

Markham minutes for Oct. 14, 2014

The meeting of the Markham Neighborhood Association was called to order at 7:00pm on Tuesday, October 14, 2014 at the home of Zahra Rahmani. Twenty-two neighbors were signed in. Also present as guests were two speakers and four PSU students who are doing a project on community health and the environment in Markham. Everyone introduced themselves with a brief statement given about why they were attending. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

John Gibbons, Land Use Representative for Markham and Chairman of Land Use for SWNI, discussed the new comprehensive plan for the city. The only planned change in the Markham Neighborhood is a variance in zoning for five properties on Lancaster. They are currently zoned for 10,000 sq. ft. and will be changed to 20,000 sq. ft. to protect wetlands. Though not in but affecting Markham, there are significant changes planned for Barbur Blvd. from commercial zoning to mixed use buildings four to five stories each with retail on the bottom. Multnomah Association is asking for our support in opposing similar changes in Multnomah that would increase the population there by 6000-8500 residents, which would create parking issues and change the character of Multnomah Village.

The Tryon-Creek headwaters plan was presented by Denver Igarta, Senior Planner and Project Manager from the Portland bureau of Transportation (PBOT). He said they are studying an area that encompasses the Tryon Creek and Stephens Creek Watersheds and part of the Markham Neighborhood with the goal of improving connectivity of local streets and safe access to important neighborhood destinations. The Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) will also be involved. They are currently counting traffic to assess volume and speed of traffic and will be conducting interviews to determine where people are walking and biking to arrive at destinations. The completion of the plan is expected by June, 2015. He suggested contacting your neighborhood project representative if you have questions or input. The Markham project representative is Phil Richman, who can be reached at philipjoelrichman@gmail.com.

Jennifer Devlin of BES presented a project for a green street planter on SW 19th Ave. between Orchid and Taylor's Ferry Rd. to be funded by grant money. The goals are to improve water quality in Tryon Creek and improve connections on a designated "Safe Routes to School" route, which also is part of SW Trail #6. The work will include removing invasive plants and re-grading the entire area. This is in the early stages, with no engineer assigned or work started, but she will be keeping us informed as plans progress. When asked about the possibility of a similar project on 19th between Lobelia and Marigold she said this is not part of the current project but could be considered in the future.

Ron Magnus spoke about the importance of Portland Neighborhood Emergency Teams (NET) who are trained to develop skills for saving lives and property during major disasters and catastrophes that could have widespread effects on power and transportation. He mentioned disasters that have occurred in the past and are expected in the future. He passed out pamphlets and encouraged people to learn more about NET, attend meetings, and enroll in one of the free ongoing training classes.

The last item on the agenda was the election of new officers. The following were elected unanimously: Donna Herron President, Kim Herron Vice President, Marie Young Secretary, Ron Magnus Public Safety

Chair, and Jeff Monaghan Transportation Committee Chair, and John Gibbons agreed to continue as Land Use Representative for one more term. There were offices not filled due to lack of volunteers. It was noted that the time for Markham elections is usually in May, so there will be another election at that time. Those present also voted to change the meeting place from Zahra's home to Capitol Hill School due to larger attendance and to meet monthly instead of quarterly. The next meeting will be on Wednesday , Nov.15 instead of Tuesday because the school will be closed on the 14th, which is a holiday.

Appreciation was expressed for outgoing officers Phil Richman President and Susan Cato Secretary and to Zahra Rahmani for the use of her home as a meeting place for the last few years. The meeting was then adjourned.