

North Clackamas Citizens Association

A Clackamas County-recognized COMMUNITY PLANNING ORGANIZATION (CPO)

Minutes

February 9, 2010

Bilquist Elementary School Library, 15708 SE Webster Road, Milwaukie, OR 97267

1. Quorum: President Pat Russell called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm. A quorum was present including Treasurer, Tom Carothers; members Lowell Miller, Eileen Tuner, Dick Dodge.
2. **Approval of Minutes, January 12, 2010**, moved by Carothers, seconded by Russell, unanimously adopted.
3. Treasurer's Report, Tom Carothers noted that there was \$420.00 in the checking account, which included a \$50 donation by Association member, Skip Baker. The group agreed a letter of appreciation be sent to Skip. Tom noted that the Association still has 13 signs that could be used for meeting postings in the field, but lack the metal supports and that he would look into securing more metal supports while keeping within the \$25 spending limit in accord with Association Bylaws.
4. Review of Correspondence; Development Applications; Public Projects & Upcoming Meetings:
 - a) **Home Occupation Z0006-10, Bruce and Ann Pomazal**, 7848 SE Cypress Avenue, south side, east of Topaz Avenue on approximately a half acre of land in the R-10 zone to establish a contractor's office with limited on-site parking and construction storage in a manner to comply with the standards. President Russell noted that he did not receive any calls from neighbors and have advised the Planning Department that the Association did not have any objections to the proposal provided it met the Home Occupation standards. Application Date was January 4, 2010; the accessory structure contained an office of 400 sq. ft. and internal tool storage. Access to the accessory structure was a paved driveway.
 - b) **Variance Z0664-09, Patrick Schmitt**, 14499 SE Orchid Avenue, west side, north of Marigold, east of Johnson Road; request to vary from the rear yard setback requirements for a primary dwelling in the R-10 zone on an approximate 10,000 sq. ft. lot (0.23 acres). The applicant was seeking a variance to cure a problem established by a previous owner of the home—adding a home addition without building permits. President Russell noted that he conveyed an email, November 17, 2009 to the Planning Department that the application appeared not to meet the variance criteria which would be a concern to the Association. He did not receive any communication from the applicant nor neighbors. The application was filed October 26, 2009 and the 120 day review period would end February 23, 2010. The Planning Director denied the application on January 27, 2010 and the appeal period ended February 8, 2010. No appeals appear to have been filed. The Association should monitor the “next step” as the addition is still without building permits and needs to be “cured.” There are other cases in the Association area that variances for an accessory building were denied and the county has allowed the structure to remain. This is an enforcement problem.
 - c) **North Clackamas School district determination of student “walk-in” routes vs. bussing plan.** President Russell noted that due to the district's new building construction from the bond proceeds and alterations of attendance areas for students, the district needed to update its bussing/walk-in plan and decided to look at most of the schools, including Bilquist and View Acres Elementary and Alder Creek Middle School. State law requires the district to furnish bussing to students who live further than one mile from K-8 schools and 1-1/2 miles from high schools. The district receives state funding reimbursements for bussing programs. The district is required to submit a periodic report to the state to furnish information on its bussing program to comply with state law. The state does not pay for students to be bussed within the “walk-in areas” (less than 1 mile and 1-1/2 mile respectively) unless there are mitigating factors that justify

bussing as determined by the school district, based upon statewide criteria. Therefore the district decided to update its plan to take effect next September for the start of the 2010-2011 school year.

The district prepared a report, dated 2010, "An Evaluation of North Clackamas School District Walk Zones and Proposed Supplemental Plan." (see district's website for more information: <http://www.nclack.k12.or.us/18231012013943187/site/default.asp>). Then click on link to <http://www.nclack.k12.or.us/northclack/cwp/view.asp?A=3&Q=312434> which contains:

- Draft Walk Zone plan
- Background Information
- Committee Schedule
- Member List
- Minutes, 12-8-09
- Walk Zone Communication 1-14-2010

The district formed an Advisory Committee to look the proposed walk-in areas and areas proposed for bussing. The administration has indicated its goal to have the School Board review recommendations during April and May and finalize plans. The public has an opportunity to weigh in on recommendations and review the analysis of routes for each school.

For Bilquist Elementary, the district is proposing to include additional bussing arrangements for students living on the north side of Roots Road, approximately easterly of SE Lark Avenue (including some homes westerly of Lark fronting on Roots Road to Patsy) and all students south of Roots Road from Webster Road east).

Students south of Roots Road, easterly of Webster have historically been bussed to school.

All students westerly of Webster Road would have to walk, northerly of Roots Road.

All students easterly of Webster (except as noted above) would have to walk, except those easterly and along Johnson Road

For View Acres, all students in the Association area (which ends on the west side about Aldercrest Court and Aldercrest Road) would be bussed. The dividing line between View Acres and Bilquist includes Thiessen and Molt ad roughly Johnson Road on the east.

As for Alder Creek Middle School, the campus used to be a high school which basically required walk-in within much of the Association's area. When the campus was converted to a middle school and McLoughlin MS was closed down, those students east of Johnson Road within one mile were bussed in, as were students roughly west of Aldercrest Road and Rusk Road.

