

Minutes of July 11, 2007 Fairhaven Neighbors Meeting

Board members in attendance: Vince Biciunas, Glenn Denkler, Sue Kaun, Thom Pritchard, Janet Simpson, Bob Keller, Elinor Pravda, Paul James (list to be verified per sign-in sheet)

Excused: Michael Lilliquist, Jim Johannessen, Ralph Thacker

Non-Board members in attendance: per sign-in sheet

Consent Agenda: The June meeting minutes and Treasurer's Report were circulated and approved via email prior to the meeting.

MNAC Meeting: Thom reported on the Safe Routes to School program that MNAC is working on, looking for ways to facilitate crossing of major routes like 12th Street and Old Fairhaven Parkway. They have a concept called "walking bus stops," with more information to come.

They are also working on making neighborhoods more elder-friendly.

Neighborhood Plan amendments are being done by all neighborhoods. Ralph is attending a meeting about that tonight.

ABN Meeting: Janet was unable to attend.

Minutes: Michael Lilliquist, Secretary is excused from meeting. Elinor is taking notes.

Coalition of Southside Neighborhoods: Vince reported that we are co-sponsoring a candidates' forum July 19th at 7 pm at the Firehouse, with candidates for Mayor, Precinct 5 City Council Member, and City Council Member at Large. The Board agreed to finance 1/5 of the Firehouse rental (\$27.50).

Neighborhood Plan and Code Revision issues: A meeting was held in the mayor's meeting room. Attending were Tim Stewart, Jackie Lynch, Kathryn Hanowell, Phyllis McKee, Doug Robertson, Brad Imus, Vince Biciunas, Michael Lilliquist, and Sue Kaun. The meeting resulted in an agreement to have more meetings.

Vince introduced Martha Bean, who is replying to the city's invitation to facilitate meetings. Future meetings will go over (1) the structure of the organization; and (2) design standards. The city will pay up to \$3000 for a facilitator. There will be three meetings of up to three hours each, with three hours prep time for each meeting. This is projected for September and beyond.

Bylaws: To be voted on August 1st by Board members. The city's deadline has been extended to September 30, so the vote could be moved to September 5th if necessary.

Neighborhood Plan Update subcommittee meetings: For the July 24th work session planned, Glenn needs only one more out of four drafts. He is rewriting the vision statement, incorporating three versions.

We are a little behind on the timeline, since subcommittees were supposed to be done by July 16th. Glenn would like to have a body of work to put on the Fairhaven Neighbors website by the end of the July 24th meeting.

Email from Ralph Thacker: A meeting was planned to discuss to what extent growth is manageable in Fairhaven, with Hart Hodges and John McLaughlin, for Thursday July 26th from 7 to 8:30 pm at the Fairhaven Village Inn.

Bylaws note: Doug Robertson recommended that we need to have an attorney look at our bylaws—not just the city—because they don't comply with IRS rules.

Membership question: Gene Shannon questioned who approves bylaws—just Board or the whole membership. The answer was that the Board approves the bylaws, with input from the membership.

Display table: A motion was made by Thom, seconded by Elinor, to accept the donation of a display table for public events. The display table is being stored at Rain Country Refrigeration, in their garage. All were in favor.

Boulos property development: The property at 12th and Old Fairhaven Parkway will be deliberated at the Planning Commission meeting July 19th. Unfortunately, that conflicts with the candidates' forum.

David Moody short plat: He is asking for a property to be made into two lots instead of four. He needed a variance to have 50' x 100' lots. The variance hearing was today (July 11th), with a decision to come in the next ten days. It is expected, then, that there will be one more single-family house in Fairhaven, on a 50' x 100' lot.

Voting question: Phyllis McKee asked what does general membership vote on and what does Board of Directors vote on? Glenn replied that the general membership votes for the Board of Directors, and that's all.

Associate membership question: Ted Mischaikov asked the purpose of associate membership. The answer is that it is for someone who lives outside the official Fairhaven limits (like Ralph Thacker, who lives a block away), but who wants to be a member.

Time for discussion: Glenn suggested that there should be a large enough chunk of time at the next meeting to discuss the bylaws issues. This meeting is short because of a special presentation. Stuart Plotnick also has issues with the bylaws, and will bring them to the next meeting.

Special Presentation by Don Davis, Office of Emergency Management: The state has promoted a grass-roots program called **Map Your Neighborhood (MYN)** to help neighborhoods prepare for a scenario where disaster overwhelms emergency services, where you can't get help from other districts, and where if you call 911, no one comes—

such as earthquake or a serious hazmat incident. MYN takes a minimal amount of effort and no money.

In case of such a disaster, the Fire Department will drive around their own districts to check certain major areas, such as schools, but they will not be allowed to stop and help along the way. You may be on your own for several hours or overnight, or even a couple of days. Turn to your neighbors. Form groups of 5 to 25 households, have a meeting to which Don will come (or Thom Pritchard for our neighborhood), and do a little bit of organization and a lot of information sharing. The meeting will take about 90 minutes.

The number of households should be the amount that can be covered within an hour, to check on everyone. You will want to know who has a chainsaw, who can fix plumbing, who can splint a leg, etc.

Don handed out a booklet with MYN information, which he suggests we store under our beds. In case of an earthquake, for example, do the first nine steps:

1. Take care of your loved ones.
2. Protect your head, feet, and hands. Cut feet are a common injury. Keep shoes, gloves, a bike helmet under bed.
3. Shut off the gas. After the Northridge, CA quake, 2/3 of the house fires were caused by leaking gas. But you can't turn the gas back on, so don't turn it off unless you need to (if the meter is whirling, or there's a smell or hiss).
4. Shut off water at house main. The water supply may be contaminated. Water left in the pipes can be used. You should have stored one gallon of water per person per day.
5. Place the HELP or OK sign (on handout booklet). Neighbors will check for HELP signs or no signs.
6. Put your fire extinguishers on the sidewalk or by your door. (Don is not sure about fire extinguishers—a fire can double in size every 30 seconds.)
7. Go to the neighborhood gathering site (pre-arranged). Self-organize, creating teams based on the 90-minute planning session and filled in on the booklet. Form teams and send them out to check gas lines, etc., then come back to gathering site to report and re-assess.
8. Return to neighborhood gathering site and share what you've done.

How to start? Thom is getting information together—he wants to form a committee with people scattered throughout the neighborhood to get the information disseminated.

Where do you get more booklets? COB Office of Emergency Management, 676-6933.

It's important to do the whole meeting process—an explicit social contract with neighbors. Vince mentioned the importance of confidentiality of the info shared with neighbors.

Other feedback: Janet questioned, "What about businesses?" Don said MYN is geared toward homes, but can be adapted to businesses. Gene pointed out that businesses know each other and could do this. Doug said that some businesses are required to have emergency procedures in place.

Why have a 90-minute meeting if you have the booklet? It's important for neighbors to learn all this—to keep on hand, to answer questions, to help map the neighborhood (gas lines, etc.).

The optimal size for the meeting is a dozen households, but no more than 25. People will be stressed out, not at their best. We will need to have a village mentality, relying on our neighbors.

David Moody urged people to tie their house to the foundation. A local contractor or engineer can do this for about \$1,000. We have dip-type earthquakes, for which tying a house to the foundation can prevent damage.

For committee formation, Vince has a list of names and addresses block by block, but no phone numbers.

Thom pointed out that this will take months. To get people involved, talk about weather emergencies, which are less threatening.

An **emergency** is when you dial 911 and the Fire Department shows up.

A **disaster** is when you dial 911 and no one answers or shows up.

Minutes submitted by Elinor Pravda