

JWN e-News :: December 10, 2006

Timely and concise news and announcements related to the **Jefferson Westside Neighbors**.

If you'd like to be removed from this e-mail list, please reply to this message and let us know.

JWN Privacy Policy: JWN does not share member information with any organization.

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Visit the JWN Web site at: www.jwneugene.org .

Please contact either JWN co-chair (see below) if you have comments or questions.

===== UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS =====

***** JWN Holiday Party: THIS TUESDAY, December 12**

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m

McNail-Riley House on the NW corner of W. 13th Ave. and Jefferson Street.

-- No business meeting

-- PROGRAM: Holiday Party

Come join your neighbors to celebrate another year of neighborliness, hard work, and fun!

Children -- and children at heart! -- are especially encouraged to join the festivities.

We'll have hot cider for everyone. Please bring a potluck dish to share and your plates and utensils.

***** Future JWN meetings**

The full agenda and schedule, as well as information on future JWN meetings is available at:

<http://jwneugene.org/meetings>

Coming up!

-- January 9, 2007 : TBA

-- February 13, 2007 : TBA

***** JWN Executive Board Meeting: Tuesday, December 19**

The JWN Executive Board will meet December 19

6:45 p.m. to 8:30 p.m

McNail-Riley House on the NW corner of W. 13th Ave. and Jefferson Street.

You can find the JWN board meeting information on the Web at:
<http://jwneugene.org/meetings>

***** City Council meeting**
Monday, December 11
-- Decision on Measure 37 Claim for W. 1333 W. 10th Ave.
-- Motion to undercut Chambers area infill standards

7:30 p.m. Council meeting starts.
Council Chamber -- Eugene City Hall
777 Pearl Street

-- *M37 claim*

The JWN co-chairs and neighbors near the subject property have worked out a very positive agreement with the property owner to allow a detached, single-family home to be added to the lot in a way that will further the goals of the recently adopted Chambers Special Area Zone.

The JWN board voted unanimously to support the agreement.

Council held a public hearing on November 20 and is expected to take action at Monday's meeting. We anticipate Council approval.

For more information, see:
<http://jwneugene.org/m37>

-- *Chambers Special Area Zone infill standards*

* **FLASH!** * Earlier today we learned that David Kelly plans to introduce a motion that would attempt to undercut the Chambers Special Area Zone density standards. The JWN Executive Board has voted to oppose this action. (See item below.) If you're able, please attend and/or testify at the Council Public Forum (starts at 7:30 p.m.) in opposition to this motion. Contact the JWN co-chairs for additional information.

***** Upcoming City Council meetings.**

City Council meeting dates and topics are available on-line here:

www.eugene-or.gov

(On left) Quick links: Mayor and City Council

(On left) Navigation: Meeting Information

(On right) Tentative Working Agenda

===== JWN EXECUTIVE BOARD ACTIONS =====

***** November 21 (Regular board meeting)**

-- *Chambers Area Special Zone*

The Chambers Area Special Zone (CSAZ) that was adopted in December 2005 by Council implements infill standards for the portion of JWN roughly between Polk and Fillmore Streets and W. 8th and 13th Aves. The co-chairs reported on Councilor David Kelly's comments indicating that he may attempt to undercut the CSAZ density standards. The following motion was passed unanimously (8-0):

*Motion: The **Jefferson Westside Neighbors** (JWN) co-chairs shall take appropriate action to oppose any attempt to reconsider or revise the Chambers Special Area Zone or any of its development standards unless the revision is approved by the JWN Board or the general membership. The Co-Chairs are authorized to spend up to \$50 on this matter.*

The co-chairs sent a letter to City Council opposing any changes to CSAZ at this time.

For more information on the Chambers Special Area Zone, visit: www.cnrNeighbors.org

-- *Jefferson neighborhood "Area 15" policy*

The November 15 Planning Director decision on the interpretation of the "Area 15" policy in the Jefferson/Far West Refinement Plan essentially voids *all* development standards intended by the refinement plan and would throw this whole area open to unlimited, potentially destructive R-2 development. The appeal deadline was November 28, and there is no fee for filing an appeal. The following motion was passed unanimously (8-0):

*Motion: The **Jefferson Westside Neighbors** (JWN) co-chairs shall file an appeal of the code interpretation CI 06-13, which interprets the Area 15 policy of the Jefferson/Far West Refinement Plan. The co-chairs are authorized to spend no more than \$50 for associated costs unless the board or general membership votes to approve additional expenditures.*

The co-chairs filed the appeal on November 28. The hearing is set for January 11 at 5:00 p.m.

