



**CITY OF OREGON CITY
CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE
(CIC)
MEETING MINUTES**

Commission Chambers, 625 Center St., Oregon City
Monday, March 3, 2025 at 7:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Linda Baysinger at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: 12

Linda Baysinger, Dan Berge, Lisa Guirsch, Karla Laws, Dorothy Dahlsrud, Betty Mumm, Sara Peterson, Josh Kayser, Denise Beasley, Bob LaSalle, Commissioner Adam Marl, Commissioner Scott Wilson

STAFF: *Hannah Schmidt, Community Engagement Specialist, Shawn Davis, Police Chief, Patty Stewart, Police Department Administrative Assistant*

EXCUSED: *Dennis Anderson, Tim Powell*

ABSENT: *Duane Hanson*

Steve VanHaverbeke has officially resigned from the CIC since he will be moving outside of the City of Oregon City.

2. PRESENTATIONS

- a. Chief Davis introduced the Neighborhood Watch Program presentation, explaining that it arose from discussions at the last Chief's Advisory Committee meeting in January. The goal was to provide an overview to the entire CIC so members could take the information back to their neighborhood association meetings.

Patty Stewart presented the details of the Neighborhood Watch Program. She defined it as a crime prevention program enlisting active participation of residents in cooperation with law enforcement to keep neighborhoods safe. The program involves neighbors getting to know each other and working together for mutual assistance. Informed residents are trained to recognize and report suspicious activities in neighborhoods.

Stewart outlined the benefits of the program, including reducing the risk of becoming a crime victim, being better prepared to respond to suspicious activity, and learning about information that impacts the neighborhood. She emphasized that the program promotes getting to know neighbors and their patterns.

Stewart then described Oregon City Police Department's three-step program for establishing a Neighborhood Watch:

1. Organize: Create interest by talking to neighbors, appoint a watch coordinator, attend neighborhood association meetings, and identify boundaries for the group.
2. Train: The watch coordinator schedules training with an Officer Liaison, covering topics such as what is suspicious and how to report it.
3. Assign and maintain: Plan regular meetings, form a committee of volunteers, establish a communication plan, and stay connected with the Officer Liaison and neighborhood association.

Chief Davis discussed what constitutes suspicious activity, such as people going door to door at night, checking car doors, or pretending to be utility workers. He emphasized the importance of reporting suspicious activity promptly and provided guidance on what information to include when reporting.

During the Q&A session, committee members asked about the number of active Neighborhood Watch groups in Oregon City (currently two), the effectiveness of "No Outlet" signs as crime deterrents (somewhat effective), and how to reactivate dormant Neighborhood Watch groups.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jim Nicita, an Oregon City resident, spoke about ongoing discussions regarding the urban renewal charter amendment. He expressed disappointment that the city commission and urban renewal commission were taking steps to invalidate the charter provision that allows citizens to vote on urban renewal bonded indebtedness. Nicita mentioned that a group was forming to defend this right to vote and that they were planning educational forums leading up to the 2026 municipal elections. He provided his contact information for those interested in learning more or inviting him to speak at community groups.

4. STAFF LIAISON UPDATES

- a. Community Engagement Specialist Schmidt presented the March Staff Report included in the Agenda Packet.
- b. Community Engagement Specialist Schmidt provided an update on the CIC budget, noting that there was still just below \$15,000 left to be spent in the biennium. Based on projected postcard mailings, there could be a deficit of \$1,023 by the end of the fiscal year. She mentioned that city management had

expressed willingness to assist with additional funds if needed due to the reactivation of some neighborhood associations.

Discussion ensued about the purpose of email subscriber lists and their potential to reduce mailing costs. Hannah clarified that the email lists were intended to diversify outreach methods rather than replace postcard mailings entirely.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

- a. The committee discussed preparations for the upcoming Spring Forward Community Resource Fair. They decided to print 100 copies of informational flyers and use the existing neighborhood association map, despite it being outdated. Members signed up for shifts to staff the CIC booth at the event. Hannah agreed to provide CIC banners and other necessary materials.

6. ROUNDTABLE

Committee members provided updates from their respective neighborhood associations:

Caulfield: Reported on a former drug house situation and an upcoming meeting about a land use general development plan.

Elyville: Announced their upcoming meeting with discussions on a new neighborhood officer, urban renewal, and updates from various community meetings.

Gaffney Lane: Shared information about the parks director's meet-and-greet event they attended.

Hillendale/Tower Vista: Mentioned recent steering committee meetings and plans for their April meeting.

McLoughlin: Reported on plans to revamp the old hospital on Washington Street into an assisted living facility, an upcoming historic review board open house, and plans for neighborhood yard sales and Porchfest in August.

Park Place: Announced recent elections and changes in leadership. Nick Dierckman will act as Chair of Park Place NA and has submitted an application to take on the role of CIC representative for Park Place NA.

Canemah: Discussed their February meeting, which covered FEMA regulations, fire department updates, and local safety concerns.

Commissioners Adam Marl and Scott Wilson provided updates on City Commission activities, including the recent goal-setting retreat and the upcoming interviews for the Destination Management and Marketing Organization.

Nick Dierckman, the acting Chair for Park Place NA, spoke about the Metro Enhancement Grants program and encouraged neighborhoods to take advantage of this opportunity for funding local projects.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair, Linda Baysinger, at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Schmidt, Community Engagement Specialist

Date Approved: 4/7/2025