



Southwest Neighborhoods

SWNEWS



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News from Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc.

swni.org

Charter Commission

Charter Commission Considers Options to Revamp City Government

About once a decade, a group of Portland citizens is empaneled to re-examine Portland's City Charter (i.e., the City's constitution) and consider changes – minor as well as major – to the City's form of governance and procedures.

Appointed in December 2020, a 20-member Charter Commission is in the midst of a two-year process to examine various forms of municipal government, electoral processes and administrative rules to consider referring to Portland voters.

Three of the 20 [Commission members](#) live in Southwest Portland – Melanie Billings-Yun, who lives in the Southwest Hills Residential League (SWHRL) area; Vadim Mozursky, from the Goose Hollow neighborhood; and Amira Streeter of the South Portland neighborhood.

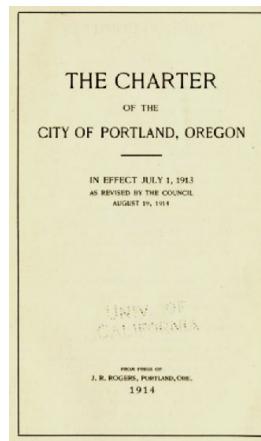
To fulfill its mission, Commissioners have decided to approach Charter review in two phases:

- **Phase 1**, which began in August 2021, anticipates referring proposed Charter amendments to City Council in June 2022 for Portlanders to vote on in the November 2022 ballot. To that end, the Commissioners formed two topic-focused subcommittees – Form of Government and City Council Elections.
- **Phase 2** will focus on topics yet to be identified, anticipates referring a second

"Amendments to the City's Charter can change City policies and processes that have the potential to respond to community priorities, shape our city and address the most pressing issues facing our city."

Portland Charter Commission website

set of proposed Charter amendments to City Council in December 2022 for amendments to appear on a future ballot.



One reason the Commissioners divided their work into two phases is the number and complexity of issues on the table. Says Billings-Yun, "We're mindful that we don't want to overwhelm the public."

The Commission held its first public "listening sessions" in November followed by two sessions this January. All sessions were taped and can be viewed [here](#). As of mid-January, the Commissioners had received more than 800 public responses not including comments made during the public listening sessions.

"We have set a general direction [for Charter reform], but now we need feedback from the public about what they would prefer," says Debbie Kitchin, Commission co-chair, who hails from the Sullivan's Gulch neighborhood in NE Portland. "I don't know that there will be unanimous agreement, but I do think there is a common concern to make changes to improve how the City operates."

"I think we're headed in the right direction although there are a lot of details still to work out," Kitchin says.

MAJOR CHANGES AHEAD?

Although fundamental change in the form of City government was resoundingly defeated by voters in 2000 and 2007, the current Charter Commission has decided *status quo* is not an option. Commissioners are focusing on proposing significant changes to Portland's long-standing and so-called "weak mayor" or "Commission" form of government wherein each of the four city commissioners, as well as the mayor, have management responsibility for their assigned City bureaus.

"There has been a huge change in attitudes [in recent years]," says Billings-Yun. "In previous proposals to change the form of City government, voters seem to feel that Portland was a model city and innovative – that no changes were necessary," she says. "We haven't heard that once."

Says Vadim Mozysky, who also is a current candidate for City Council, "Our commissioner form of government is no longer adequate to meet the needs of our growing, diverse city."

"In meeting with elected officials, bureau managers and people who have interacted with our City government in various capacities," Mozysky says, "we heard numerous examples of how the commissioner form of government created bureaucratic hurdles, impeded cooperation between bureaus, resulted in wasteful duplication of services, and failed to deliver on fundamental expectations."