For more information on this issue, visit: www.jwneugene.org/jeffredes

***** December 4 (Emergency board meeting)**

-- *LUBA appeal of hearings official decision on lot partition*

The JWN has previously voted to oppose the lot partition at 933 W. 13th Ave. Although the lot partition was recently denied by the hearings official, the hearings official's decision ruled against the JWN on two critical issues: proper public notice and comment period; and the alley access prohibition & lot frontage standards. An appeal to the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) would potentially rectify those issues. The board approved the following motion unanimously (6-0):

The JWN co-chairs shall file a Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) appeal of the hearings official decision regarding land use application PT 06-43, a tentative partition

for 933 W. 13th Ave., conditional upon adequate funds being donated for the appeal fee or subsequent approval by a vote of the JWN membership to cover the appeal fee. The co-chairs are authorized to spend no more than \$50.00 on this appeal without a vote of the Executive Board or general membership.

Residents have donated the \$325 required for the appeal fee. The co-chairs will file the LUBA appeal shortly. Because the LUBA appeal process is straightforward and the evidence and arguments were thoroughly prepared for the local appeal, there are no plans to pay for an attorney to assist with this appeal. (The JWN board would welcome any *pro bono* assistance from JWN members who are attorneys. Contact either co-chair.)

For more information on this issue, visit: www.jwneugene.org/partition

===== NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS =====

***** REMINDER: Neighborhood Matching Grants**

Got an idea for a great project in your neighborhood? Need some money?

Then check out the Neighborhood Matching Grants program at:

www.eugene-or.gov

Select: City Quick Links -- Neighborhoods

Select NMG Applications

Pre-review deadline is January 15, 2007.

***** Group forms to address potential impacts of Em-X (bus rapid transit) route through Westside neighborhood**

The Eugene City Council recently voted to fund a transportation study of the West 11th Avenue Corridor in coordination with LTD's plan to extend LTD's EmX (Bus Rapid Transit) system westbound from the Eugene Station. This study is part of the City's effort to find an alternative to the abandoned West Eugene Parkway (WEP) project and to address transportation problems in West Eugene.

At the same time, City Council voted to study only the W. 11th Corridor for EmX, including all streets within 1/4 mile of W 11th Avenue. No other option is scheduled for study; and as of now, the results of the study will not be compared to any other alternative route for EmX. The corridor study is expected to take 18-24 months to complete.

The 1/4 mile reach means that EmX could be built on any street from W. 8th to 13th Avenues westbound from the Eugene Station. Major construction of this type could change neighborhood character, property values, the tree canopy, access to homes and driveways, street width, on street parking and rights of way.

A group of concerned neighbors recently organized to form **Residents for Responsible Rapid Transit**. The focus of RRRT will be to assess potential impacts of any EmX route

through residential areas and to identify and evaluate alternative routes.

Neighbors who are interested in working on this issue should contact:

Ilona Koleszar
513-7800
west11corridor@yahoo.com

***** Residents testify at Planning Commission Public Hearing on protection for Jefferson neighborhood**

On December 5, the Planning Commission held a public hearing on amendments to the Metro Plan, Jefferson/Far West Refinement Plan, and Eugene Code to designate this area as "low density". Adopting these amendments would temporarily fix the recent "redesignation" that exposed a fifteen block, single-family area of the Jefferson neighborhood to R-2 rezoning and grossly incompatible infill.

The JWN voted unanimously at the September 12 General Meeting to support these amendments.

There was a great turnout to support this important action to protect our neighborhood. The JWN co-chairs submitted extensive written testimony, including petitions signed by several hundred people in the JWN and outside.

You can still submit e-mail or written testimony through 5:00 p.m. THIS TUESDAY, December 12.

The Planning Commission will vote on a recommendation to City Council at a future meeting in December or January.

