



CITY OF OREGON CITY

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (CIC)

MINUTES

Commission Chambers, 625 Center Street, Oregon City
Monday, April 01, 2024 at 7:00 PM

This meeting was held online via Zoom as well as in person at City Hall Chambers in Oregon City.

CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT: 10 - Dennis Anderson, Dan Berge, Lisa Guirsch, Karla Laws, Josh Kayser, Sara Peterson, Denise Beasley, Tim Powell, Steve VanHaverbeke, Bob LaSalle

STAFFERS: 5 - Hannah Schmidt, Community Engagement Specialist; Shaun Davis, Chief of Police; Melissa Sebastia, Aquatic and Recreations Manager; Cecily Rose, Community Center Manager; Jarrod Lyman, Community Communications Manager

PRESENTATIONS

1. Annual Police Report – Shaun Davis, Chief of Police

Chief Davis highlighted some annual statics and covered topics of concern for the city. The police department is allocated to have 47 sworn and 15.5 non-sworn members. In 2023, they hired 7 sworn officers and 4 non-sworn personnel and lost 7 officers. Calls for service for 2023 came to 29,530 which is a slight increase. Self-initiated calls were about 27% of the call volume. There is an increase in calls related to homelessness since 2019. In general, behavior health related calls are trending up, but calls concerning suicide are down. The city's behavioral health specialist is doing a lot of outreach. Stops data: Out of 7,323 stops reported, just over 92% were traffic stops. Chief Davis showed a slide of stops broken down by perceived gender and ethnicity. The department is working on rebuilding their Traffic team to help keep streets safer and offer visibility. Records processed 674 requests including public record requests from other agencies and discovery requests. Arrests have trended down since 2019 and 2022, and in 2023, the city had their lowest level of service for property-related crimes. They took 494 theft reports. There were 70 documented uses of force involving 72 individuals and 125 individual use-of-force reports. The department was given approval to hire another code enforcement officer in 2023 in order to have 7 days of coverage. More people are reporting code violations which created a total of 19,023 cases, a 20% increase since 2022. Code enforcement removed 333 shopping carts and picked up 66 bags of trash as well. The Detective Division has 3 full-time detectives and 1 detective sergeant who are on call 24/7. The city had 3 homicides last year which is an increase over the average one 0-1 per year. All three suspects were apprehended. They got new software that can map cell phone and GPS data, and their property officer/crime scene processor, Lacy Nelson, got certified in Forensics IBIS (Integrated Ballistic Identification System). Through that certification, Ms. Nelson was able to submit information on 65 guns, and 3 were found to be linked to homicide/attempted homicides for Portland Police Bureau and Oregon State Police. The Special Investigation Team (SIT) did 31 missions that led to 3

chronic nuisance properties and seized a large amount of drugs, especially fentanyl. The city's behavioral health unit (BHU) received an allocation for a case manager position, and they are in the process of filling it. BHU had 532 referrals which is a 42% increase from 2022. The specialist had approximately 163 in-person outreaches, and about 70% of those were related to homelessness. The homeless liaison officer has been working in the capacity of liaison and patrol officer. He still has a monthly coordination meeting with community stakeholders and fields most of the complaints regarding livability issues. A large site with 34 illegal camps was discovered in the area of the canyon and north of Beaver Creek and 213. The cleanup took 15 days to clear 33,000 of trash and 23 shopping carts. About a month prior to the cleanup, the city started offering resources to help those being displaced. The Traffic team responded to 348 traffic crashes and 14 interagency traffic missions. The department participated in several events during the year including a summer camp, prescription drug takeback, shred event, women's self-defense classes, National Night Out, and Trick-or-Treat on Main Street. Oregon City Police Department was the first agency to be accredited in Clackamas County in 2004 and has passed each accreditation every three year since. It is expected that there could be up to 7 retirements in the department in the next three years, so they are forecasting the need to fill those positions. They are also focusing on retaining their current membership, continuing to evolve as policing changes, community needs, and keeping up with the demands of city growth.

2. Aquatics and Recreation Highlights and Summer Events – Melissa Sebastian, Aquatics and Recreations Manager

Melissa Sebastian touched on updates and information for the city swimming pool, Francis Ermatinger House Museum, and various recreation programs and events.

