

The Markham Neighborhood Association held their quarterly meeting on January 14, 2014, at 7:00 pm at the Rahmani care facility. Eleven people attended, including nine neighbors and two guests. Chairman Phil Richman Markham Minutes Jan. 14, 2014 presided.

Leonard Gard , the program Manager of SW Neighborhoods, Inc. introduced speaker Becky Tillson from the Office of Environmental Services. Ms. Tillson gave a presentation on work scheduled for next summer to repair the outfall to Falling Creek in the southern part of the Markham Neighborhood. Using a poster board with pictures of the pipe and the area, she described the extremely deteriorated condition of a 36 inch concrete pipe which Collects storm water from an area near 35th Ave. close to Barbur Blvd and I-5 and discharges it into Falling Creek, a tributary of Tryon Creek. The work will begin this summer and be completed by September 15. Equipment will be stored on an ODOT property between I-5 and 35th Ave. The work is not expected to create noise because it will be done in a Culvert, but there could be some noise from equipment moving in and out of the area. The water flowing from the pipe will be cloudier during construction. Several neighbors from that part of Markham attended the meeting and expressed concern about the effect on traffic during construction. Ms. Tillson stated that it is hoped only one lane of traffic on 35th will be closed and for only one week. However, if the company that is awarded the contract should decide after the fact that they need to close both lanes and create a detour we will have no recourse. When the project is completed it should provide protection to the local water quality, public health, and environment.

By request of some neighbors from the Indian Hills area there was a discussion of the safety problem created by vehicles going too fast through the intersections of 26th and Stanley and Stanley and Ridge Way. The stretch of Stanley between 26th and Ridge Way is so short it forms an S-curve through the area by drivers cutting corners. In addition to dangerous driving patterns, the view coming from Ridge Way and turning right on Stanley is partly impeded by a large tree and a large recreational vehicle. Three suggestions were made for options to slow traffic: lines in the center to delineate the lanes, speed bumps, or bollards in the form of small raised domes strategically placed down the center at the intersections with a gap to prevent impeding cross traffic on Stanley. Among those present, the lines were thought to be ineffective and speed bumps unpopular. The bollards were received more favorably. Phil pointed out that in order to make any changes to the street, 50% of the neighbors on the affected streets would need to agree. Kathleen Elliott, who lives on one of the corners agreed to start an investigation of options with some guidance from Phil, who will put her in touch with Mark Lear, a liaison from PBOT (Portland Bureau of Transportation).

Now that SW 19th Ave. has been closed from Lobelia to Marigold, there has been some interest from neighbors and those passing through to make SW Trail #6 along 19th safer, more pedestrian friendly, and more pleasing to the eye. Some of the comments have been about the uneven roadway, poor lighting at night due to heavy vegetation blocking the light at 19th and Marigold, and the dangerous crossing at Taylor's Ferry, which has no crosswalk. Jordan Frohblom expressed willingness to investigate options for improvement, including making the walkway more even, and he also suggested planting native plants along the sides. Phil suggested discussing this with Kathryn Hanson who lives along the trail and attends SW Trails meetings.

The meeting was adjourned, and the next quarterly meeting will be on April 8 at 7:00 at the Rahmani care facility at 9015 SW 19th Ave.