

Whitaker Community Council General Meeting 7/8/15

Board Attendees:

Claire Sgrett
Sam Hahn
Maggie Mayham
Cathy Feely
Kelley Jordan
Alieta Train
Emily West
Jevon Peck
Aaron Moore
Brad Foster
Lefty Kellehon

Community Members:

Ben Green (Wolf Spirit Distillery)	anti.cosmic@hotmail.com
Rick Levin	Rick@EugeneWeekly.com
Michael Life	541-344-8339
Scott Boyes	Skettart@yahoo.com

Notes:

Ben Green attended for an open comment section representing Wolf Spirits distillery. The open comment was on his own accord in recommendation by OLCC and Wolf Spirits Attorney. The distillery will be at 1st and Monroe by the Home Fermenter, sharing a parking lot with Dari Mart. They will serve vodka only and are only allowed to distill up to, but no more than, 30 gallons a day of 190 proof vodka. In order to distill any more than this they would need to be in a different zone and would be considered hazardous material. The space is under 1200 sqft and should add no harsh smells to the neighborhood. They have applied for OLCC permit and have already met with the city. As far as parking goes, the city is only requiring them to have bike racks inside and outside, no additional parking. They have no events planned for in the building (it's small) and they have no intentions of utilizing the parking lot for spirit festivals or otherwise. They will be serving 1/4 oz tastes. At this time they have no proposed hours of operations and expect it will be a while out before they receive their DSP permit as they have to have all of the equipment and space set up before they can apply, and then it should take around 8 months to receive. Javan and Sam discussed the good neighbor agreement that we would ask them to supply with their OLCC application for neighbor security. Ben will reach out to the OLCC to get Hop Valleys as an example. Ben was very kind, generous with

information and willing to compromise and collaborate with the WCC to make his business welcome.

Michael Life:

Michael's nephew was injured on May 1st of this year while crossing 1st and Adams. He was struck by a moving vehicle (not a hit and run) and nearly killed. He is now blind in one eye and deaf in one ear. Michael is very concerned about this intersection and the dangerous driving in the neighborhood. He reported 3 drunk driving accidents within 50 yards of his home, although the incident with his nephew was not due to drinking and driving it did bring up some parking, traffic, and road engineering issues that many shared concerns about.

At this time Michael has reached out to the Mayor and Engineering emailed him back. Chief Kerns is supposed to be having someone contact Mike and has requested someone to do a traffic enforcement of the area. Engineering may not be responding to emails because they are trying to figure out how to address the issue. Although City Council cannot instruct Engineering they can make policies to enforce, such as the Vision Zero plan which maintains a vision for zero traffic fatalities and intends to move all engineering toward that goal. Claire is encouraging us to take up the conversation on this to get some action happening.

Brad will be writing a letter to city council to address issues and dangers and to request action to prevent crashes in the neighborhood. Sam will review letter and read in front of city council, Michael might be able to bring his nephew along to speak up about his collision and injuries.

Emily also brought up 1st and Jefferson by the Rose Garden. No sidewalk.

Cathy discussed flow through Whitaker and issue of only one bridge funneling people around the Whitaker. Is there plans to widen Jefferson bridge? Claire says there are no plans.

Lefty brought up Blaire blvd which was promised to have one yellow strip all the way between 4th and 5th and how dangerous this portion of the road is.

Sam does not own a bicycle at this time.

Alieta will be collecting community input from the facebook group. Where are the dangerous traffic spots in the Whitaker. We will add these hot spots to the letter than Sam presents to city council. Claire

encouraged us to invite city council members, city engineers and city planners on a walking tour of the neighborhood during peak traffic hours in the Whitaker for them to observe the issues and dangers that arise in our neighborhood so they can see first hand that it is a real issue that needs to be resolved.

We will then advertise a group gathering at a public comment meeting with the City Council where we will get them to pay attention to this issue. Big rukus.

Parking Update: 2nd and VanBuren Trackside
Negotiations for track side auto lot are moving along. Trackside is excited to be working with us. They are taking a reasonable stance on paying for updates and repairs we need to make this work. There is a drain in the lot which will make construction easier and more affordable if we were to purchase the lot. Ninkasi is down to help financially.

The previous negotiations (711 lot?) which were asking for a 5 million insurance policy as well as us paying the property taxes have been lightened to no property taxes and only a 1 million dollar insurance policy... which is much better!

Since there is so much space at trackside there should be some fun planning on utilizing the rest of the space... art space? Train car boxes?

Ninkasi's logo won't be bigger than anyone else's.
Ninkasi wants to be respectful with their involvement, while they are excited it sounds as though they don't want this to backfire - their intentions are good and we are excited to have their support. Since they have received some backlash from previous community donations, it's good to acknowledge these sensitivities in investment.

We are unsure, at this point, if there will be an option to buy the trackside lot at some point after or during the lease. We would like to write it into our lease that we will have the first option to buy if it comes up. For now we plan on leasing it to the WCC with donations from Ninkasi.

Emily brought up a good point. With the coming parking lots, we will be expecting much more foot traffic from both ends of the Whitaker. This will amplify the need to be on the radar of the city planners and engineers in order to keep pedestrians safe in the Whitaker.

NEEDLES:

Sam brought up a needle issue, needles in the alley? Anyone else noticing needles around?

Javan will coordinate with HIV Alliance to come to a future meeting to discuss options for clean up. It would be nice to have some more drop boxes, but we are unsure of how the neighborhood would receive this. If anyone can supply research that shows needle boxes do not increase needle use or user traffic in an area that would be great!

Lefty shared with us that HIV Alliance used to manage several boxes in the neighborhood, when it was much worse. Now that it has improved these boxes have left the neighborhood and we are unsure of why and unsure if it is possible to get some back. HIV alliance attended the great Whitaker clean up a few weeks back and knew a lot of the hot spots to hit. Time to get these pros involved with another meeting.

SEPTEMBER ICE CREAM OR SOUP SOCIAL... at Scobert Park. While there have been many an effort to clean up Scobert park it is good to remember to go there. Our ice cream social is there, maybe some other outdoor events could be planned there.

Website:

Aaron is still trying to get the password for hosting. Tom does not have password.