The aquatics facility is open most weekdays and Saturdays from 5:00 am to 9:00 p.m. Programs being staffed are adult fitness classes, youth and adult swimming classes, swim clubs, recreation and family swim times, and facility rentals. There is a large community room at the swimming pool where they offer an adult fitness classes; an indoor playground during the fall, winter, and spring months; seasonal camps; and a summer camp. Other programs are adult swim instruction and a recreation swim team in summer for kids who are curious about swimming as a sport.

The Ermatinger House Museum has a robust field trip program that has grown from 100 kids in the first four years to over 400 last year. They do tours every week on Friday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. They have an Adopt-an-Artifact Program and events such as Sensory Santa.

Some of the events for the city are the Swamp Swim for Halloween in October, Glow Swim once per month from October to March, a pool Easter egg hunt, and they host about 6-10 swim meets. There is an annual Daddy/Daughter Dinner Dance, the annual Spring Forward event, cultural events, and concerts and movies in the park.

Upcoming cultural events are MENA Heritage Fest on April 14th, Ukrainian Festival on May 11th, and the July 4th event. Concerts in the park start July 4th and run for 7 weeks at the End of the Oregon Trail from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Movies in the park will be the first four Fridays in August starting at Dusk.

Scholarships for summer swim camp are due by April 3rd. Last summer the scholarships sent 30 kids to camp for a week. Summer swim registration opens May 29th, and the summer pool schedule starts June 24th.

3. Pioneer Community Center Update – Cecily Rose, Community Center Manager

The Pioneer Community Center celebrates 45 years of operation in 2024. They opened in 1979 as a resource to the community, and they offer nutritional, education, and social services to adults ages 21+ in Oregon City and West Linn and seniors 60+ and people with disabilities throughout Clackamas County.

The community center's main service program is caring for seniors who are threatened by or are currently experiencing hunger or food insecurity. Last year they provided 37,264 meals for those unable to cook for themselves. They also have a transportation program to help people get to life saving appointments, banks, etc. for seniors 60+ and people with disabilities who don't drive, no longer drive, or have lost their license for medical reasons.

The center provided 288 hours of case management last year which looks like home visits, seeking out medical equipment and supplies, building ramps, etc. They made 255 reassurance and wellbeing calls and offered 1,446 resource connections. The center has programs and resources at the center such as energy assistance, legal aid, support groups, tax aid, estate planning, foot care, a pantry program, Medicare presentation/education, veteran benefit information, and long-term care presentations. There are several options for age-appropriate recreation services, learning programs, a fitness room, holiday parties, and activities to help fight isolation.

The center is funded through federal funds from the Older Americans Act, Clackamas County social service contract or subrecipient agreement, contracts with the state of Oregon for Medicaid clients, cities of Oregon City and West Linn, private and corporate donors and sponsors, local businesses, community groups, and participant donation. Participant donation is not required, but there is a suggested donation of \$3.50 for the nutrition program. They also receive in-kind donations and have several fund raisers and events throughout the year.

The community is very generous throughout the year, and they are busiest during the holiday season. A giving tree helps bring gifts to every single Meals on Wheels client, and donations help the center host a holiday party. There is a holiday spirit week with activities and prizes as well as volunteer musical performances. The Oregon City staff and numerous locations collected and donated pantry items that kept it stocked for weeks after the holidays. The pantry is open every Friday and is well attended.

Currently, 95 volunteers offer their time to the center, and last year they provided 3,285 hours of service in the forms of drivers for Meals on Wheels, reception assistants, nutrition servers, recreational program leaders, event support, dining room hosts, recreational trip escorts, legal aid experts, and community garden workers. Volunteer hours represent a cost savings of \$106,335.45.

Their facility offers affordable rental opportunities to the public. Recent upgrades were made to the reception area and doors to create a more ADA accessible space. In their space, they offer some special events and activities throughout the year such as cultural events, birthday celebrations, citywide events, and award luncheons.

Ms. Rose acknowledged the work and effort of the center's team and thanked them for the wonderful work that they do.

4. CIC Budget – Jarrod Lyman, Community Communications Manager

Mr. Lyman heard some concerns about the budget during the last CIC meeting. The current formula for the budget distribution is based on addresses in a neighborhood. He suggested having each active neighborhood come forward each fiscal year with how much they think they will need based on the number of meetings they plan to have. There was discussion around how to keep funds available for inactive neighborhoods that become active. The goal is to make sure each neighborhood has what they need throughout the year.

