

WCC Board Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2017

No Quorum (6)

Plus: Bruns, Bikeshare & Sumer

Agenda

Bruns Liquor License

Bike Share program

Next Eugene City Council Meeting (2/27)

Bruns Liquor License

The owners of Bruns Red Apple (Tad, Tom and Janna Bruns) came and discussed their plans to open a liquor store inside the Bruns Red Apple Market. The liquor store will be placed inside the market on the NW corner of the building. They will enclose the area with the roof overhang and the entrance will be inside the market with a roll down type of door when the liquor store is closed.

They applied for a license to operate a liquor store in August and were approved approximately three weeks ago. The OLCC is changing the formula for how many stores they have in Oregon and are opening 14 new stores in the Portland area and one each in Lane, Linn, and Benton Counties. Out of ten applicants, three were chosen. Two of those are in Eugene, One of those is Bruns, the other is a wine store on 40th Avenue.

Bruns currently does not sell fortified wines or 40 oz beers. They said they had no interest in serving those customers and they had the same attitude about hard liquors. They have not yet decided upon the final offerings, but they expressed no interest in selling the small bottles (single servings) of alcohol. They said their intention is to pursue the recreational drinker.

Hours of operation would be as follows:

7am to 10am. The liquor store would be open for operation but entrance would require pushing a buzzer for entry.

10am to 8pm. The liquor store would be open

8pm to 10pm. The liquor store would be open for operation but entrance would require pushing a buzzer for entry.

10pm to 11pm. The market closes at 11pm but during this last hour the liquor store would be closed entirely.

OLCC is requiring postings the first part of March at the store communicating the liquor store is coming and Bruns will distribute 500 postcards in the adjoining neighborhood communicating the liquor store and inviting feedback.

The Board discussed Bruns signing a good neighbor agreement and they were receptive to this.

Bike Share

Justin Wiley from San Francisco Social Bicycles is in Eugene to meet with different neighborhood groups, public and private agencies to discuss bike sharing. The intention is to have 300 bicycles offered at 35 stations in the University, downtown and Whiteaker neighborhoods by September. They are also looking for locations for the bike stations and a location for maintenance. The best locations are destination points, like nightlife and restaurants, and dense housing areas. They could put smaller stations in residential locations.

The bikes have a shaft drive (chainless), adjustable seats, baskets, lights, bells, etc. and strong locking systems with GPS.



The Social Bicycles is headquartered in NY and their bicycles are currently in many locations in the US and internationally: <http://socialbicycles.com/#where>

The pricing is \$15 per month for the bicycles for use 1 hour per day with an additional cost of \$5 per hour overage. Once someone signs up they get a code to enter to get the bicycle to ride. Once you join you can use the bicycles in other cities as well. There is some low income pricing Social Bicycles is discussing with the City.

The City and University would own the bicycles and there is a five year contract for the program. The City will provide funding for development costs.

There will need to be sponsors for ongoing operational expenses after startup. The bicycles can be different colors and sponsors could have a station/bicycles in their corporate or selected colors. There was some discussion of ADA accessible bicycles in Portland where they did purchase some hand crank bicycles.

They are hiring a few positions in Eugene, including a General Manager for the program <http://socialbicycles.com/pdf/SoBiGeneralManagerEugene.pdf>

Eugene General Manager

FULL TIME / EUGENE, OR

Social Bicycles seeks a full-time General Manager for Eugene Bike Share.

