

LUCC Meeting Minutes

September 7th, 2023

Welcome – Vice President Jason Robinson called the meeting to order and welcomed all attendees.

Self-Introductions – 34 people were present.

Meeting Minutes – Meeting minutes were approved at the opening of the meeting.

Treasurers Report – Naomi Shirtcliff: Received dues payment from Lumen. Voted and approved purchase of \$20 gift card purchased by Naomi and to continue \$20 card give aways through end of this year.

Publicity & Education- Jim Franklin: Not Present. Update shared by Jason (via an email memo from Jim): Ems are wrapped up for this year. Maybe 811 or LUCC can book a group day at an Ems game next year? The Ems have our contact info and will reach out next year. The Western Oregon Builders Association will be postponed until 2024. No update from Jerrys or Home Depot; our inquiries have gone to management with no response.

Damage Report- Jason Williams: No Present

Web Page- Amy Abramson: No Update

OUCS Standards Review – Jason Robinson: None to share.

Old Business: EWEB Water had a job with no CTL locates during pre-survey. There was two steel conduits that crossed the trench for a new water main that caused a delay in construction until a CTL field tech could respond. No damages occurred but the unmarked facilities created added cost in time loss and modification of the trench path.

Hunter is filing on Lumen (per Jason). He reminded the room to take good photos that show the dig area with a date stamp and the unmarked facilities.

Vac-X is documenting their issues with locates but hasn't filed yet.

New Business: Heath Consultants has been awarded the new locating contract for NWN. They will begin locating on January 1 2024. Locating Inc will still be responding to tickets for Pacific Power in the Eugene area. It's believed that three of USIC's locators have been hired by Heath, leaving them even more understaffed for our area.

Program: Michelle Parkins – COE PW Maintenance – Surface ROW Team (Supervisor)
Topic: Working around the Unhoused

Michelle has a team of four FTE plus seasonal help that focus on ROW & multi-use paths in Eugene. Daily partners include Urban Forestry, Utility Locators, Utility Workers, and EPD.

EPD has new funding for two dedicated officers that specialize in the unhoused.

Neighborhood Safety Officers help enforce clearing the unhoused people from the ROW, as needed. There are currently four NSO's, there are plans to increase this to 8 FTE.

Park Ambassadors focus on parks rule enforcement. All of which work with ODOT, State & County partners for jurisdictional areas.

There are legal requirements & processes for enforcing ROW Codes / Rules. Determining property ownership and jurisdiction is key to following the process legally.

There has had over 2000 requests for service January 2021 to present, which has concluded in 2200 yards of debris removal that included approx. 440 5-yard dump trucks, 107 bicycles, 295 shopping carts, 1900+ camps.

Part of the work also includes providing outreach support resources as options for folks they encounter.

When working in the ROW, its suggested to set up a clear "work zone" with trucks and cones. This will help EPD enforce the ROW rules and move them along. EPD has the ability to arrest if needed but will first try negotiations to ask them to remove themselves and their belongings. Michelles team is trained in de-escalation and empathetic communications. Their work is primarily focused on the clean up and restoration of the ROW but they often encounter the unhoused along the way. EPD will be the first call for any enforcement needed.

Tips for encounters are to remain respectful and empathetic. Approach the site with a wide lense and take in the big picture.

The new laws for unhoused include a required 72 hour posted notice to "evict" someone from the ROW.

Federal Regulations also requires COE to store any personal items for 30 days or 90 days if the person was arrested. COE has storage containers for this purpose.

Meeting Adjourned- 1 pm