

**Concordia Neighborhood Association  
Land Use & Transportation Committee (LUTC) Meeting**

July 19, 2017, 7 to 9pm

McMenamins Kennedy School, Community Room

**Minutes**

**Members Present:** Tyler Bullen (Vice Chair, CNA Board – E1), Steve Elder (CNA Board – E2), Garlynn Woodsong (Chair, CNA Board – SW1)

**Members Absent:** Ben Earle (Secretary), Sam Farber-Kaiser, Jay Fesler, Jeff Hilber, Ali Novak (CNA Board – AL4), Kirk Paulsen, Spencer Parsons (volunteer legal advisor)

**Also Present:** Susan Millhauser (Contract Recording Secretary), James Mayer, Deah Partak, Kelerie Heiser, Lydia Conte, Rachel Richards, Terry Church, Ellen Church, Kris Balliet, Cindy Romanchuk, Dennis Hodges, Sheridan Long, Molly Curtin, Alex Boetzel

**Welcome & Introductions, Quorum Check, Member Attendance Check, Agenda Review**

Tyler welcomed everyone, opened the meeting, established quorum, and reviewed the agenda.

**Public Comments**

Neighbors introduced themselves and briefly shared why they were in attendance. Based on the variety of people's concerns Tyler noted that some of the agenda items would be tabled to allow for enough time to further discuss community concerns.

1. Speeding on NE 33<sup>rd</sup> Ave. north of Ainsworth – Folks shared their concerns and discussed ideas on how to reduce speeding and increase safety on NE 33<sup>rd</sup> Ave., summarized below:
  - Speeding related in part to vehicles coming off of Lombard at high speeds and not slowing down as well vehicles heading north speed up as they approach the Lombard or Columbia on-ramps after navigating the more congested parts of NE 33<sup>rd</sup>.
  - Trucks hitting potholes at high speeds makes people's houses shake severely, causing property damage in some cases.
  - Between Rosa Parks and Holman, speeding vehicles routinely hit vehicles parked on NE 33<sup>rd</sup> as well as recycling and trashcans along the street and up on the curb.
    - Some neighbors feel unsafe taking out their garbage in the evening.
  - It is very dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists to cross NE 33<sup>rd</sup> north of the Food Villa; even the protected bike/crosswalk at Food Villa is dangerous, as one side of traffic often does not stop.
  - Install speed bumps.
    - Not sure speed bumps are the best solution if they are the new style with the dips (like those recently installed on NE 28<sup>th</sup> Ave), as they are hard to navigate on bike.
    - Speed bumps cost about \$5,000 each.
    - If NE 33<sup>rd</sup> is a designated emergency route, the Fire Department would also have to be involved as they require fire-friendly speed bumps.
  - Install traffic signals at Dekum and Lombard and crosswalks with pedestrian-activated signals at 33<sup>rd</sup> and Rosa Parks.
  - Garlynn asked if it would be helpful to remove on-street parking on NE 33<sup>rd</sup> between Holman and Rosa Parks? Could provide space for bike lanes and reduce damage to parked vehicles.
    - Neighbors had a mixed response to this suggestion.
    - Some people don't have driveways or alley access so would lose parking.
    - Parked cars can provide a visual and sound buffer and make being on the sidewalk feel a bit safer.
  - Tyler suggested there is no one solution, for example removing parked cars could speed up traffic, and shared some additional information:

- It costs \$250,000 for a full traffic signal.
- Curb extensions can help with pedestrian crossings.
- Can request for the speed limit to be lowered but people often ignore it anyway.
- The most cost effective projects are the ones that get done.
- Most neighbors agreed that a stop sign on NE 33<sup>rd</sup> at Dekum would be helpful.
- A pedestrian crossing flashing light at Holman and NE 33<sup>rd</sup> could help.
- Garlynn noted that once the new Faubion School opens, the City will do a new traffic study at Rosa Parks to determine if a traffic signal is now needed. There is also a TriMet bus stop in that area with a difficult crossing so TriMet is involved as well.
  - There is a huge opportunity to get the City to do something with the Faubion reopening.
- Can the City adjust the width of the street?
  - The right-of-way width can't be changed without taking private property so not really unless on street parking is removed.
- There will be additional City funding for safety improvements via Vision Zero using gas tax money.
- Could petition the City to lower the speed to 25mph, perhaps, which could mean slower speeds in general even if folks go over the speed limit.
- Could the City ban truck traffic on this portion of NE 33<sup>rd</sup>?
  - No, it is a designated freight route to allow for local deliveries.

Tyler suggested a potential course of action for the concerned neighbors:

- The first step is to write a letter to the City with concerns and proposed solutions.
  - More realistic requests are likely to get considered.
  - Need as many neighbors as possible to sign on.
  - It's best if a letter comes from neighbors, versus the neighborhood association.
  - The LUTC is happy to proof read and offer suggestions, and can share letters sent in the past as a sample.
  - A neighbor volunteered to draft a letter then follow up with other neighbors to get feedback and signatures of support.
  - Then bring the letter to the LUTC and CNA Board for their support and signatures. CNA could also elevate these concerns and the letter to the NE Coalition of Neighborhoods (NECN).
- Individuals can also call the City at 503-823-SAFE to report traffic safety concerns.
- LUTC members encouraged the neighbors to come back next month with the letter.

