

**Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council
Regular Meeting
Marmalade Library, Multipurpose Room, 6:30 PM
Wednesday, November 15, 2017**

TOPICS IN SUMMARY

CHNC Board business. Approval of last month's minutes. Meet Chris Wharton, District 3 Salt Lake City Councilperson Elect. Fire Department Update – holiday tips for preventing fires. Detective Gibic update – tips on preventing car and package thefts. Katharine Kennedy, Salt Lake City School District update – education as a civil rights issue. Resident collection signatures for medical marijuana and independent redistricting. Sylvia Nibley on Re-Imagining Warm Springs. Resident Mike Mitchell on Temple Square parking/traffic issue in the neighborhood. CHNC Board Open Nominations. Brief discussion of West Capitol Street subdivision. Special Guest, Representative Speaker Hughes on Operation Rio Grande as State issue, what actions have been taken, why arrests and identification are important, how the operation separates the criminal element from those seeking services, how to address issues of dispersal, etc., resources being made available to carry project forward, cleanup of homeless camps especially along Jordan River, the important role of Health Department, discussion of Medicaid Expansion, imprisonment for drug addiction, opioid epidemic, affordable housing, and how these factors contribute to homeless issue. Comments by David Litvack and Commissioner Squires. Rebecca Chavez-Houck being honored by Neighborworks, not with us tonight.

MINUTES

Welcome & Business/Announcements: Laura Arellano, Chair

Thanks to your neighbors who volunteer on the board – it could be you in the upcoming elections.

Any first-timers tonight? We have Boy Scouts Troop 2, welcome to them. If anyone wants to join the board, feel free.

Review of August Regular Meeting Minutes: Andrea Ashbridge, Secretary

Motion to approve: yes

Second: yes

In favor: yes

Opposed: none

October 2017 Minutes APPROVED

A Thank You card is going around for Stan Penfold – he did not run for re-election but we have elected Chris Wharton to Dist. 3 City. Meet Chris Wharton.

Chris Wharton:

Already getting good feedback from neighbors, meeting with dept. heads at City, ready to get sworn in and get started. Call Chris anytime – phone number will be posted to CHNC website.

Legislative/City Updates

Fire Dept. Eric – this time of year has more fires than other times. Lots of cooking during holidays, stove fires, real Christmas trees get dry – can burn your house down, so water the tree!

If you deep fry a turkey buy a 8-9 lb one, don't cook near trees, etc.

Get furnaces maintained, don't plug more than one heating appliance into an outlet, be aware of carbon monoxide.

Q: What percentage of calls are fire, other, etc?

A: Station 2 is busiest, ran 450+ calls in October, station 2 is also the station that responds to Rio Grande – 30% -ish of calls are for homeless issues

Q: has anything changed on calls re: homeless dispersal

A: initially saw a dispersal, still seeing a bit, when Operation Rio Grande started, saw a spike in calls, PD wasn't used to situation, then it tapered off. Starting to see another spike now.

Detective Alen Gibic

From 600 West almost to U is his district. Crime stats available online.

Vehicle Burglary: 40 in district in last 28 days

Residential burglary: 13 reported in last 28 days

Doing a little better than before

Lots of stolen cars lately – people leave cars running. Don't leave cars running.

Package theft – larceny. Have holiday packages delivered someplace other than porch – it will get stolen.

What SLCPD does to prevent package theft: package theft operations by police, follow the guys that follow delivery trucks, nab the bad guys, won't solve problem but will help.

Anything to pass along to leadership?

Q: do you pull over cars that don't have license plates?

A: yes. Usually it's folks with temporary tags that fall off. Car thieves will put on temporary plates, etc.

Q: if people see something suspicious, do we dial 911? What's a good strategy for protecting neighborhood.

A: start a neighborhood watch program – Gibic can connect you with the person at the SLCPD. Also you can ask Georg (Stutzenberger). There is CEPTED – crime prevention through landscaping as well.

Q: does the 799-3000 non-emergency number still work?

A: yes.

Q: didn't know for a long time that there was a non-emergency #

A: save 911 for crimes in progress

Katherine Kennedy – SLC School Dist.

