHOOTS. We are working on getting computers for their vehicles so that they can see what calls they're getting. We have the capacity

to dispatch for them, and we can also screen for safety issues. We want to make sure it's the

safest place for CAHOOTS to go, and sometimes we need officers to assure that it's not a dangerous situation. We're hearing CAHOOTS ask more than ever for assistance from police. It's not a typical occurrence, but it does happen. Our current technology does not allow for us to know it's for CAHOOTS, but it has been discussed. The cell phone tax you pay pays for our 911 phone system, and it has some limitations. *Jennifer Hoover*: Thank you, that was really good information. It's interesting in how you get invested emotionally, but then you don't know what happens after the call is made. I think it's a challenge to not know if the person has been helped. Also, I've been noticing more Community Service Officers. What are they about? *Cindi*: They are crime prevention specialists, as well as seniors on patrol to check on your property when you're out of town. The CSP will follow up with you after an incident happens to increase the safety and security of your home. Margaret Mazzota is an example of these types of officers. To your first question, it's a huge problem in the dispatch world. Dispatchers also do not know what happens after the call is made. *Thea Lee*: Who is best to call for pick up of propane tanks? *Marcia*: Please call Public Works when it's in the street. *Cindi*: If it's in the street or the sidewalk, call Public Works. If it's on your land, then it's your responsibility. *Gail Caru-Vetter*: You used to be able to activate CAHOOTS by asking for a welfare check. Is that still the case? *Cindi*: As long as there isn't anything in that call that would indicate a safety concern for CAHOOTS, then they will be dispatched. If CAHOOTS is backed up, and it's a wellness check during a situation where it's very hot or very cold, we may send a police officer because CAHOOTS isn't available. We could also be short CAHOOTS due to other circumstances (staffing, vehicle troubles). *Gail*: Is there movement to improve staffing for CAHOOTS? Is there an option to reach out to social services, as well? *Cindi*: Those situations I described are rare. Also, you can let the dispatcher know this person may not respond well to police, which may bump them up sooner on the CAHOOTS response list. CAHOOTS is having trouble recruiting and hiring. *Marcia*: CAHOOTS calls also take a long time, as they are sometimes taking counseling calls. *Jennifer Hoover (in chat)*: From me i believe that EPD is rather a more progressive department and we are still evolving. *Ian Winbrock (in chat)*: CAHOOTS is hiring! Job Openings are available here: <https://whitebirdclinic.org/job-postings/>. *Dilenia Cardona*: You have to leave it up to the professionals to make the decision on who is needed. At my job, we communicated very well, EPD was able to get her in control so that CAHOOTS could help her. When in doubt, just call. We should provide information in our newsletter with this contact information, and similar information. *Margaret Steinbrunn (in chat)*: How many Cahoots vans are there now? *Marcia*: 1 running 24 hours, 2 mid-day to early evening. There are 4 different shifts. At most, there are two at a time. There is always one running. *Margaret*: Are there concrete plans to increase the vans? *Cindi*: I'm not sure.

## **8:25pm / Pandemic Recovery in the Whiteaker**

Ian Winbrock, Chair, WCC

*Ian*: We are moving out of having to physically distance ourselves, and can now go back into bars, breweries, dance clubs, etc... I've spoken with board and community members on what we need to move into recovery. The city has gaps in their funding, which many of the funds will

cover, but there is additional opportunity for use of the additional funds. We should stretch these dollars across all of the Whiteaker. \*shared presentation. There are grants, as well as a potential for city ARPA grant monies available. Our strategies should include vaccines and vaccine confidence. We should have community members being able to talk about why they got their vaccine. We're continuing our "Protected Together" vaccine campaign. The board has additional opportunities to increase vaccine confidence due to a current grant. Our "Bring Us Back" campaign will also encourage those with some vaccine hesitancy to think of the reasons to get vaccinated. Also, we are running vaccine clinics with LCPH through August. How can we leverage multiple funding sources, and target the City of Eugene?