Duties include:

- Assist in all aspects of pre-launch activities, including:
 - Installation and deployment of bicycles, stations and visual branding assets
 - Assist in station site planning efforts
 - Manage the relationship between the city, partners and local community
- Manage all aspects of day to day operations:
 - Receive, track and manage inventory
 - Identify key marketing partners
 - Recruit, train and manage a diverse workforce necessary to core program functions
 - Working with the Operations Manager to manage operational functions

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City Council Meeting Feb 27

We discussed at the General meeting on Feb 8 the neighborhood desire to attend a City Council meeting en-masse and discuss issues within the Whit. The community suggested we discuss talking points and give them a couple of ideas. What we discussed is below

- The City is not aware of what happens in the Whit
- Crime in the Neighborhood and impacts (theft,-including bike chop shops, substance abuse, illegal camping)
- Proportional distribution of City Funds for EPD and livability studies to what is spent downtown.
- Homelessness and the City's lack of resolution to resolve, impact on the Whit
- Disbursement of shelters/camps throughout the City
- Enforcement of existing laws
- Increasing EPD and adding Community Policing
- The Mission and the impact of its feeding more people than they house/treat.

We also discussed creating a statement to be read by a representative from the Whiteaker board that would represent the WCC.

Cathy said she had written a letter to the City recently and we could use that to begin formulating the statement, which needs to be limited to two minutes in length when read.

Dear Mayor and City Councilors,

I made some statements during the public session on Monday Feb 13 and wasn't able to get to everything so I am writing to provide you with my full thoughts.

First, Homelessness:

I think we need new terminology for the homeless issue. The problem is there are the unhoused and the unhousable. We can build shelters and create programs for the unhoused, but a homeless shelter is going to have the same rules the mission has. You won't be able to go there high or drunk and your behavior will have to be sociable to others. There are a large number of people who won't take their mental health meds, who won't clean-up, who just won't play well with others or who just want to 'not have our morals imposed on them' and they want to live free and camp wherever. Those people will continue to be unhousable and we need a plan of enforcement for that group.

For the unhoused, I think the residents of Eugene would be willing to pay for specific bond measures supporting programs, but not a large, unwieldy bond measure that is undefined and targeted loosely to the homeless.

I think the biggest impact we can have as a community is not to build a homeless shelter, but to build affordable housing. This will help people not become homeless in the first place and will help those who are homeless through bad luck and living on the financial edge get back up on their feet. This is where we should be concentrating our immediate funds and energies.

I think we should then concentrate on the other biggest underlying issues:

Regardless of Lane County's mandate to fund mental health, that is not happening and the City of Springfield has opted out of the conversation. This leaves the City of Eugene with the negative impacts. We need to recognize that the mental health experts approach to "the mentally ill just need to live in the communities" doesn't work for everyone and for those it fails, they are out on the streets. Sure its cheaper to warehouse the mentally ill on the streets and in the prisons than out in Junction City, but is that really what we should be doing? We need to work with the Governor and Lane County and challenge the approach about all mentally ill are ok to live in our communities instead of being cared for professionally. The costs are just being shuffled from the state level to the City level with the current approach. We should also have a community mental health court and run people with behavior issues through programs and provide enforcement via the mental health hospitals for those who refuse to participate.

The reason we have drug laws is because illegal drugs are detrimental to individuals and to our societies. Sure, its easier to say these people are addicted and don't have the ability to pay fines, etc if we enforce our laws, but the problem is getting worse with that approach, not better. If we enforce our laws instead of warehousing the addicts in our parks and neighborhoods and fund a community court that routs them through mandatory substance abuse programs or jail it sends a clear message that we are willing to help them, but they have to be engaged also. Isn't that really what we expect in our society?

Once we have the programs in place above, then a homeless shelter makes sense. It can take those people who are unhoused and in between the cracks above or participating in the programs and house them until they are back on their feet. The homeless are coming from everywhere to Eugene, I don't know if the data is collected as the social service agencies work with them, but it would be a good statistic. Aside from those just gravitating here because we're accepting of the homeless here, the Eugene Mission told me during a tour that they basically trade clients with other regionally based missions as they fail out of one, they send them to another one. When they continue to fail out they just stay in community for the last one they were at. If we don't have plans in place and just build a public shelter, Eugene is going to be even more of a draw than we are now.