Shout out to Washington Elementary – always impressed. Also Bryant. And West. And Northwest. We love all schools in our district. Most kids in this neighborhood would be zones to Bryant.

Can send thoughts about school closures. John Lewis – talked about education as a civil rights issue – it is our duty to provide good education. Even if you don't have kids in the school district, need your support. Open to feedback.

General Community Comments and Questions:

Community Member: Collecting signatures for medical marijuana and independent redistricting commission ballot items – see after meeting for more info

Sylvia Nibley: Re-imagining Warm Springs – meeting 7:00 PM Monday Nov. 20, Marmalade Library.

Mike Mitchell: Update on the parking/traffic change by LDS church – has been communicating with Nate Salazar to meet with him, no meeting set at present. When Nate arrives lets address it – David Litvak present, took note.

CHNC Board Nominations:

Next month you will elect new board members! Some folks are not up for re-election. Before taking nominations, list people who will not do next year: Paul Hanks and Dean Larsen. Georg Stutzenberger is moving away – losing our safety committee chair for 17 years – thanks Georg! (Correction after fact: Georg staying on until further notice, but Andrea Ashbridge's spot will be open.)

There are openings in many areas. You may self-nominate and nominate others. The commitment is a couple of meetings a month, and you'd be on a committee (for instance there is the Engagement Committee, Advocacy which might be renamed Planning and Policy, Communication Committee – Barbara just stepped up to be the chair, involves updating website, etc. (Clarification – the term is 2 years.)

Open to nominations:

Erlinda nominates Mei Chai - accepts

Barbara nominates Kimberly Wiley – accepts

Nominated by another neighbor - Jerry Conder – accepts

Anna Zumwalt self-nominates

David Scheer nominates Glen Saxton – Glen not present but Paul Hanks is in touch and will let Glenn know that we approve him

Erlinda nominates Mike Mitchell – accepts

Georg nominates Ashley Anderson – accepts

Jack nominates Mallory Bateman – accepts

All of you candidates, make sure Laura gets your contact info

Nominations remain open for a couple of weeks, then next month we vote.
(Dec. 20th regular meeting)

Committee updates:

Current issue of subdivision on West Capitol Street – board discussed, David Scheer drafted letter to City noting concerns. Will not have another formal opportunity to provide input but we can follow it as it passes through Historic Landmarks Commission, etc.

Q: Is the land stable enough to support it?

A: Has not been proved

Up Next: Have questions for Speaker Hughes? Grab an index card and write the question down.

We'll start with general remarks.

Speaker Hughes:

Thanks for the invitation. Has been to Poplar Grove, Ballpark communities as well. . You are opinion leaders. Any time in a town hall, those that have the interest to hear from public officials matter.

Updates on Operation Rio Grande: Why is Speaker Hughes involved? State started to see it as a State problem, not a City problem. Saying homeless problem is SLC problem is like saying prisoners at state prison are a Draper problem.

Recently watched 3 crimes occur in Rio Grande – drug trafficking even in presence of officer, sale of stolen cell phones, and an assault. That is what began Sp. Hughes' involvement. States do a lot of appropriations – requests were coming to the State asking for assistance. Needed facilities, police presence. Funds put toward creating resource centers. The criminal element has enjoyed blending with the homeless population, has contributed to drug trafficking – resource centers/service centers with focused missions will reduce this. There will be demand for the services provided at these centers. This summer 2017, general opinion was that things were worse than they had ever been.

State turned down other appropriations to support the homeless solution. But it really is a State issue. Problem is, if Sp. Hughes reports that things are worse, everyone frustrated. Over the 4th of July, Salt Lake Bees player was assaulted by a (criminal element) of homeless population. News outlets outside of Utah and outside of the USA report on our problems. Salt Lake looks to the world like a place of urban chaos.

