

Concordia Neighborhood Association
General Meeting
March 14, 2017
Kennedy School Community Room, 7 to 8:30pm
MINUTES

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Chris Lopez welcomed everyone and briefly reviewed the meeting agenda:

- Introductions of CNA Board and Committee Members.
- Committee Reports – brief overview of what they are up to.
- Commissioner Dan Saltzman followed by Q&A.
- General discussion / ideas solicited from attendees about direction the CNA should go.

Board and Committee members introduced themselves.

CNA Committee Reports

1. Finance

Jody Pollak gave an overview of the Finance Committee. She noted the committee is brand new and currently made up of her, a new Board member, and Heather Pashley, also a new Board member and newly elected Treasurer. She shared that they hope to have strong committee to support the Board and the neighborhood association as a whole. Daniel Greenstadt invited people to get involved and suggested they talk with Jody or Heather to learn more.

2. Land Use and Transportation

Ben Earle, LUTC Secretary, and Tyler Bullen, LUTC Vice Chair, provided an overview of the LUTC. The committee meets the third Wednesday of the month from 7 to 9pm at the Kennedy School in the Community Room. There are nine official members and the meeting is open to anyone to attend. The committee covers livability issues, housing, demolitions, speed limits, etc. In response to a question about the Ainsworth median and if anyone had heard of a change to shift all maintenance responsibility to adjacent property owners, it was suggested the LUTC could look into this if people wanted them to. Also, it was suggested that this would be a good question for Commissioner Saltzman. In response to a question if the LUTC was the right place to come with traffic concerns, the answer was yes – please come to a meeting or email landuse@concordiapdx.org. Ben noted the LUTC handouts available near the door and that a new design committee has formed. If people wanted to join the LUTC email list, they should let Ben know by email at lutc_secretary@concordiapdx.org.

3. Media

Daniel Greenstadt gave an overview of the Media Team, which puts out the Concordia News and takes care of the CNA website and social media. He suggested the committee is always in need of administrative support, people to write articles, news tips, and help with the website. The Media Team meets the first Tuesday of the month at the Kennedy School in the Community Room.

4. Social

Katie Ugolini gave an update on the Social Committee, which organizes many community events and is always in need of volunteers. She added that people do not have to be on the committee to help with an event. Upcoming events, which will be detailed in the Concordia News, include:

- April 15 Spring Egg Hunt at Fernhill Park on at 10am sharp. Help is needed the night before to stuff eggs and on Saturday morning hiding the eggs.
- May 20 Annual Spring Clean Up at the PCC Workforce site at NE 42nd Ave and NE Killingsworth, from 8am to 12:30pm. Bulky waste disposal, battery recycling, non-curbside plastic recycling, metal recycling, and more for a suggested donation depending on the size of the load. Knife sharpening will also be available for a fee, with part of the proceeds to benefit CNA.
- CNA Yard Sale, June 23-25. Participants get to be on a print and online map, get signs and balloons, and the sales are advertised in the Oregonian.
- Summer Concerts in Fernhill Park on each Friday evening in July, plus the first Friday in August followed by the Lego Batman movie. Help is needed raising money. Businesses can become sponsors and have a presence at all five concerts; talk with Katie for details.

5. Policy and Procedure; Safety and Livability

Daniel briefly noted that these two committees are currently dormant. The Safety and Livability topics are currently wrapped into the Land Use and Transportation Committee, but really should be separate as the LUTC has a lot on its plate.

Featured Guest – Commissioner Dan Saltzman

Steve Elder introduced Portland City Commissioner Dan Saltzman. It is his fourth term on the City Council.

Commissioner Saltzman noted that since the election and bureau reassignments he now is the Commissioner in charge of Transportation, Fire and Rescue, and the Children's Levy. He provided an overview of what's going on at City Hall, including the beginning of budget deliberations. They are currently looking at a cut budget, versus past years when they have been able to invest in City needs. This year there is a \$4 to \$5 million deficit in the ongoing budget (general fund) so they need to make cuts since the budget must be balanced per State law.

Commissioner Saltzman shared some highlights of Transportation Bureau (PBOT) and Children's Levy projects and accomplishments:

- Biggest capital improvement project proposed is \$5 million to bring every curb in Portland into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The City Budget Office accepted this budget proposal, which is good sign.
- PBOT Vision Zero funding request to make our streets safer for everyone. There were 44 pedestrian and cyclist fatalities last year. This year so far there have been four fatalities. Funding would be for improvements like cross walks, sidewalks, and bicycle-friendly improvements.
- PBOT is working well with Police Traffic Enforcement, especially in the outer Portland along Division from 82nd Ave to Gresham. Speed reductions are also helpful.
- Regarding speed safety cameras, the pilot one on SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy has lowered speeds by 90%. A 30-day warning period is given when one is first installed. PBOT is adding one more on Marine Drive.
- The Children's Levy, which must be approved by voters every five years, invests in programs that help children. Administration expenses are held at 5%.