He and other Charter Commission members interviewed by SWNI News, expressed a belief that most members of current City Council, except for Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty, concur a change is needed. What that change may be boils down to two models the Commission is considering:

- **Strong Mayor:** In this model, an elected mayor would continue to serve on the City Council but would be responsible for overseeing City bureaus and operations as well as proposing the City's budget. Council members would only have legislative powers. The mayor would hire and oversee a City Administrator responsible for day-to-day City business. One argument in favor of this approach is that an elected official, i.e., the mayor, would have accountability for the City's bureaus and programs.
- **City Manager:** This model would place responsibility for budgeting and management of City bureaus on a professional city manager approved by the City Council. There are variations on this theme, but in one the mayor would be "first among equals" and elected citywide while Council members would likely represent districts. One argument in favor of

this model is that a split in legislative and executive authority – and a City Manager reporting to the full Council – would lead to more stability and a longer-term approach to dealing with complex public issues, such as homelessness, climate change and social justice.

What has been ruled out by Commissioners so far is recommending that the current governance structure for City government be retained.

"There are several areas where the City's systems are too bureaucratic to allow for City government to run effectively for the Portland community," says Streeter, who currently serves as Gov. Kate's Brown's Natural Resource Advisor. "Many communities' members are left out of the benefits that the City advances. It's time to make some meaningful change to Portland City government . . . and I believe Portlanders are ready for change."

WHAT ELSE IS BEING CONSIDERED?

Other major issues being addressed in Phase 1 are the configuration of the City Council, its representation and the election process for its members. The Charter Commission already has reached general agreement about several items:

- **Size of the City Council:** The Commissioners are moving in the direction of proposing an increase in the number of City Council positions as a means of increasing diversity and representation across the community. How many remains to be determined, it most likely will be geographically and population based.
- **Districting:** The Commissioners are largely unified on the premise that City Council members should be elected from districts. Details, such as how many districts there should be and whether each district elects more than one Commissioner, have yet to be worked out. Another question is whether candidates will run from districts but elected citywide or only by voters within their district.
- **Elections:** There are multiple flavors being considered for the method of voting for the City Council. One

idea being considered is for voters to rank their preference among a slate of candidates, e.g., first choice, second choice, third choice. Termed the "instant runoff" election process, it is a vote counting method used in single-seat elections with more than two candidates. In this type of system, if one candidate fails to achieve a sufficient majority, the candidate with the fewest number of first-preference rankings is eliminated and the votes redistributed. The process is repeated until one candidate achieves the required majority.

Mozysky said the Commission is aware that the cost of expanding the size of City Council needs to be considered. "We realize there are a lot of issues facing the City with respect to budgeting and that every dollar counts." He said the Commission needs to deal with that question – along with any other details and implications of their recommendations – by May in order to meet their Phase 1 deadline.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS?

If the Commission's proposals for Charter changes require voter approval, they will be referred to the ballot. If not, they can be put into effect as the discretion of the City Council. Other proposals can be simply accepted or rejected by City Council.

Here's how it works:

- Recommendations supported by 15 or more Commission members automatically will be referred to the ballot.
- Recommendations with the support of 11 to 14 members, but not 15, can be referred to voters by the City Council if the Council so desires.
- The City Council also can refer its own Charter amendments to Portland voters. (Charter Commission members interviewed by SWNI News acknowledge that it is conceivable the City Council could propose alternative changes to the Charter not proposed by the Charter Commission.)
- Proposed Charter changes or changes to administrative matters that do not

require voter approval can be implemented or modified at the City Council's discretion.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

As is often said of complex matters, the devil is in the details. That's exactly where the Charter Commission is at this point. With general agreement on some key issues, the Commissioners are quickly turning to those all-important details.

- **Public Comment:** Citizens can [sign up](#) to make comments at Commission meetings, the next of which is Thursday, Feb. 17, from 6pm to 8pm. If time permits, individuals who have not signed up in advance may be given an opportunity to testify. The time limit for public testimony is 3 minutes.
- **Written Comments:** Written testimony can be submitted at any time through the [online comment form](#) or through email with subject line "public comment" sent to: CharterReview@portlandoregon.gov. Written comments must be submitted by 8am two business days before the Commission meeting to give the Commissioners time to review. Public comments are posted in the [documents](#) section of the Charter Commission website.
- **Charter Commission Newsletter:** For more information, citizens also can sign up for updates by subscribing to the Charter Commission newsletter.