The homeless issue: Sp. Hughes' goal is to be serviceable to his constituents. This homeless issue – hard to do the right thing. Anyone involved in this issue is put in a hard spot. Sp. Hughes commented that we need to call in the National Guard – may

not be right solution truly but it is that serious. Sp. Hughes requested an office in Rio Grande neighborhood so every meeting he had was amidst the issue – in full view. Why aren't the people committing the crime she witnessed arrested? This is not lightning striking, this is every day. There is not police man-power to deal with this. Can't arrest your way out of a drug cartel operating. The question that was not being answered: who are they? The idea of Operation Rio Grande was to figure out who every single person in that area is. If a veteran, there are resources. The only people who don't want you to know who they are the criminals. Identifying everyone to separate the criminals from the rest. There are low and no-barrier services for people truly experiencing homelessness. But the barriers were created by the people hanging around these service areas – the people needing services could not get to the services. The courtyard that was closed – then expanded other services, i.e. Catholic Community Services Courtyard. The access for that is a services coordination card. High level hard criminals are super sophisticated – they don't want the cards, it's a way to keep them out of that area. Issued over 2,400 service coordination cards. People are connected with what they need as they allow selves to be identified. 580 of those cards are re-issued cards. Dispersion: at latest report, Nov. 9th, shows it is decreasing. Dept. of Public Safety has a hotline to report issues: Operationriogrande.utah.gov 385-266-6938

Why Dept. Public Safety so important – it's not just in Salt Lake – we need to follow it into neighboring jurisdictions if it spreads there. Commissioner Squires has tirelessly rallied the troop to get this work done.

Statistics on arrests provided.

People say booking and releasing is a waste of time – it isn't. We can ID people, find who has warrants, send them back to where they are wanted. This immediately started changing behavior.

Dignity at work – program gets people employed, one by one, can share details if we are interested.

Treatment beds: Medicaid Expansion bill – they got a waiver to put more than 16 beds in a single treatment facility – a big deal. This administration has finally approved those waivers.

Q&A:

Q: How do you propose to fill healthcare staffing needs? Many homeless have health needs, why has legislature NOT voted to fully expand Medicaid?

A: Some of these issues would exist even without Op. Rio Grande. It has been hard just to find jail beds so you could arrest people. If we can bring 100 Million dollars to Medicaid expansion, we can get those health care professionals online. Odyssey House had to spend money they didn't have to make it happen. Jail staff have been very flexible in moving around to provide support where needed. ACA and Medicaid

Expansion has very dif formula. Fed. will pay 90% - State will pay 10%. Even if it's only 10% it can still be huge – the actual cost is still unknown and open ended. The risk is great. Did not do ACA expansion but did do new expansion of Medicaid.

Q: Any early success on addicted people?

A: Not a one stop shop. Likelihood that you'll recover is not good – can take multiple times. Where there is success, though, is in drug court. When you go to jail, you may feel safe – can be the rock bottom and can be the place where you see change. If you don't decide to recovery. You go to jail – more likely to choose treatment. Some people elected treatment but then bailed out of it. Some folks don't believe that arrests are the answer. Speaker Hughes sees it work, though. If we can get people in treatment beds before that, great, but if arrest is what it takes we do it.

Q: Does legislature view Justice Reinvestment Initiative?

A: Some people commit crimes to feed an addiction. If you put someone in jail with a felony that can make a criminal of them. Has created more misdemeanors, used to be felonies. Some people say it wasn't funded. If it costs taxpayers money, there's a bill. Have been funding JRI for 3 years. It's a better way to approach justice. Does fill up the jails but is a good thing.

Q: What are arguments

A: Some states complain that all that happened was more misdemeanors were created. But the program is trying to reduce recitivism – if you are coming out of jail, provide services that will keep you out of jail. Working with the counties to address these issues.

Q: Homelessness crime –all we see is remedies against consumers – not producers. And resources put toward Op. Rio Grande do not seem enough. Will Op. Rio Grande be real solution or Bandaid?

