

# WHITEAKER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

A CITY OF EUGENE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

PO Box 11692, EUGENE OR 97440

## WCC Meeting 4/7/21

### Attendees:

Board: Chris Gadsby, Gail Caru-Vetter, Dilenia Cardona, Katie Guske, Ian Winbrock, Margaret Steinbrunn, Johnny Skirving, Anand Holtham-Keathley

Linda Frohbach, Theresa Buchell, Meg Schaefer, Travis Dee, Iska Johnson, Emma Jones, Gabriel Piechowicz, Jennifer Hoover

### Open Comments:

Margaret, Community Resource Officer connected with Chris Gadsby and Gabe Piechowicz on Square One Housing: **Gabe Piechowicz:** I planned to grow a new church that was different than most, if not all. Did not want the typical Sunday rhythm to be a part of my church. Westside Christian Church on 18th and Chambers is my church. I have been able to connect with a number of the unhoused individuals that were living on our porch. I worked with the EPD, and reached out to the business leaders in the area. The unhoused individuals have been working on beautifying this part of the neighborhood. After we sold the Westside Building, we got a warehouse on w 11th, and I'm managing 4 Square One sites. There are tiny homes being built, with 4 in progress right now. Our plans include a sweat equity connection with the individuals that will live in it. We need more sites. The church is one of the largest landowners in the community. How do we connect people to a space? We were able to house all 8 of the initial people dwelling on the porch! **Dilenia Cardona:** EWEB tiny home site, could you give them tracker phones for emergencies. **Gabe:** All the ones we've initially worked with have phones. We might have a unit there used as a mini office with the necessary.

**Angie Byers:** Could you expound on long-siders? **Gabe:** I served as an along-sider to move them through the process of finding stable housing. We're interested in building an along-sider framework. This will be grassroots, and not bogged down in the system.

**From Linda Frohbach to Everyone:** (in chat) Were all your porch dwellers drug free?

**Margaret Steinbrunn:** I'm sure you're aware you went viral on what you did on the porch. Your story gave me real hope.

**Travis Dee:** Did you deal with drug and mental health issues, and how did you handle it? **Gabe:** Yes, and I took a stance on the porch of relaxing versus "white drugs". If you're going to get into those harder drugs, you can't do it here, because it will take this whole show down (church porch). When we moved into the shelters, I watched their use go down. Going from outside on concrete, it seems that they are less inclined to start the day with this use. They are decorating and organizing their space.

Gabe Contact Information:

**From Iska Johnson to Everyone: (in chat)**

In case anyone might be interested in podcasts, this one is a take on addiction and talked about what happened in Portugal and how drug addiction went down when community was created...

<https://www.danielvitalis.com/rewild-yourself-podcast/the-war-on-consciousness-with-johann-harj>

**Chris Gadsby:** There is a mobile shower center in the city, but it needs a vehicle to haul it.

**Administrative:**

Donations:

- Maria Chan-Monico donated \$100, should go into our general account.
- \$250 from another community member to go into the bank.

**Disaster Preparedness:**

Megan on Cedar St. is the person with the CERT and amateur radio group. We should bring them to our council meetings to discuss. They want to create an escape guide for natural disasters connected with the HAM radios. It would create a communication response team in the Whiteaker. Ian has the list of HAM certified individuals.

4J School Board Meeting:

OHA Grant:

The photo shoot is being rescheduled.

Hand Sanitizer. Angie suggested we pass out a full pallet of qt bottles to each neighborhood association. Margaret is asking for another pallet of Hand Sanitizer. Gail: I think it's a great idea to offer the Heritage

Motion: Gail motioned, Margaret seconded. Passed.

Angie will lead by passing these out.

Train Silencing Project:

**Gail Caru-Vetter:** The closures are not representative of what they initially stated. If they close some of these intersections, it would further isolate parts of our community. **Chris Gadsby:** Our team spent tons of time on this, They quieted the trains for commerce, versus the reasons for our request. There was supposed to be millions of dollars worth of double-arm closures. **Katie Guske:** Our neighborhood is divided on the opinion due to the road closures. Chris: I would like to figure out what happened to the infrastructure changes. **Gail Caru-Vetter:** This is something that is important for the neighborhood. **Chris Gadsby:** I would like to get Brad Foster involved with this, as the changes will affect bikers and walkers.

Elections:

**From Linda to Everyone: (in chat)**

I am wondering when and where will positions and candidates be posted for next week's board election? **Chris Gadsby:** Who all is running again (all but Katie raised her hand).

**From Linda to Everyone: (in chat)**

Are board member qualifications posted somewhere'. **From Gail Caru-Vetter (she/her/hers) to Everyone: (in chat)** Board members must have attended at least one meeting before being elected and must live, work, or own property in the Whiteaker

**From Margaret Steinbrunn to Everyone: (in chat)** we are a volunteer organization that is elected by our community..

**Motions:**

Minutes: Motion to accept January meeting minutes. Angie motioned, Chris seconded. Passed. Angie will bring motion for February and March minutes to next meeting.

WCAT: We are working to partner with places around the city to use the money to pay our artists that worked on the phone booth to call your future self. It's a way to inspire confidence, hope, and build a sense of community. The Motion is for WCAT to submit a Heritage Arts Grant, which would bring the phone booth to Springfield. We would need to submit it by April 15th, and we hear back June 8th. We believe we will ask for \$750. Margaret Seconds. Motion passes.

City of Eugene is asking for application for a member of the organization to speak to the aspirations of diverse committee members to serve on the panel. Meeting is every 2 weeks for 2 hours for about 20 meetings. This is a paid opportunity: \$1500. It would be a conflict of interest if a board member served. It is due by 4/30th. We do not yet have to have a representative. It would be nice to vet someone. We would use the focus of historically marginalized communities. We would need to vet 2 people. Ian motioned, Angie seconded. Passed.