

April 3, 2013 Minutes

Collins View Neighborhood Association (CVNA)

Next Board Meeting--- Wednesday, May 1, 2013, 7 pm

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Web site: <http://www.collinsview.org/> and <https://collinsview.nextdoor.com/login/>

Attendees: Prakash Joshi, Officer Andrew Caspar, Samantha Walker, Jeff Feld-Gore, Bob Fischer, Dana Fischer, C. Davis Parchment, Charlotte Joshi, Leann Knapp, Gene Lynard, Maryellen Read, Paula Robinson, Jim Vandomelen, Fran Laird, Anna Browne, Kimberly French, David Johnston, Dixie Johnston,

Meeting convened at 7 PM.

The chair, Joshi Prakash introduced the agenda and reminded the attendees that the annual election is coming up in the next meeting on May 1.

Crime and Public Safety— Officer Caspar reported that there were no major issues in the neighborhood this past month. That said, there was a house robbery between 1:30 and 3 PM on the 17th of March where a number of electronic items were stolen. How the thieves gained entry to the house was unclear. There was also a “car prowl” in the Market of Choice parking lot where thieves stole a gym bag after breaking a side window. A trailer was also stolen from the 9100 block of Terwilliger though the owner did not want to file a police report. He observed also that there were some “internal problems” at LC that made it into police statistics.

He noted that the streets were now clear of boats and trailers that were previously parked illegally but asked CVNA members to be attentive to people again violating parking rules as the summer months come along.

There was an observation that people continue to unload refuse at night in the dumpsters at Riverdale and the LC baseball field. Paula Robinson said that they tried to put locks on the Riverdale dumpsters but these had been broken off. Officer Caspar said he will try to pay more attention to these areas at night especially since he often parks in the area to write reports.

Officer Caspar was asked about how police deal with people who drive and text. He reported that Portland has a “hands free” rule that does not allow the use of any hand held device while driving, whether for talking or texting. He stops and cites people for a violation whenever he observes such illegal use although he finds that many people simply did not know about the “hands free” rule.

Jim Vandomelen related a story about a bad automobile accident that was caused by a person using a cell phone. Prakash said that when an accident occurs that may be linked to cell phone use, it was a good strategy to take a picture of the scene with your own cell phone as quickly as possible after the accident. This will record the time of the accident on your cell phone. The cell phone record of the offending driver can later be checked against the time of the accident to verify if they were on the phone when the accident occurred.

Gene Lynard said that in the SWINI Crime and Public Safety Meeting in March, Officer Hughes said that there has been a spike in car thefts (35 so far) in SW neighborhoods this year. On the other hand, burglaries were down: 58 last year at this time but only 30 so far this year.

Gene also reported that the Red Cross is offering to conduct “Emergency Preparedness” presentations to SW neighborhoods this year. Prakash verified that he had been contacted by the Red Cross with the offer to conduct a 1 or ½ hour presentation, at no charge, to motivate neighborhoods to prepare for a major earthquake. He will follow up on this contact.

Finally, Gene said that it has been a longstanding tradition that SWINI organize a “Community Policing Reception” every year to recognize the work of law enforcement professionals who work in the area. He said this reception, which costs around \$700 and involves 100 – 120 people, has traditionally been financed by a Portland grant to SWINI. Due to financial strains in the city, SWINI will not be getting a grant this year and it is the hope that each SW neighborhood association will be able to chip in around \$50 for a reception this year.

Maryellen Read gave an update on plans to organize CPR training for CVNA neighbors. Although attempts of solicit help from the Fire Department and Red Cross to conduct this training have been complicated and expensive, Maryellen said that the Portland NET staff have offered to conduct the training for the nominal cost of \$4 per person (mainly to cover the cost of documenting training and issuing cards). This training will also include experience with automatic defibrillators. It was agreed that NET would conduct this training for 15 persons (the limit) on Thursday, June 6 between 6:30-9:30 in the Riverdale High School Cafeteria. The availability of this training will be advertized on NextDoor. If many more than 15 people are interested, it is hoped that CVNA and neighbors can solicit more help from NET in the future.

Land use— Dave Johnston reported that there has now been notice of a public hearing (April 17th at 9 AM) on the planned development at 803 SW Maplecrest Drive. Samantha Walker said that she had been speaking with a number of neighbors who have voiced concern about the plan. These issues have included: concern that the development is completely out of character with the neighborhood (with sidewalks and a road that is wider than Maplecrest itself); concern that the access road to the development intersects with Maplecrest on a “blind curve”; and, unclear plans for which trees will be saved (the fate of a number of very old and large Cedars is not spelled out.)

In general discussion it was observed that it had long been the tradition in the area that, when land was subdivided, they would have a “Flag Lot” with a street-facing structure that retained the look of the neighborhood and then perhaps more modern houses behind that lot. This plan looked like it was a “development” in the neighborhood. Doubt was expressed by several that this development really could subdivide the area into 4 “R-10” size lots, although the plans do seem to indicate these measurements.