A: Was naïve. The thing changed in the last few years. Tony Caputo's saw the change before their eyes. Sp. Hughes believes it is the opioid epidemic. A few years ago, we agreed there were some dangers with prescriptions – now out of control. You can get addicted to prescribed medication in as little as 7 days. Physicians have been misled that these meds are safe. Sp. Hughes suspects the drug companies issued false statements that opioids are safe. This week SL County and Utah County went after big Pharma. Tomorrow, Sp. Hughes will go to Assoc. of Counties to go after big Pharma too. There are places outside of Rio Grande where drugs are being manufactured, human trafficking is happening – we are finding those places through our investigations at Rio Grande. Will we stop drug use in Utah? No. But opening resource centers outside of the Road Home and tearing down the Road Home will stop the open drug market. The more people that get addicted, the more people that will be homeless. Op. Rio Grande is meant to attack homelessness from 2 directions:

1. interrupt the criminal element and 2: get treatment beds and resources and employment to the people who need them. Sp. Hughes wants Utah to be uninteresting and not worth it to people trafficking drugs. Don't arrest them all – just make Utah unappealing to them. Someone said chronic homelessness in Utah had been solved – this was not true!

Q: What about homeless with pets? Also had interaction with young homeless, drugs and family abandonment. What kept her from getting help? A helper or sponsor.

A: Mentorship element of Dignity at Work can help. Some barriers can be transportation, business attire. Transitional housing:

Q: We have tons of transitional housing in this neighborhood. The problem lies in landlord accountability.

A: Market rates for rentals are going up but out of reach for transitioning out of homelessness – can't do all we have discussed tonight without housing. The question becomes: How About Here? Then people consider the reality. The challenge is that at the neighborhood level it makes people justifiably nervous, often because of what is already going on in the neighborhood. There is resistance. One thing we will do is, if you are a community with a resource center or these other programs, money should flow to make them successful. If you are a community that does not have the burden should pay into it. Want to create revenue stream to find that type of housing in neighborhoods.

Q: It's really Mixed-Income Housing that succeeds.

A: True. The challenge though is if people can afford market rate, do they want to live among less expensive

Q: Suggested to City officials but was not taken seriously – if State County and City were to work together to build a building with employment opportunity and provide housing too.

A: It's a great concept. Would love to see RDA consider a proposal like that. Could solve transportation issues that way too. But have to be careful with that – don't want to relegate certain people to one block, or you get Rio Grande issue again. Bringing everyone together in an economy of scale make those populations easy prey to criminals.

Q: there is a lot of unused land like railyards, etc. Seems in the search for sites perhaps State can establish a land bank. State could use its stature to build a land bank and sell to people willing to develop for this sort of purpose.

A: Even if you sell that land at some loss, would be worth it. Only barrier is that it would need to be close to transportation, etc. That land has to be close enough to developed areas to get people to want to live there. There is money for land acquisition.

Q: Some resorts can't find enough employees, they are finding housing for them.

A: Summit County does that as well – provides housing for police, etc. It's going to take partnership.

Q: We aren't seeing a lot of success stories – people may still be resistant. What are the benchmarks?

A: Has anyone seen improvement?

Q: Actually saw dispersion

A: Volunteers of America did a study and said 40% of people in Rio Grande had other options and hung out at Rio Grande because they wanted to. There is not a person to person dispersal. There are numbers to call to report issues and communicate our experiences, report dispersion – contact them. We budgeted for it, \$67 Million - please use it. Save the police from visiting the place twice – if you post that your property is private, trespassers can be removed the first time they trespass instead of the second.

David Litvack

This is not just law enforcement response – we have officers from both City and State engaging people in services, also have agencies at work.

Commissioner Squires

In planning phase, knew they would need resources to address dispersion. Has been as far south as St. George and in Ogden, communicating with law enforcement to let them know if things change, problems encountered. In beginning, employees at the State offices were visited by officers and told of their experiences. When you start to hear about it you start to see it.

Speaker Hughes

We have removed over 300 tons of debris from encampments along Jordan River. The cleanups are critical. A lot of people are pitching in to make these changes happen. Many jurisdictions working together. The first week of Op. Rio Grande, St. George experienced a surge of people from Rio Grande showing up there. Commissioner Squires visited the very next day to make sure they had the resources they would need.

Laura Arellano

Rebecca Chavez-Houck is being honored tonight by Neighborworks – sends her regrets.

Move to adjourn: Yes

Second: Yes

In Favor: Yes

Opposed: None

Adjourned 8:39 PM

Next CHNC Board Meeting

Monday, December 4, 2017

Marmalade Library, Jex Conference Room, 6:30 PM

Next CHNC Regular Meeting

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Marmalade Library, Multipurpose Room, 6:30 PM