The area was reevaluated and now areas that feed into Webster Road SOUTH of Cavalier would be bussed in, including that area east of Webster, north of Thiessen and westerly of approximately Tamarack Lane. The main factor in this change affecting around 20 students is a combination of reevaluate road conditions (narrow shoulder) and impaired sight distance at the top of the hill (which is roughly Pine Creek Lane). The change would allow students as far south as Clackamas Road to be bussed who would otherwise have to walk.

The reason for the Association's interest is the implementation of safe walking routes to school, examination of compatibility and implementation of the county's "Essential Pedestrian Network" within the Comprehensive Plan and opportunities to improve safety of streets within the Association's area, especially Webster Road, Clackamas Road and Roots Road. These roads contain speed limits of 30 to 35 mph (some section of Webster Road are 30 mph—from Thiessen

to Roots Road; other than school zones Clackamas Road is posted 35 mph from Webster to Johnson and then 40mph to the east and Roots Road is 35 mph.

The discussion centered upon safety of walking along Clackamas Road, Webster Road and Roots Road, the school zones and signage and speed limits.

President Russell circulated suggested recommendations with analysis, dated February 9, 2010 (eight pages). The group noted problems on all three streets. No sidewalks on Roots Road and high speed traffic; no sidewalks on Webster Road from the Bilquist school to Roots Road and south and the placement of the school zone sign south of the school on the curve, NORTH of Mabel. Clackamas Road only has sidewalks on the north side and elementary students must cross this 35mph street if they live south of the road.

The group noted time to discuss further at its March meeting.

- d) **County Planning Commission Tree Protection Zoning Ordinance Amendments**, tentatively March 2010; President Russell noted that the Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on March 22nd at the Red Soils Campus Development Services Building, starting at 6:30pm. The group heard that the current version of the draft reflecting the county Tree Task Force recommendations (for the most part) would not affect homes of lots that could not be redeveloped. Further, owners of the larger lots with trees would be able to cut some trees on a yearly basis or otherwise go through a permit process designed to encourage tree preservation. Clearcutting would be penalized by the county not allowing development of the property for a certain number of years. However, given the exceptions, of allowing two trees per year, along with arborist's reports qualifying other exceptions (such as health of the tree), many trees could be cut over a period of time without much regulation. Many in the community of the unincorporated URBAN lands in the county felt these provision contained many loopholes and that much of the urban tree canopy (many of which are huge native canopy trees) would be lost hurting water quality in the streams and increase stream flows during rain events and dry up streams during the summer. Others feel that the county is interfering with private property rights. Somewhere lies a compromise—hence the hearings. Many have felt in the Association that the trees do not have enough protection and have been most concerned with clearcutting of vacant lots or subdivisions coming in and not retaining trees where it was possible with some re-design consideration. Very sensitive streamside properties or those containing wetlands and/or steep slopes and seeps have cause the most concern during hearings in the past. Russell requested the Association make a recommendation at its March meeting. He suggested the recommendations of the Audubon.
- e) **Harmony Unified Vision Planning, Sunnybrook Extension, Stewardship program; Three Creeks Natural Area proposed "Final Concept Plan"** (NCPRD DAB rec'd Jan 14th); President Russell noted that the Association has expressed concerns last fall (during the Regional Transportation Plan hearings at the county and regional level) for removing native trees in the natural area and will share those concerns again with the park district's Advisory Board. He will also advocate the need for a community level stewardship type group for the campus planning to assure stakeholders are heard and are able to participate in detailed planning of the areas, as it is a key component of the regional center.
- f) **McLoughlin Community Area Plan (MAP)** (Oak Grove/Jennings Lodge/Oatfield Ridge to Webster Road) Survey; Russell noted that the planning contract will be wrapping up in a few months. Any long range goals should be shared with the MAP Committee, which he sits on to represent the Association.
- g) County Home Occupation ZDO 221 revisions; the Association doesn't see much change.
- h) **Citizens Aware Informed (CIA), Wed., March 10th, County's planned Urban Renewal District** formation for undefined urban, unincorporated areas between Willamette River and I-205, Rose Villa, Oak Grove, 7pm; President Russell noted that the Board of County Commissioners have committed \$25 million toward the development of the Portland to Milwaukie/Oak Grove Light Rail Project and they publicly stated their intent to raise the funds through an urban renewal

- project in the area. No geographic boundaries have been described. The purpose of the ad-hoc citizen driven CIA meeting is to discussion the concept of urban renewal.
- i) **Member Eileen Turner**, who lives on Parker Drive off Strawberry Lane stated that on-street parking of RVs is a problem. However, her part of the street is private. It was suggested that the Fire Marshall might be contacted to see if there are emergency response needs.

5. Adjourn: Next NCCA meeting 2nd Tuesday, March 9, 2010 @ 7pm, Bilquist Elementary

Respectfully submitted:

Pat Russell, President-Secretary
March 8, 2010

Officers: President-Secretary: Pat Russell; Vice President: Cyndi Lewis-Wolfram; Treasurer: Tom Carothers

(503) 656-9681; Cell 503-317-6456 or Email: flanagan112@hotmail.com