

Markham Minutes for April

The meeting was held April 8, 2014, 7pm, at the Rahmani care facility at 9015 SW 19th Ave. with Chairman Phil Richman presiding. Present were 11 neighbors and 2 guests. Leonard Gard, Program Manager from SWNI, presented speaker Jennifer Devlin from the Office of Environmental Services.

Ms. Devlin presented a project to install terraced rain gardens in the area between I-5 and Barbur Blvd. where Barbur Ct. runs down from Barbur Blvd, crosses 26th Way, and goes back up to Barbur. She said the purpose is to slow runoff velocity during heavy rains and allow pollutants of oil and sediment to settle out before reaching Tryon Creek, which runs alongside 26th Way. It should also prevent backup reported in yards on 26th Ave. on the other side of I-5. The appearance will be similar to the rain gardens on 17th Ave. at Taylor's Ferry Road except they will be terraced up a hillside. Ms. Devlin said the work should have minimal impact on traffic and noise in the neighborhood but to expect some night work and night time lane closures on I-5. The construction equipment will be stored on the large ODOT property where the work will be performed. She said she will be happy to answer any questions and gave her contact information as 503-823-6182 or jennifer.devlin@portlandoregon.gov.

At the end of her presentation Ms. Devlin stated there are several planned environmental projects in the SW neighborhoods and requested permission to present another one that is not in the Markham Neighborhood but affects those who enjoy walking along SW Trail #6 and another informal trail that leads from Taylor's Ferry Rd. to Arnold. This involves replacing an existing closed pipe culvert under Boone's Ferry Rd. just north of Arnold. The existing culvert is too small to allow fish to pass and also impedes the passage of pedestrians and wildlife. This will be replaced by an open bottom culvert. It might also include trail improvements. The project is planned to commence in July 2015.

Phil presented the three top priorities from the list of SWNI Transportation Priorities according to those Markham residents who responded directly to him. They are (1) 2004, pedestrian improvements to 26th Ave. from Spring Garden to Taylor's including a pedestrian walkway and street lighting, (2) 5005, multimodal improvements on Barbur from Terwilliger to the city limits, including sidewalks, trees, safe pedestrian crossings, enhanced transit access and stops, and bike lanes, and (3) 5006, a Barbur lane diet from Terwilliger to Capitol, reducing the number of northbound lanes from two to one and adding bike lanes over the Newberry and Vermont bridges. This does not include the responses of other Markham residents who may have responded directly to the survey online. Bill Chapman expressed his opposition to any rapid transit plan along Barbur based on cost and potential urbanization of the neighborhood.

Old business included updates on possible improvements to SW trail #6 along the unimproved section of SW 19th, including a safe crosswalk at 19th and Taylor's Ferry Rd., and on ways to slow traffic through the curve where Stanley intersects with SW 26th Ave. and with Ridge Way. Phil noted that Greg Raisman has recently taken over as our liaison with PBOT and Mark Lear, our outgoing liaison, will continue to be involved. A possible paved strip along 19th to improve ease of walking or biking was discussed. Phil pointed out that the negatives of this plan were the affect of an impermeable surface on stormwater management, the need to remove the barriers which have been placed for safety reasons, and the need to do this under an LID, which the neighbors in that area have soundly rejected twice in

the past. He would be in favor of placing bollards to slow traffic if the barriers were removed. There was further discussion but nothing new to report on the 26th to Stanley to Ridge Way traffic problem. Joan Peres stated her preference for lines on the pavement rather than the bollards which some residents at the previous meeting preferred. Phil will continue working on these issues with Greg.

The meeting was adjourned with the announcement of our next quarterly meeting July 8, 7pm, at the picnic tables in the park by the water tower on the north side of SW 17th Ave. between Marigold and Lobelia. This will be a potluck and families are welcome.

Susan Cato