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**Normal Ave. meeting**

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**From :** Howard Miller <hmiller@jeffnet.org>

Fri, Sep 12, 2014 10:41 AM

**Subject :** Normal Ave. meeting

**To :** brandon goldman <brandon.goldman@ashland.or.us>, Pam Marsh <pam.marsh@gmail.com>

Good morning,

We are interested in the composition of the panel that will be a part of the September 18 meeting. If you do not already have the two 'interested observers', I would suggest John Fields, who was both a Planning Commissioner and is a contractor—he could certainly see both sides of the issue.

I also want to stress again that Ashland has, inside the city limits, enough buildable land in the inventory for over 20 years of construction at the present and foreseeable rate of growth. The need for land is the criteria for annexation – why does this process continue when the need is not there; that strong argument will be made during all the hearings. As you know, the estimates for upgrading the railroad crossing and improving East Main suddenly went from millions to hundreds of thousands...realistically, the earlier numbers seem much more accurate, and most projects cost more than planned. Since housing is not needed, if the City is the agent for the Advance Financing, how can it be sure of repayment within 20 years?

No matter what concerns are voiced, no matter how many residents both of the area and city at large do not want this area urbanized with hundreds of houses, the City just keeps moving forward at the behest of Mahar and fellow contractors. We do not understand why the process continues when the need is not proven, unless it gives Planning staff something to do.

Sincerely,  
Debbie Miller

Howdy just reported that the two observers have been selected; please keep John's name as a back-up.

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