We have to have the backbone as a community to decide what our collective morality is. There is a side of the community that wants to help everyone, as long as they don't have it in their neighborhood (nimby, nimby, nimby) and there is a side of the community that just wants everyone gone. Neither of those things are realistic and we are stuck not doing anything while we watch our community deteriorate.

For the unhousable, people who go through the above programs and fail or who just refuse to house for whatever reason, police enforcement and jail time is necessary to send the message about what we want our collective community to be.

A good example is during Monday's meeting Michael from CALC got up and said how he had a very lovely homeless guy who 'for some reason' the Mission wouldn't take in. They wouldn't take him in because he was either drunk or high. So CALC housed him on their porch for the night. Is CALC zoned as a homeless shelter? Not okay. Yet CALC used this person as their poster child for a homeless shelter. He likely wouldn't have been let in their either.

Whiteaker

Whiteaker is in the midst of a crisis. The City of Eugene has made enforcement of laws not a priority and the lack of a unified vision and programs to keep the neighborhood safe and intact has had a detrimental effect.

We have an 80% rental rate and a 20% homeless population in Whiteaker right now. If the City of Eugene does not start enforcing laws and assisting with programs to stabilize Whiteaker it is going to be a slum. People are selling their houses and absentee landlords are picking up the properties. As more renters move in those properties are not being cared for and the level of the neighborhood is sinking. Increasingly there are conversions of residents to businesses further deteriorating the number of residents available. We're having increasing gang related activities, including murder, as a result of the neighborhood destabilization.

There is thinking that if we just add enough activities then the homeless issues will somehow magically resolve themselves. We added the skate park but when they bring in groups of kids to use the skate park they have to come with evacuation vans so the kids can have a place to hang out while not skating and so they can take them offsite somewhere to use the bathrooms. No one ever uses the horse shoe pit anymore to practice, they only clean it up and use it for a couple of tournaments a year. IT ISN'T WORKING.

- We need the homeless camps removed from Whiteaker and its immediate borders and only the Mission remains. I say 'only' because they can feed up to 1000 people now and they only house 400 people. This means that 400-600 people are camping in the Whit every night.
- We need a cap on how many people the Mission feeds vs how many they can house nightly so we don't have the illegal encampments we have every night.
- We need for the other neighborhoods to pick up the existing camps from the Whiteaker first, not create new camps and leave the existing ones in or bordering Whiteaker.
- We need for an increase in police servicing Whiteaker and we need community police officers who are assigned to the Whit and walk or bicycle around within the community enforcing our laws.
- We need for the City to partner with NEDCO and provide funding for down payments for first time home buyers who will be owner-occupiers of residents for X number of years (10?) within the Whiteaker. This needs to be a multi-year effort (over a dozen years?). The City also needs to follow up with those home owners with existing home repair programs so the homes can be brought up to current standards.

We need for the Eugene City Council to show leadership and move forward immediately on these items.

Cathy.

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Mayor Vinis' Response

I appreciate this email. It's thoughtful and thorough, and I agree with many of your points. There's no question that Housing First is the preferred long term strategy for rehousing folks. The problem is that we have too many people all over this community, and particularly in Whiteaker, for whom we simply don't have the resources to serve – either in providing safe emergency shelter or in finding supportive housing under a Housing First model. It is a crisis not of our making. To your point about Eugene as a magnet, and wondering about data: all of the providers enter information about their clients through a shared database managed by the county. This gives us very reliable numbers about who is being served, and most folks without housing – Dan Bryant recently quoted 70% -- last lived in a permanent address in Lane County. There is migration and turn-over, but restricting services or increasing enforcement will not stem the tide.

We need to share the burden with other public entities and the private sector, and we need to expand our capacity. Both depend on public commitment and understanding and I hope to help move that critical conversation forward

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When we discussed the point highlighted in yellow above at the Board meeting, Brad noted that many people either give the Mission address or may have briefly had a Eugene address to provide but they were actually from other locations and the number from outside the area is much higher than the 30% Dan Bryant is contending.