To view other perspectives on Charter reform, visit the [City Club of Portland](#) or [League of Women Voters \(LWV\)](#) websites about possible City Charter reforms.

The LWV also is hosting a live Zoom panel discussion with several Charter Commissioners on Wednesday, Feb. 9, from 7pm to 8:30pm. The public is invited. To register and receive the Zoom link, click [here](#).

Charter Commission Members from SW Portland

Why They Wanted to Serve and Outcomes They Seek

More than a year ago, 20 citizens were chosen to serve on a City of Portland Charter Commission that is considering broad changes to the City's commission form of government that has been in effect for more than 120 years. Although previous attempts at Charter reform have been defeated by Portland voters, this time around there seems to be a better chance that long-debated issue receives support at the ballot box.

Having reached the mid-way point of their two-year assignment, SWNI News asked the three members of the Charter Commission who hail from Southwest Portland why they applied to serve and what they feel success looks like when all is said and done.

MELANIE BILLINGS YUN (Southwest Hills)



Why I Wanted to Serve: "I have spent most of my adult life living in other countries and have seen examples of governments that succeed and fail," says Billings-Yun. After returning home to Portland, she had "a personal feeling that there were signs of a government moving into failure" and that "the current form of City government is not serving the population and that we're seeing a very strong backlash against the City." In light of that, she said, "I felt that I could bring a different perspective and experience to the Commission."

What I Hope For: "The outcome I hope for is that Portlanders will have a more representative, responsive and effective government. While we cannot create a good government – that depends on who is elected – we can at least put in place a system that makes it achievable."

VADIM MOZYRSKY (Goose Hollow)



Why I Wanted to Serve: "The current homeless, public safety and livability crises that have boiled over in the last couple of years have put into sharp focus the underlying problems simmering in the background for a long time," Mozyrsky says. 'This is a direct result of our commissioner form of government where each City Council member is independently responsible for large and complex bureaus. Portlanders deserve better, and I believe that the Charter Commission can outline a path to a more responsive and efficient city government."

What I Hope For: "I would like to make recommendations to the voters for changes that will result in elected officials being more representative and more responsive while at the same time creating a management structure for the City's bureaus that will allow them to work together to deliver on the long-term vision Portlanders have for our city."

AMIRA STREETER (South Portland)



Why I Wanted to Serve: "I saw an opportunity to be involved in impactful and meaningful change for our city. I love Portland and being a resident of this area for over 10 years, I saw how the recommendations from the Commission could really make a difference. I have the unique experience for previously working for [former Commissioner] Nick Fish as a policy advisor so I got to see the inner workings of City government and reflect on what works and what doesn't."

What I Hope For: "I would like to see better representation on City Council and a better structure for the Council and the Mayor to operate. While we do have great public servants trying to do the best they can, we do have systems and practices in place within City government that impede effective governance. We saw how slow we are to act in times of crisis and how difficult it is to reach decision-makers. The constant 'changing of the guards' doesn't help the City manage programs run by the Bureaus or create a cohesive vision for the City."

Part II: Homelessness in Our City

SWNI Poll Shows Rise in Homeless Activity in SW Portland

ED. NOTE: This is the second of a series of articles on the homeless crisis in Portland. In this part, we report on the results of a survey of neighborhoods on the implications of this complex social issue in our own backyard.

Travel the major byways and highways of our metropolitan area and the physical manifestation of people without housing is fully evident – encampments of tents and cardboard shanties, derelict vehicles on the streets with people living inside, garbage and refuse scattered here and there, people curled up inside of sleeping bags or rolled up in old blankets in the cold of night.

It's not a pretty sight – especially in a city historically known for its beauty and livability: the "jewel on the Willamette" as the late Governor Tom McCall once described it.

For the most part, however, the quiet neighborhoods of Southwest Portland have escaped the bulk of the impact homelessness has had on our city. Yet, in the last several years, the unmistakable presence of homeless individuals and families can be seen now on street corners, in various nooks and crannies of public property, and in impromptu homeless camps in our part of Portland.

