



**ARDENWALD-JOHNSON CREEK  
NEIGHBORHOOD DISTRICT ASSOCIATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, JUNE 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2020**

**Meeting Location:** Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88968122811> 6:30 P.M.  
**Chairman:** Matt Rinker, (971) 336-8663, [MattRinker@hotmail.com](mailto:MattRinker@hotmail.com)

**Board Present:** Matt Rinker, Erin Jansen, Chris Holle-Bailey, Travis Holle-Bailey  
Travis Tomlinson, Lisa Gunion-Rinker, Abigail Ball, Bryan Dorr

**Guests Present:** Beth Britell, Renee Moog, Carissa Albina, Luke Strait, Rita Lynn

**1. Introductions**

**2. Police Report:** Luke Strait –

Statement on George Floyd and Black Lives Matter: Has issued the same statement at Milwaukie Council meetings and for other NDAs. Entirety of the statement is attached.

Community Questions:

How would Milwaukie police handle a situation in which a member of the community is experiencing harassment?

Would expect the officer to intercede and make sure the community feels safe, and encourages calling 911 in these scenarios.

Interagency interaction given that Ardenwald-Johnson Creek has Portland police jurisdiction – what happens when working with other agencies that do not have the same inclusive/reporting/de-escalation/ethics/standards policies?

Have not helped out with crowd control in Portland, Milwaukie Police know they are always held to their standard and they are encouraged to think about whether Milwaukie would want them to be involved. There are less than 40 police officers and there is always a sergeant on duty, often another level of management on every shift and they have these conversations regularly. Milwaukie Police fully vet events when they are asked to help other agencies and get as much information as possible before getting themselves involved.

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Would Milwaukie Police intervene when there is destruction of property (during a protest)?

Yes, to the extent it can be done safely, serves a governmental interest and is possible considering all the circumstances, their goal would be to stop destruction of personal property.

Community competencies –

A portion of the police academy training (6 hour block) focuses on community competencies.

Community based police force?

Milwaukie police do not have to live in Milwaukie, but some do, and there are also Portland police officers

Do social workers ever accompany police?

Yes. Behavioral health unit, comes when available and when safe. They respond in person or via the phone depending on the situation. Police also go through crisis intervention training (CIT) including NAMI and other panels on how to handle people in crisis.

Do Milwaukie Police use no-knock warrants?

This is determined under state law. A judge could authorize a no-knock warrant, but it would be under the most extreme circumstances imaginable. They are almost unheard of in Oregon. Would have to convince the judge that it was an armed and fortified location, waiting for the police and no knock warrant was absolutely necessary for surprise element.

Do Milwaukie PD allow choke-holds?

Have not used a choke hold in the past 25 years, there is no policy that allows or incorporates a choke-hold. The exact language does not allow a police officer to use a corroded restraint unless they have been specifically trained on it, but the language regarding corroded restraints will be revised to be very clear how it is to be expected to be used. But it has never been an issue here because not a common part of policing.

Is the Police's position on Black Lives Matter posted anywhere?

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Immediately made a statement on social media after George Floyd death, also made a statement during city council meeting. The attempts at outreach have been largely through NDAs and city council. See statement attached.

3. **42<sup>nd</sup> Ave SAFE Project Update** (Beth Britell) – the sidewalk that is currently there does not meet current ADA guidelines/rules. Heard overwhelmingly from the neighborhood that traffic goes too fast on this street. Reduced number of crossing, delineation of lane widths, proposed concrete curb islands (pedestrian refuge islands) but was disregarded because of turning radii and school buses. Proposed plan includes a speed bump and raised crosswalk. Construction will occur with construction on 43<sup>rd</sup> in summer 2021.

4. **Public Comments:**

Do we want to make a statement in support of Black Lives Matter and supporting an inclusive, welcoming and diverse neighborhood as well as pushing the City of Milwaukie to make a formal statement – Abigail Ball drafted and proposed a statement expressing support and language regarding police presence in meetings.

Members expressed appreciation for police coming to a meeting and engaging with community, but recognized that there is white privilege associated with the ability to feel comfortable and happy with police presence. Perhaps we can reach out to police regarding what they are willing or able to do regarding not being armed/uniformed. Discussion regarding wanting to redesign the police force and integrate with the community. Recognizing that Black and other people of color members of community may not feel the same comfort level and appreciation for their presence and our goal to include them in the conversations and be an inclusive community.