## 2. Traffic safety and cut-through traffic on NE 22<sup>nd</sup> near Lombard and Morgan:

- A neighbor shared that there is a lot of traffic coming off of Lombard onto 22<sup>nd</sup> / Morgan and that goes all the way through to Dekum and Ainsworth on NE 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- He is also concerned Morgan at Lombard will be reopened when property at the east end of Morgan is redeveloped (it's currently a cul-de-sac).
- Tyler suggested the neighbor also write a letter and get other neighbors to sign on and then bring it to the LUTC for support.
- Plus Vision Zero funds will be available soon.
- Can tie the concerns and requests to Lombard as well as drivers are coming off the highway.
  - The neighbor noted he had heard there was a casualty on NE 22nd a few years ago, which he could research and note in the letter.
- Also, call 503-823-SAFE to request a stop sign.

## Safety & Livability

### 1. Tiny House Village Potential Locations in Concordia?

As many neighbors were present Garlynn moved this agenda item up and asked for people's feedback on the topic. He shared that NECN has asked neighborhoods to brainstorm possible locations to host a tiny house village for homeless people on public property. He asked if any neighbors have been to any of the City-

sanctioned homeless villages, such as Dignity Village, Right to Dream 2, Kenton Women's Village, or Hazelnut Grove. A few neighbors have visited one of these sites. Brainstorming of potential locations and benefits and concerns followed:

- 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave and Lombard cloverleaf might be a possible location.
  - Concern about safety of the village residents who likely would be on foot was expressed as traffic is high volume and fast
- What about next to Fernhill Park where the school was torn down?
  - PPS owns the site and does not have any long-term plans for it.
  - The space is wide open, which is good for visibility by neighbors.
  - But siting here may affect the park, especially at night. The park is heavily used, including parts that are wooded in the off-leash area and not well light at night.
  - Additional concerns about potential impacts to Fernhill Park were shared.
  - Though if the village is next to a park the residents might be better able to reintegrate into the community.
- Vacant lot across 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave in Cully?
- NE 33<sup>rd</sup> and Lombard?
- Garlynn reiterated that this is just a discussion at this point.
- Most neighbors were open to the idea in general, though concerns about sanitation, lighting, and monitoring were raised. Presumably the village providers would provide these essential services, but it's not clear how they would be paid for.

## 2. Safety and Livability Committee (SALC) – Appoint LUTC liaison.

None of the LUTC members present were able to serve as a liaison to the new SALC. Garlynn will see if Ben is able to attend as the liaison.

## LUTC Operations

Minutes – The draft June minutes were sent out via email prior to the meeting.

***MOTION*** (Steve/Tyler) – *To approve the June 21, 2017 minutes as drafted. **APPROVED** (3 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain)*

## Demolitions, Developments, & Land Use Notices

1. Demo at 3223 NE Killingsworth – A neighbor who lives directly behind this home slated for demolition shared his concerns with LUTC members who provided information and suggestions:

- Proposed demolition in August 14.
- LUTC members suggested talking with other immediate neighbors who have also received the notice to see if they interested in requesting support from the CNA.
- There are three reasons a demolition delay request/appeal can be made:
  - Historical significance, architectural significance, or importance to the community.
  - Additionally, someone has to show the means to buy the property if the developer is willing to sell it/negotiate with the neighbors.
  - Neighbors could apply for a delay and then maybe have some influence on the final development.
- Time is not on our side.
- If you want to appeal, plan on coming to the CNA Board meeting next month, August 2 at 7pm in the Community Room.

2. Concordia Neighborhood Design Initiative Team Update (CNDI) – Tabled.

## Land Use Oversight and Policies

Better Housing by Design – Garlynn shared that the public comment window is now open and the City’s report is available to respond to.

- The deadline to comment is August 7.
- The City is proposing to rewrite the high-density (R3, R2, R1) residential zoning code, including reducing height and FAR (floor area ratio) and allowing increased density (i.e. number of units). This is a step in the right direction in terms of moving toward a form-based code.
- Send any comments to Garlynn by email.

## Transportation

1. Street Safety: Highway 30 – CNA letter to Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)
  - The letter needs to be finalized; Sam was working on it.
  - The Board has already approved sending a letter on this topic to ODOT.
2. Parking: Plan for September General Meeting
  - Garlynn has been in touch with the speakers, though they are not confirmed yet.

## LUTC Operations

CNews Land Use Articles – Review and update article schedule.

Author	Issue	Due	Topic
Jay	September	8/10	Concordia Design Initiative

**Adjourn** – The LUTC agreed to meet in August to talk about parking and plan for the September general meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.