Questions and comments from attendees and responses followed:

- What is the timeline/approach to pothole repair?
 - Commissioner Saltzman – PBOT has been able to get out there to fill potholes when we had the last nice stretch of weather. More will get filled ASAP when it stops raining. Please report potholes to the City using the pothole hotline, online, or via the PDX Reporter app. There is an interactive map online that shows where they have been patched.
- NE 33rd Ave. becomes a truck route when I-84 is backed up, maybe due to Google Maps showing it as an alternate route. Due to the increased traffic, neighbors tend avoid 33rd and use other streets instead, which makes it less safe for kids. How can the City help?
 - Commissioner Saltzman – The City has a new agreement with Waze to add schools, speed limits, and other information to Google Maps in an effort to provide more information to drivers who are avoiding traffic jams on the highways.
- Regarding the budget deficit of \$4 to \$5 million, how does that compare to the total budget?
 - Commissioner Saltzman – The total budget is \$2 billion, with the general fund at \$400 million.
- What is the City doing to try and combat gentrification?
 - Commissioner Saltzman – PDC's right of return policy is one tactic. It is less than a year old and applies to people displaced by urban renewal projects. Also, voters approved the first every affordable housing bond measure last fall. The goal is to build housing in high opportunity areas, so residents can live near where they work, and have access to good schools, parks, and other amenities.
- Can you help Concordia champion a community center in our neighborhood? The track area of Fernhill Park could be a good location.
 - Commissioner Saltzman – The challenge is that it is very expensive to build one; we would likely need a voter-approved bond measure to pay for it. This area is certainly deficient and deserving of one. Inner SE Portland is also interested in a community center. Perhaps there are opportunities for a public-private partnership with Concordia University.
- Regarding homeless issues, what is the City's vision to clean up garbage after homeless camps are emptied out? The garbage left behind can be a health hazard.
 - Commissioner Saltzman – The Mayor recently announced an effort to clean up Sullivan's Gulch and more areas certainly need to be cleaned up. However, people can always come back. Long-term we need to house more people.
- I am a strong supporter of Vision Zero. As an avid cyclist, I have noticed that the green paint/markings have already worn off after just one year. In Europe and other places that marking material lasts a lot longer. Perhaps PBOT can explore different options when they redo these markings. Also, thanks to PBOT for quickly cleaning up gravel in the bikes lanes after the snowstorms.
- With the growing road maintenance backlog, has the City ever considered pricing to help pay for road maintenance?
 - Commissioner Saltzman – \$70 million is needed this year, plus \$140 million per year for 10 years to get the transportation infrastructure back to a sustainable level. The State may be looking at tolling on State roads, which cities could apply to access. The City gas tax is helping but is not enough.
- Are air quality issues on the City Council's radar?
 - Commissioner Saltzman – While the Council is concerned, the oversight and regulation falls to the State DEQ. The City did fund mobile air quality monitoring equipment for Portland State University, which can be accessed by community groups.
- Also related to air quality, is addressing dirty diesel pollution from trucks on the City's legislative agenda for Salem? Washington and California no longer allow older diesel trucks to operate in their respective states, which has led to dumping of older diesel trucks for use in Oregon.
 - Commissioner Saltzman – Yes, this topic is on the City's legislative agenda and is of concern.

- Do you know who is responsible for maintaining the Ainsworth media?
 - Commissioner Saltzman – I am not sure, but I can certainly find out.
- Do you anticipate Portland losing federal funding as a sanctuary city?
 - We have not heard anything specific from Washington, DC in terms of taking monies away from sanctuary cities.

Commissioner Saltzman was thanked for his time.

Community Issues of Concern

- I would like CNA to focus on air quality issues. Cully and North Portland Harbor Neighbors both have very active groups working to raise awareness about air pollution from specific industrial businesses and DEQ permitting and lack of enforcement of current permits. In Concordia we are also affected by these industries and others, depending on which way the wind is blowing.
 - NECN tracks these issues and can help. They recently hosted a workshop on the topic of diesel pollution. Mary Peveto from Neighbors for Clean Air could come talk to CNA. This would be a good topic for a Safety and Livability Committee.
- I am very concerned about speeding traffic on NE Prescott as well as safety at NE 33 and Prescott and north. The City has made an effort with crosswalks near Going where the bike greenway crosses, but many drivers are unaware and find it hard to stop once they see a cyclist or pedestrian waiting.

Announcements

Matt and Zoya with the Portland Community Tool Bank introduced themselves. The Tool Bank is a not-for-profit tool lending program that provides tools for neighborhood, school, community, and non-profit groups for clean ups and other events. The tools are rented to only groups, not homeowners or other individuals, at a low rental rate and can be kept for a week. For more information go to portlandtoolbank.org.

Gina shared information about the garden project at Faubion School in conjunction with PPS, CU, and CNA. There will be lots of community events starting in the fall. Many will be educational. Watch CNews for details.

Regarding CNews, let businesses know you saw their ad in the CNews. Also, volunteers are needed to help deliver stacks of CNews to businesses in the neighborhood.

Meeting Adjourned – Chair Lopez adjourned the meeting at 8:45pm.