For more information, see:
<http://jwneugene.org/jeffredes.html>

***** Council asks City staff for response on McNail-Riley House**

In response to concerns raised by the JWN and other community organizations, Council has asked staff to explain their plans for the McNail-Riley House and take no action without Council approval.

If you wish to express any concerns, please feel free to contact the JWN co-chairs or Richie Weinmann at Richie.D.WEINMAN@ci.eugene.or.us .

For more information on this issue, visit: www.jwneugene.org/mcnailriley

***** Land Use Code Amendments (LUCA) process has first meeting on key updates to Eugene's land use code**

The City Planning staff and consulting team held their first meeting December 7 in the

process to make "key" changes to Eugene's land use code.

The meeting was well attended by neighborhood residents and neighborhood association leaders. The JWN co-chairs submitted a preliminary list of potential code changes that would help protect the neighborhood character.

We'll be posting a full report on the JWN Web site shortly, so check www.jwneugene.org for more information.

The "official" City information (very sparse) is at:

http://www.eugene-or.gov/portal/server.pt?space=CommunityPage&cached=true&parentname=CommunityPage&parentid=0&in_hi_userid=2&control=SetCommunity&CommunityID=228&PageID=1752

Or go to www.eugeneplanning.org and select "Code Amendments" from the left-side navigation list.

The JWN board will do our best to keep you informed and promote an effective public process. We'll also be closely involved in furthering the neighborhood's interest in fixing major flaws in the current residential zoning code.

***** New "Community Organization" page on JWN Web site**

Want to learn about other community organizations that play a role in the Jefferson and Westside neighborhoods? Would you like your organization to be listed on the JWN Web site?

The visit: www.jwneugene.org/communityorgs

To list an organization, contact the JWN co-chairs and provide:

- Organization name
- Brief description of membership and purpose. Please include an indication of how the organization purpose and activities relate *specifically* to the Jefferson and Westside neighborhoods.
- Web page URL (if any)
- Contact information (e-mail, mailing address, and/or phone)

Please note that the organizations listed on this page are independent of the JWN and their inclusion does not indicate any JWN endorsement.

***** JWN organizes neighborhood leaders' discussion with new Interim Planning Director**

On November 30, eight neighborhood leaders from the JWN, Whiteaker Community Council, River Road Community Organization, and Santa Clara Community Organization sat down for coffee, dessert, and informal but focused discussion with Lisa Gardner, the new Interim Planning Director. We all had a frank and positive exchange of perspectives and ideas. The neighborhood leaders emphasized the severe problems being caused by

inappropriate infill, and the needs for effective solutions as soon as possible. There was also a consistent feeling that the Planning Division culture was not supportive of neighborhoods and need some major changes to return to the helpful and constructive way planners used to work with neighborhoods.

This was another effort on the part of the JWN co-chairs to foster understanding and cooperation among Eugene's various neighborhoods. We plan to arrange more such discussions in the coming months.

***** Reminder: JWN General Meetings to relocate**

The fire code limit on capacity, poor accessibility, and an unsatisfactory general meeting environment led the JWN board to decide the location is no longer suitable for the increased attendance at JWN meetings. The JWN board has voted to find a new location for the JWN's monthly general meetings. We hope to have a new location no later than our meeting on January 9, 2007.

If you have any suggestions or preferences, please let the co-chairs know.

***** JWN needs YOU!**

Give a little time and talent and gain a lot in return. Great neighborhoods happen because people who live in them care.

Come join your neighbors and help maintain the Jefferson and Westside neighborhoods as safe, vital places to live.

Some of the volunteer spots that are available include: attorney, publication distribution coordinator, urban planner/architect/zoning specialist, Web wizard, fund raiser, outreach activist, parliamentarian, business relations developer.

For a description of these and other volunteer openings, please see:

<http://jwneugene.org/volunteer>

Remember, YOU are the Jefferson Westside Neighbors!

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***** Contact the JWN Co-chairs.**

You can send your e-mails to co-chairs@jwneugene.org .

Or contact either one of us directly:

Rene Kane
rkane@highstream.net
343-4309

Paul Conte
pconte@picante-soft.com
344-2552