Jim Vandomelen expressed strong concerns about the plans which he thought were not truthful on one critical point. Jim observed that with the removal of so many trees and the development of so many impervious surfaces (wide road, sidewalks, driveways), water runoff was going to increase in the area and overload an already marginal system. He said that the culvert that discharges on Lot 49 already has serious erosion problems during heavy rains. He thinks that more thought needs to be given to having sidewalks at all and other ways to mitigate the pending drainage problems.

Further in general discussion, it was observed that the developer, in a seemingly strange twist, had a meeting to discuss his plan with the Marshall Park Neighborhood Association (though the development was not in their area) but had not really approached CVNA.

Dave Johnston observed that many of the items in this plan (like sidewalks, width of street etc) were probably required by the city in the first instance although they could be perhaps negotiated differently at the hearing. He offered to get together with neighbors who had concerns to give them counsel about what might be realistic to expect from the hearing as well as how to focus and express their concerns. It was tentatively agreed (pending a careful check of calendars) that Dave would hold this meeting at Riverdale High School on April 10. The meeting would be advertised on NextDoor. Prakash too expressed hope that CVNA can work to channel concerns in a way that is helpful and not just harass a developer and the legitimate economic interests that surround such efforts.

SWNI— C. Davis Parchment reported that SWNI is having to deal with some serious budget cuts resulting from current constraints within the Portland City budget. They brought in a facilitator who tried to help them establish priorities in their activities and to look to ways to become more economical, especially in their communications. There is hope that they can update mailing lists for “SW News” and perhaps a move to more electronic distribution of this publication. They are also looking at how they might use NextDoor for communications and reducing reliance on emails. The city budget hearings, which are also being advertised on NextDoor, will be April 11 at Montgomery Park and May 15th at City Hall.

Lewis & Clark Student Delegates— Leanne Knapp said that the Student Association welcomed the idea that LC students could volunteer for neighborhood projects and that she would be talking the issue next to the relevant subcommittee. Following up on the last meeting, Bob Fischer said that the board of the Greenwood Cemetery had thought that it would be very helpful for students to help with cleaning up leaves at the cemetery next year. CVNA will revisit this suggestion next fall. Prakash too said that the idea of having the CVNA meet with and make a presentation to the LC Student Association should be planned for next fall when the new academic year commences.

Lewis & Clark— Jeff Feld-Gore reported that one of their students had been killed while on spring break in San Francisco. He was a very popular student at LC and the school has been making a big effort to help grieving students and faculty. On a more positive note, the women’s tennis team is now 17th in the nation and the much celebrated LC International Symposium is being held April 8-10. He reported also that LC hosted their regular (4 times a year) Crime Prevention Meeting with city and local agencies including the SWINI (Gene Lynard attended). OLCC has been making a welcomed push to enforce alcohol-related rules in the area that have resulted, among other things, in a marked decline in the number of students who have required hospitalization for alcohol intoxication. Their next meeting is June 6.

Jeff also reported that commencement will be May 18 with attendant increases in traffic. Their Second Annual Concert (in Pamplin Sports Center) is scheduled for April 27. Finally he reported that LC was given recognition for its support to the Tryon Creek State Park and that Dave and Dixie Johnston were also recognized as outstanding guides. Prakash noted also that LC had been given a Presidential Award for Community Service.

Riverdale— Paula Robinson said that Riverdale had been surprised to learn recently that the Oregon Legislature was considering legislation (House Bill 2748) that would restrict public schools from receiving tuition from out-of-district students. This would basically affect only four schools in Oregon and it would be especially devastating to Riverdale since 1/3 of its students pay tuition (\$11,000 per annum). They are vigorously opposing parts of this legislation, trying to

get it amended in a way that will allow Riverdale to continue to exist and serve its student body as it does now.

Open Issues— Samantha Walker said she has been speaking with a neighbor who could not attend the meeting but wanted CVNA to address two issues in the neighborhood. First, this neighbor was concerned that several LC-owned houses, rented by students, were not well maintained. She asked CVNA to send a letter to LC requesting they maintain these houses better. Lacking details on what exactly the problems were and in light how LC has generally been very responsive to complaints that neighbors have brought to it directly, a motion was made and seconded that CVNA not send a letter to LC on this matter. The motion passed.

On a second issue, this same neighbor expressed concerns about a stop sign on Mapelcrest Drive that was not placed and maintained correctly. As head of the Transportation Committee, Prakash said he would bring this concern to the attention of the City of Portland.

Prakash said that the May 1 meeting will be very important and needs to be well advertised and attended. This meeting will concern itself with the selection of board members for next year and the transition of the CVNA chair to Samantha Walker. He was gratified to note that most of the current board members have agreed to continue to contribute their services to the neighborhood.

Finally, it was noted that there will be no CVNA meetings in July and August but that we need to set a date and have preliminary plans for the traditional neighborhood picnic in August. LC again volunteered to host the venue for the picnic and Jeff Feld-Gore thought that August 4 would be a date convenient to the school. He agreed to confirm this date with the school and have a definitive proposal at the May 1 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 pm

Next meeting Wednesday, May 1, at 7 pm, at Riverdale High School, 9727 SW Terwilliger Blvd, Portland.