Today, two Safe Rest Villages (SRVs) are proposed to be located here – at the former Sgt. Jerome Sears Armory at 2731 SW Multnomah Blvd. in the Multnomah neighborhood and at 2300 SW Naito Parkway in the southern end of downtown, adjacent to the South Portland neighborhood. Only 3 of the 13 neighborhoods surveyed (Bridlemile, Crestwood and Hillsdale) reported taking a position on the Sears Armory site, and all three currently support the idea.

IMPACTS ON SW PORTLAND

SWNI News polled all 16 neighborhood associations to help understand how homelessness has, or has not, infiltrated Southwest Portland. Of the 13 neighborhoods responding to the SWNI survey, three (Ashcreek, Hayhurst and Marshall Park) rated their concern about

the problem as a "5", the most severe while four of our neighborhoods (Collins View, Far Southwest, Multnomah and West Portland Park) rated their concerns as a "4".

Based on the survey feedback, South Portland appears to have the most immediate and significant problems dealing with homeless individuals. SPNA's proximity to downtown Portland, I-5 and SW Barbur Blvd. make it easier for homeless people and their encampments to enter the neighborhood. Two of the five SPNA Board members who responded rated their concern at level 5, although the average was 3.8. All five said homeless activity in their neighborhood has been going on for multiple years.

"Most of the discussion has regarded negative impacts on the livability of the neighborhood, including fire danger and noxious smoke and spread of trash and needles; also, the perceived connection between homeless in the area and the factual reality of greatly increased incidents of petty theft, vandalism, car break-ins and car theft," says Jim Gardner.

He said homeless camps and shelters are spread around multiple locations, citing nine different spots frequented – and even on boats in the Willamette River.

SPNA recently has focused on new Safe Rest Village/Tiny Homes site at north end of the Lair Hill area, according to Michael Kaplan, past SPNA Chair. "Most board members have a wait and see approach with hope that proposed Safe Rest Village on Naito Parkway is a successful model for not only homeless, but surrounding neighborhoods and schools," he says.

SPNA is working closely with the Downtown Neighborhood Association (DNA) on a "Good Neighbor Agreement" regarding the SRV site on SW Naito Parkway, especially stressing the need for "wrap-around case management and elimination of nearby homeless camping if the site is actually developed," Kaplan says.

Tom Gornick represents SPNA as liaison with DNA and two nearby schools. "The issue is complex [and] multi-layered requiring creative and humanitarian



openness," he said. "The city/county needs to end the silo leadership and working groups and put experienced people on the issue." Gornick notes that SPNA is working with the DNA and the SRV staff in Commissioner Dan Ryan's office. "We have not taken a position but have informally endorsed the approach taken by DNA and the terms of the proposed Good Neighbor Agreement," he said. "We have not discussed the proposed Sears Armory SRV."

SUMMARY OF NEIGHBORHOODS

Ashcreek (Concern Rating - 5):

Over the last years the neighborhood has seen vans, old buses and RVs parked on neighborhood streets, says Taylor von Ahlefeld, Chair. Some vehicles housing people have been seen in the neighborhood area near the West Portland United Methodist church on SW Taylors Ferry Road and in the vicinity of SW 49th and Brugger. Some verbal confrontations between neighbors and individuals living in vehicles have occurred. Portland Police have reportedly told them to move. However, Taylor says, vehicles remain of what was a larger group of campers. People in the substantially residential Ashcreek neighborhood are "compassionate, yet concerned", he said, citing garbage, drugs and crime as the biggest worries. "This is a Portland-wide issue that has been exacerbated in recent years under poor Portland leadership," he says. "I'm confident compassionate solutions can be found without allowing complete anarchy and destruction of our once beautiful and safe city."

Bridlemile (Concern Rating - 1):

Although Bridlemile has not experienced much in the way of homeless activity, Bridlemile NA Board member Christy Borden stated "We are troubled by our neighbors' lack of compassion for this huge problem that barely affects us personally. There is nothing more important than neighbors helping neighbors and the community at large. I personally am disgusted by the responses I have seen."