#### Short Term Projects:

- Traffic signs with "20 is Plenty/20 es Suficiente". We could make our own signs, and use art as a way to increase public health.
- Streatery Permit for Van Buren b/w Blair and 3rd. It's not currently a safe place to walk.
- Free Walls @ N. Washington and Cheshire. It's a city-sanctioned graffiti wall.

#### Medium-Term Projects:

- An Island art installation @ Van Buren near Blair to reduce congregating at that crosswalk.
- Intersection murals-this increases the beauty in the neighborhood, but also slows people down, as a visually interesting intersection will slow people to take a look at it.
- Crosswalk murals

#### Long-term Projects:

- Mural Festival with businesses.
- Loo Style bathrooms-these could be .25 mil to 2 million dollars.
- Shower Trailers

#### Moonshot

- Micro-enterprise project process-what if we encouraged folks in the Whiteaker to develop their own businesses with WCC and community support? There's funding for this type of work.

*Anand Holtham-Keathley* (in chat): COVID-19 came from human intrusion into wild places. This and other ways people are causing imbalance with nature causing the Climate Crisis means we need to adapt to the new climate and do what we can to reduce our adding to greenhouse gasses. Adaptation includes making sure people can survive the heat and smoke. So housing everyone with ductless heat pumps and HEPA filters. *Gail Caru-Vetter* (in chat): I'd love to see another Whiteaker based credit union! *Sigh O'Nara*: I think we need to talk about the WCC buying property in the Whiteaker and creating infrastructure around that. I'm worried about the financial institutions coming in to buy properties. If the WCC buys property, it could be for projects such as public restrooms, etc... Rent controlled housing is also another opportunity.

*Anand Holtham-Keathley (in chat):* This is a book titled the Edible City Resource Manual authored by a professor from the U of O using Whiteaker as a model to make the community more self-sufficient in a small ecological footprint. Worth looking at to see option. *Dilenia (in chat):* Whit bike ride where we close down to cars for a day. *Gail Caru-Vetter:* I noticed in your initial graphics that there are two versions of the “Bring us Back”, I prefer the lowercase “us” versus the uppercase “US”, which could insinuate the United States as a whole versus our neighborhood. Also, if we’re going to talk about big purchases, we need to talk about getting another credit union. The one we lost was serving the financial needs of our most financially vulnerable. I think that could help individuals in our neighborhood long-term. *Dilenia:* I agree with the credit union idea to address Sigh’s ideas. I’m working with the accountant right now, and purchasing land as the WCC is definitely something we should look at further. *Andrew Martin:* I’m supportive of a moonshot should go along with the suggestion from Sigh. We could be non-profit housing support, and to keep the money in the Whiteaker. If we’re serious about it, there are probably a lot of grants. I think we should have a sub-committee, and I’d be happy to be a part of that committee. We can’t just depend on the goodwill of our neighbors. We need the infrastructure. *Ian:* the WCC already did this in the 1970s. We built the East Blair Housing Co-op, so we have a history of executing on this. This allows for long-term, ecologically sound, affordable, community-based housing. *Margaret:* I agree, land! We could use the land for housing, a whiteaker sustained community center, and so many other things we could do with land. *Gail Caru-Vetter (in chat):* I didn't say, but I absolutely love public art as an avenue to improve livability and public health! *Andrew Martin (in chat):* There are many ways we can support our neighbors with non-capitalist models of housing development and wealth building. Housing is public health. *Sigh (in chat):* I really like the street murals and the streeterly ideas. *Gail Caru-Vetter (in chat):* Very true, Andrew. And, as the Dali Lama teaches in his instructions for life "we must learn the rules so that we may break them properly" As we transition away from a capitalist system, we will benefit from using the "tools of the oppressor" to our own ends. ;). *Andrew Martin (in chat):* Streeterly should be permanent. Just close the street. And while we're at it, let's support closing Broadway permanently between Willamette and Olive. Streets are for people. *Ian:* We could also think about mental health and racism recovery, but we could bring attention to the areas of our community that have been intentionally overlooked. *Anand Holtham-Keathley (in chat):* Can we reach out to Centro Latino and the NAACP and ask if they would be interested in a member on the WCC? *Gail:* One of the issues we have is that we are bisected by the train tracks. As a person on the river side of the tracks, our crossover points are limited. It would be nice to have a pedestrian bridge. *Sigh O’Nara:* You could hire individuals, such as social workers, or someone to assist with Thea’s leg work. *Ian:* We are looking to hire our first contracted employee in 40 years. *Margaret Steinbrunn (in chat):* I think blocking off the street between meji and slice is a fantastic idea.... That will help the neighborhood on several levels. Local businesses, traffic, pedestrians, etc... It is only a matter of time before something happens.....*Jennifer Hoover:* I would love to see lampposts in Whiteaker leading them to cross the RR tracks & see another part of what is so good about Whiteaker. *Ian:* There are some at Scobert Gardens that may not still be functional, but they are interesting. *Gail:* Scobert Gardens might be an opportunity for us to open up to the community. It’s been closed off due to what was happening in the park. The city closed it off instead of investing in better lighting, etc... *Dan*