Agreement regarding broad statement of support and then scheduling a board meeting to discuss the interaction with the police and what that brings to meetings.

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Matt Rinker motion to vote on submitting the statement drafted by Abby Ball, Erin Jansen and Chris Holle-Berry seconded – and the motion passed with one Nay vote. (See attached statement in solidarity). The board further commits to another conversation regarding our relationship with the Milwaukie PD (supplemental meeting scheduled for Monday July 6).

**5. Committee Reports –**

- a. Chair: No report!
- b. Vice-chair: Not present.
- c. Secretary: No report!
- d. Webmaster: Some issues with AJC board email
- e. Treasurer: Transition needs to happen to Travis. We have \$2479.17 in our accounts. We are reinstated with the DOJ for 2017, 2018, 2019 and we're working on why we don't have non-profit status. Lisa's on it. The charges for the forms are being generously paid by Matt and Lisa.
- f. Land Use:

Planning meeting tomorrow regarding the apartment building on 32<sup>nd</sup> street. Including parking spaces, stormwater, NMU, height variance, site line etc. Zoom meeting available and the information is on the city website. (<https://www.milwaukieoregon.gov/bc-pc/planning-commission-52>)

Discussion regarding involving media in this because if the city is claiming they have worked so hard with the community to develop the code for the city and then are just going to request a variance for every new building, why would we work with/believe the government is serving our best interests.

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The focus of the meeting will be regarding variance and the best focus is on safety for pedestrians, bicyclists etc.

Other issues: There is someone extending their kitchen on some street and need a variance request to go closer to the side fence – it looks great and improving property and quality of life.

There is another project on Filbert where it looks like they took some trees out, but they have not needed any variances.

Another house has divided the plat into two on Rosewell/Floss.

- g. Southeast Uplift: We are still seeking a member for this position!
- h. Transportation: Not present – but submitted comments via email – some discussion about turning streets into extra space during COVID.
- i. Public Safety Advisory Committee: Not present – but submitted comments via email - Local access road only designations; catastrophic emergency rescue team training will be available through the county later this year, part of this training is to get neighborhoods Beacon boxes.
- j. Membership: See above statement regarding solidarity with Black Lives Matter.

Drive in movie proposal – perhaps we could use our concert money to fund a drive in movie night, using either the Marketplace or lot where the temporary library was set up. Follow up with Abby for more information/to help her out!

Abby also bought some yard signs and passing them out to neighbors. Wondering if the neighborhood would like to also support and order some signs and make it a neighborhood sanctioned sign. Will follow up at 2 week board meeting.

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- k. Art: Not present
  
  - l. Balfour Street Park: Likely going to have some sort of sale in September/October.
  
  - m. Ardenwald PTO: No report.
6. Approve May Meeting Minutes – approve as amended regarding guests/board in attendance.
7. Adjournment: Adjourned! 8:50 p.m.

**The next meeting is:  
Monday, September 28th**

**Thanks for coming and Happy Summer!!!  
(Wear your mask! Wear your sunscreen! Stay safe!)**



## **Statement from Milwaukie PD on the Killing of George Floyd:**

*First and foremost, I join our community and the entire country in acknowledging the horrific nature of what happened to George Floyd in Minneapolis. None of us will forget the footage from that video. This is a shocking reminder of what the worst-case scenario can be. The feelings of anger, confusion, sadness and helplessness have impacted the entire country, but most of all our communities of color. The only path forward is to renew our commitment and dedication to identifying how and why this happened and systematically taking steps to break down structures of racial inequity at all levels. I believe this work begins with honest assessments and open dialogue within our organization and community.*

*There are many procedures and practices currently in place in our agency to fight systemic racism. With that said, I recognize we are not perfect and there are always opportunities for improvement. Today I pledge to renew our efforts to keep all members of our community safe, especially those that have been harmed by police practices that target people of color.*

*These efforts will include **examination of policies**, use of force training, officer accountability, hiring practices, community engagement, procedural justice and legitimacy. Increased training related to implicit bias, and diversity, equity and inclusion will be key components.*