Hillendale, Tower Vista, and Gaffney Lane are 4 postcard neighborhoods. Elyville, Canemah, and McLoughlin are 6 postcard neighborhoods.

Sara Peterson made a motion to have a work session at the end of the fiscal year to determine the CIC budget. Motion was seconded by Karla Laws. Motion passed unanimously. A work session will be held on June 3rd at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - NONE

MEETING MINUTES

5. A correction was made to the March 4, 2024 meeting minutes. Willamette SERT as written should be corrected to Willamette CERT.

A motion was made to approve the Meeting Minutes for March 4, 2024 as adjusted. The motion was seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

STAFF LIAISON UPDATES – Hannah Schmidt, Community Engagement Specialist

6. Staff Report

Summer Trail News will be going out around May 22nd, and the deadline for information submissions from neighborhoods is April 15th. The committee was informed that if they have something to add that is larger than the space provided, a blurb will be put in the Trail News with a link and QR code to go read the full message on their neighborhood website.

Dave Hunt would like to reactivate the neighborhood association for Gaffney Lane. A survey has been put together to get feedback from residents on topics and presentations they are interested in seeing at meetings as well as looking for others to assist him.

Ms. Schmidt is asking the neighborhoods to have their postcard orders in 10 days prior to their proposed mail date.

All neighborhood meeting minutes have been received and are posted online. Each neighborhood will be sent a copy of their bylaws for review so they can be posted online as well. When all CIC applications are in, the process will move forward to make appointments official for the next CIC term which will last until 2026.

A new phishing scam was reviewed, and staff would appreciate all potential phishing scam emails forwarded to them. The committee was encouraged to create a generic email address for their neighborhood association work to help alleviate issues on their personal emails.

A Zoom meeting recordings have been removed from Zoom and put onto the city's One Drive. The CIC meetings are available on You Tube.

ROUNDTABLE

For more information on upcoming neighborhood association meetings and contacts please visit: <https://www.orcity.org/community/neighborhood-associations>

Park Place – Steve VanHaverbeke & Bob LaSalle

They had a steering committee meeting on March 18th where they discussed their displeasure with their current financial institution and are researching new options. Park Place is working with the city's park department around the new trail going into Park Place Park and are looking forward to future improvements.

McLoughlin – Denise Beasley & Tim Powell

Dave Hunt from National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) presented at a recent meeting. He pointed to 988 being the Suicide and Crisis Hotline. This hotline is funded by the state, and it is hoped that this number will become more commonly known. A statue at 7th and Center Street was hit by a car and the Arts Commission informed the neighborhood that it will be replaced soon. There is some work behind the scenes to have a Porch Fest in the neighborhood this summer where people play music from their porches.

Hillendale – Sara Peterson

They had a steering committee meeting recently and reviewed plans for the May 11th community cleanup. There is a membership meeting on April 2nd where Public Works will present. An update meeting will be attended on May 7th concerning a courthouse in their community.

Elyville – Karla Laws & Dorothy Dahlsrud

A general meeting will be held next week. The city will be presenting at the May meeting to discuss improvements and infrastructure in the neighborhood. Detective Wadsworth will talk about the department's criminal watch program. Oregon City Parks Foundation is going to help with the Oregon City Watershed Council. A local Boy Scout troop will be cleaning up around Atkinson Park for the Buena Vista House in the near future.

Canemah – Dennis Anderson

A meeting will be held on April 18th. They were able to get a hold of a representative from Metro. The neighborhood shares park space with Metro, and an agreement will be extended with them for taking care and maintaining the roadway to the Pioneer Cemetery.

Caulfield – Dan Berge

They will have a meeting on April 2nd when they will vote on bylaws. A new police liaison will be introduced. Mayor McGriff will be attending their next meeting to talk about issues of traffic and housing development.

Commissioner Adam Marl

Commissioner Marl thanked Chair Baysinger for setting up the presentations for today's meeting and thanked Ms. Schmidt and Mr. Lyman for their attention and work on the CIC budget. He would like to see the committee move forward with fiscal restraint as they work through how to best allocate funding.

He is excited about helping secure \$4 million from federal funding for a critical transportation project at the 213 Redland Road area. This funding will help with the engineering and scope of work for the phase 2 of the Jughandle project.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.

*Next meeting will be May 6, 2024