*Schmid*: Regarding Scobert Gardens, because it has so many levels of uses and non-uses, what if we hired landscape architects to make it have less troublesome areas. It could be made more inviting. *Majeska Seese-Green (in chat)*: Scobert, our “plant zoo” we called it when they put in the fences. There were exotic plants there then. *Angie Byers*: Using spaces that are typically prime areas for crime (dark, under bridges, among trees) may be an opportunity for housing or other supportive infrastructure. *Andrew Martin (in chat)*: People still get back there even with the fence. My neighbors across the street own the property that backs up against that space. They have tapestries up because fences don't really work. *Duncan Rhodes*: I remember that it was closed off because of a request from someone that lived there. We could not keep up with what was happening within the space. *Anand*: A review of the Edible City Resource Manual. “If you are interested in what you and your neighbors can do to create a sustainable city, it is all right here in this handy resource manual. The ideas are centered around one neighborhood in Eugene as developed at the University of Oregon. It is 30 years old so some of the businesses no longer exist but have been replaced. Some of the most important concepts involve semi-above-ground housing including apartments that in effect have a tiny footprint as you use the roof as garden space, and multi-layered gardens including household fish farming of Tilapia. I strongly recommend this book for anyone who intends to continue living on this. *Gail*: It would be nice if we had a map of edible plants in public/semi-public areas. *Dan Schmid (in chat)*: Food Not Lawns was written by a former Whiteaker resident *jennifer hoover (in chat)*: Thank you whoever likes the lamp post lighting that plays such a warm part of being able to walk with some safety & take a stroll after dinner. *Andrew Martin (in chat)*: Urban foraging is great. The pears between 6th and 7th on Polk are great! *Anand Holtham-Keathley (in chat)*: Does the city have that? *Margaret Steinbrunn (in chat)*: Great idea gail. *Sigh (in chat)*: Idea: hire gardener(s) to garden/harvest around the Whit. Sell the produce to business. MIGHT be able to pay for the staff. Related to the food ideas: <https://fallingfruit.org/> *Theresa Burchell (in chat)*: or support local food pantries^^ *Andrew Martin (in chat)*: Side idea: plant gardens in unused space around the neighborhood like the strips between the sidewalk and street. Then people take what they want. There is a plot in the Whit Community Garden where anyone can take what they need. I forget which plot number. *Anand Holtham-Keathley (in chat)*: Andrew, the city has offered to allow that if people take responsibility for them

*Charlsey Cartwright (in chat)*: Hello. Thank you very much for the opportunity to listen to Cindy Harper and Marcia of 911 dispatch. I live in the River Road area and participate in the RRCCO mostly in Emergency Preparedness. You are a very interesting, dynamic neighborhood. I learned a great deal. All the best.

### **8:55pm / Future Agenda Topics**

- Whiteaker History with Stephen Fuller-Rowell
- Interview Committee Program Coordinator Recommendation
- Contractors
- Spending for OHA Grant
- Public Health and Safety Committee Meeting Next Wednesday at 6pm via Zoom.
  - W/J

- Fires
- Black Thistle information

**9:00pm** / Adjournment