*I believe **organizational culture and internal accountability are key aspects** of our current foundation for success. The majority of significant disciplinary events in the past 15 years, were brought forward by individual department members who saw something and spoke up. It is my goal to perpetuate this culture so that Milwaukie officers know that both the community and their fellow officers have high expectations for fair and equitable policing. We routinely critique our own performance and critical incidents. We have hard conversations and hold each other accountable. We also review critical instances from across the state and around the county, using those as opportunities to examine our own policies and training to look for areas of weakness and opportunities to improve.*

*We have a clearly written policy which articulates a duty for any officer to intercede if they witness an officer using force beyond that which is objectively reasonable under the circumstances.*

***De-escalation techniques** are embedded in our organization and we will continue to train and emphasize them more in the future. Integrating a mental health component into our response to critical incidents will continue to be a priority and our partnership with programs such as the **Behavioral Health Unit** will continue to be critical.*

*We acknowledge how even one tragic injustice such as this can further destroy our relationships with our communities of color. We agree justice must be done*

*and we embrace our role in taking steps to eliminate the influence of racism and bias within our communities.*

*As a member of law enforcement for the past 25 years, I'm a passionate advocate for all those who dedicate their lives to this challenging career. I will have no success as a leader without consistently acknowledging how extremely challenging this job is and just how often our staff does an incredible job. I often receive phone calls and emails from the community praising the professional and compassionate work of our officers and support staff. I absolutely acknowledge there are times when we come up short. We can continue to evolve and improve, and we will work together with our community to do that.*

*I believe if done correctly, we can set an example of the right way to work through incredibly challenging issues such as these. The Milwaukie Police Department will embrace these challenges.”*

### **Use of Force**

- Duty to intercede if any officers observes inappropriate use of force
- Duty to report any use of force which “could have cause an injury”, even if it did not
- Supervisors immediate investigation of use of force including interviews of witnesses, officers, suspects, with findings to command staff
- Untruthfulness, or bias, are grounds for decertification and termination

### **Some other factors**

- Exhaustive pre-employment backgrounds
- Full background investigation report goes to psychologist, followed by a full psychological evaluation
- Final job offer is not made until applicant has successfully passed those phases
  - 18 month training and probation period, with no union representation
  - If someone is fired we determine if it was related to ethics, truthfulness, or bias. If so we revoke their police certification through the state.
  - De-escalation techniques are imbedded in our organization
  - Policy and procedures are developed through Lexipol, based on national best practice

**-LUKE STRAIT, Chief of Police**

To: Milwaukie Mayor Mark Gamba, Councilor Angel Falconer, Councilor Lisa Batey, Councilor Wilda Parks, Councilor Kathy Hyzy, City Manager Ann Ober, Assistant City Manager Kelly Brooks

From: Ardenwald-Johnson Creek Neighborhood Association  
Re: Statement of Support for Black Lives

June 22nd, 2020

Dear Milwaukie City Leaders:

Our nation is in mourning over the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and countless more known and unknown people of color that have been murdered and continue to be murdered in acts of police brutality and racially motivated attacks. We acknowledge that these murders are an outcome of the systemic racism inherent in every aspect of our lives including our policing and governing systems. As a neighborhood association, we are called to reflect on our own prejudice and privilege and dedicate ourselves to learning and acting to form a safe, inclusive, and welcoming neighborhood for Black people and all neighbors belonging to marginalized communities.

In a time when silence speaks volumes, we call on our city leaders to denounce racism, white supremacy, and the current societal norms that allow them to perpetuate. We challenge our city to be leaders in seeking out and collaborating with community leaders and advocates of color and to amplify Black voices. We challenge our city to acknowledge and learn from the shameful parts of our city and state's history and to move our community towards a future that we can all be proud of.

To our city leaders and to our neighbors, Ardenwald-Johnson Creek Neighborhood District Association states without reservation or condition that Black Lives Matter.

In solidarity,

The Ardenwald-Johnson Creek Neighborhood District Association

Matthew Rinker, Chair  
Jeff Davis, Vice Chair  
Erin Jansen, Secretary  
Travis Tomlinson, Treasurer

