

Council of Neighborhood Associations (CNA)
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 13, 2025. 6:30PM

ATTENDING:

Neighborhood Representatives: Larry Dzieza (CNA Chair/Nottingham HOA); Karen Sweeney (CNA Vice-Chair/Eastside NA); Sue Hedrick, Gerry Apple, John Saunders (South Capital NA); Bob Jacobs (Gov. Stevens NA); Keegan Wulf (Downtown NA); Melissa Allen (Bigelow Highlands NA); Marty Worcester (Redwood Estates HOA); Peter Guttchen (Northeast NA); Dana McAvoy (East Bay Drive NA); Grace Fletcher, Stu Olshevski (Southwest NA); John Newman (Burbank/Elliott NA)

City Representatives: Clark Gilman (City Council member); Tim Smith (Community Planning and Economic Development Dept)

MEETING SUMMARY:

After neighborhood updates, CNA members discussed the Adopt-A-Drain initiative and City storm drain maintenance practices. Other issues discussed were airport expansion issues, traffic safety improvements, the city's budget situation included proposed solutions for a \$6.4 million deficit and plans for future financial strategies.

NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATES:

South Capital - on-going concerns about Lobbyist ownership of homes near the Capital that are unoccupied for extended periods of time. The City will hold a December 4th public meeting about proposed improvements. Police and volunteers will coordinate traffic control on Halloween. Sue asked everyone to complete the Adopt-A-Drain survey that Larry will forward.

Northeast – Successful celebration of the new pocket park across from Roosevelt Elementary. New Project Connect Civic Life and Belonging Grant to support school partnerships. They have secured a “fiscal sponsor” to open up new funding opportunities. Improvements on the Joy Food Forest—irrigation and water storage.

Downtown – New website is up and planning has begun to build next year’s board.

East Bay Drive – Annual meeting resulted in 4 re-elected plus 5 new board members. The association is working with the police department on traffic enforcement, including radar gun checks and letters for speeders, while also collaborating with the city on a planned road reconfiguration scheduled for 2027-2030. The proposed changes will remove the center turn lane and create enhanced bike lanes with a 3-4 foot buffer.

Redwood Estates – Marty wants to know more about the City’s Urban Forestry management plan to address tree canopy depletion and how to integrate it with land use planning.

Bigelow Highlands – Annual meeting is Oct 14. Guest speaker will be Danny Stusser, publisher of the JOLT (Journal of Olympia, Lacey and Tumwater). New board members will be elected.

Eastside – Successful Apple Fest cider pressing using the press purchased with last year’s Neighborhood Matching Grant. New partnership with Madison Elementary for fundraising and community engagement.

Governor Stevens - Bob Jacobs raised concern about the Olympia Airport expansion, which will drastically impact local communities. **See below for discussion.**

Southwest – Successful cider pressing event at Decatur Woods Park that raised money for Doctors without Borders. Neighborhood is planning to relocate a garden infrastructure from a church to to create a new community garden.

CITY UPDATES & CNA DISCUSSION:

Council Member Clark Gilman

- The City is facing a 2026 \$6.4 million budget deficit and the constraints of a 1% cap on annual property tax increases. Clark described longer-term options like a levy lid lift, regional special districts, and annexation of more territory. Other potential solutions, include a public safety sales tax, business and occupation tax restructuring, and staffing reductions. The council will review these options in a study session the following night. Larry Dzieza expressed concern about the lack of transparency in the city budgeting process. He presented a report comparing Olympia’s spending with other cities, highlighting areas where Olympia out spends peers.
- Council is collaborating with the Squaxin tribe who purchased the former City Hall and surrounding property. Indigenous Peoples Day. Of concern to NA’s is the loss of yard waste & recycle sites on that property.
- South Capital’s lobbyist home purchase/use now has the attention of Council. CPED department has been directed to propose changes to the codes affecting this issue.
- Reimagine public safety changes: new police auditor and community oversight board.

- The City is contracting for a \$40,000 study of downtown real estate vacancies which Clark thinks should be staff responsibility. Bob Jacobs suggested that consultant contracts be reviewed by Council before being finalized. Melissa Allen commented that she knew of several business closure/relocations because the landlord required the tenant to pay for the repairs which is difficult for small businesses with small profit margins.
- The City has developed a Crisis planning and Coordination response to potential ICE and military activities. Example: require federal to go through City Manager before speaking to staff.
- Brittany Gillia will present the 2025 matching grant survey results to neighborhood representatives at a meeting on 10/16 /25 at City Hall.
- The City is purchasing properties adjacent to City Hall for staff parking. Bob Jacobs raised the concern that the City will thereby assume liability for the existing pollution on those properties.

CPED staff **Tim Smith**

- Briggs Village code amendment changes include a minimum 9,200 sq ft grocery store in the central Village area.
- The new Capital Facilities Plan will include sidewalk repairs on busy streets. The Transportation Division is planning further proposals based on the 2025 sidewalk assessment report.
- Question from Melissa Allen (Bigelow Highlands) about City funding upgrades of low-income housing. One is in her neighborhood. Question: If the property is privately owned, will the owner be required to continue the low rents?
- Question from Peter Guttchen (Northeast) about the closure of City recycle sites with no plan for re-location. Why weren't the sale proceeds using to relocate the recycle sites?

Additional Discussion: Airport Expansion and Community Concerns

The group discussed concerns about airport expansion and lack of transparency from the Port Commission. concerns were raised about the expansion of the airport, with opponents citing environmental impacts and increased noise over Thurston County.

Sue Hedrick described a recent presentation by attorney Rhonda Larson Kramer who is part of Stop Oly Airport Growth. Bob Jacobs raised issues about the Olympia airport, highlighting its problematic communication and the potential for it to become an overflow airport for SeaTac, which would drastically impact local communities. The

discussion emphasized the importance of community involvement and political action to address airport-related concerns.

Next steps

- Tim to inquire about plans to relocate the yard waste and recycling drop-off site on the east side of town and report back to Peter and the group.
- Larry to send out the Adopt-A-Drain survey link to all neighborhood associations after the meeting.
- Clark to find out more information about the city's purchase of properties at 424 Jefferson, 510 Jefferson, and 518 Fifth Avenue and report back to Bob about potential pollution concerns.
- Melissa to continue editing the AI minutes and ensure neighborhood associations are properly attributed.
- Peter to continue working with interested neighborhood representatives on developing proposals to improve the neighborhood matching grant program.
- Neighborhood representatives interested in grant improvements to attend Brittany's meeting on Thursday at noon in room 212 to discuss survey results.

SEPTEMBER CAN MINUTES UNANAMOUSLY APPROVED

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:30PM

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY MELISSA ALLEN, CAN SECRETARY