Collins View (Concern Rating - 4):

Collins View Board member, Glen Lynard, reported only that a tent had been found within the River View Natural Area; however, he said, "it was found to be unoccupied and, at present, has

collapsed." Collins View previously discussed the City's idea of allowing houseless folks sheltering temporarily in public parks, but since the neighborhood does not have any city parks, no position on that was taken, and the neighborhood also has taken no action on the proposed Sears Armory SRV site.

Crestwood (Concern Rating - 3):

Crestwood reports that homeless activity has been prevalent around SW 64th and Barbur Blvd., for some time, especially near the I-5 ramps. More recently, homeless activity also has been occurring near the SW 46th and Taylors Ferry intersection shared with Ashcreek. Marianne Fitzgerald, Crestwood chair, says the pastor of the nearby United Methodist church has been trying to connect the homeless family with resources. "We are concerned about the homeless and support locating [a] Safe Rest Village with services at the Sears [Armory] location," but said "we need more information on how public funds are being spent." She expressed a concern that "it seems like shelters and affordable housing are slow to arrive and when [recent] SRV locations [were] announced, both times they came as a surprise."

Far Southwest (Concern Rating - 4):

Homeless activity has occurred only in the last year or so, according to Martha Campbell, the neighborhood association's new chair. She reports that neighbors have noticed campers on the northbound exit off I-5 at SW Haines Street, "but they left after the first drenching rain and wind in November." Also, she said, one neighbor whose house bordered a vacant lot encountered a homeless individual, asked them to leave, and they did.

Hayhurst (Concern Rating - 5):

A relatively new issue also for Hayhurst, its Chairperson, Marita Ingalsbe, says her neighborhood "seeks engagement with the City and County to work on solutions." Neighbors have seen RVs parked on neighborhood streets in multiple locations, but that there is "much concern about the need for homeless to be housed and supported," she says. "No solutions were identified beyond what is already proposed. It was noted that government agencies have considerable funding, and that organizations such as Transition Projects have been effective."

Hillsdale (Concern Rating - 3):

Hillsdale reported having long term homeless in George Hines Park primarily, plus others tucked away throughout the community. Over the past couple of years, homeless individuals have put up tents along SW Barbur and Bertha. Parked vehicles have also been noted at some locations. "Some of our other residents have been working with [homeless people] to secure needed services such as porta potties and checking in to see how they are doing," says Board member Glenn Bridger. A Hillsdale Action Team, he notes, has been working with [homeless individuals], primarily along Bertha, and that many have moved on. The Hillsdale NA voted against the use of parks for homeless camps last year, but currently supports the City's plan to use the Sears Armory as the "best site in SW Portland" for a Safe Rest Village.

Homestead (Concern Rating - 2):

Only a few incidents involving the homeless have occurred to the neighborhood's awareness, says Ed Fisher, Homestead NA chair, although homeless activity has been seen off SW Terwilliger and in the Marquam Nature Park, away from streets and houses. The Homestead NA has discussed the issue and has a relatively low concern rating. Fisher says the primary concern is "that it seems to be a growing problem" although not a serious problem in Homestead yet. Fisher said he personally believes "resources at all levels of government need to be redirected to provide programs, facilities and staff that can address solutions for housing, mental health, drug addiction, and criminal behavior."

Maplewood (Concern Rating - 3):

Clair Carder, Maplewood NA chair, says her neighborhood has not heard about any "big issues" related to homelessness in Maplewood. The overall issue of homelessness has been discussed by the neighborhood association, which believes the issue "is larger than simple fixes can address."

Marshall Park (Concern Rating - 5):

Mike Charles, Chair, says his neighborhood is opposed to allowing "any camping" in City parks, but supports the idea of building tiny houses so people do not have to live in tents. "The tiny homes

must be accompanied by services [that are] regulated, monitored, managed," he said, stressing that there should be long-term goals beyond tiny homes. "The city needs to notify NA and residents of any plans very early on – please," Charles said. He used the SWNI News survey as a discussion item at its January meeting, and reported the following comments noted above.

Multnomah (Concern Rating - 4):

Moses Ross, Multnomah NA Chair, says homeless activity in his neighborhood has been limited to wooded areas mostly near main streets in the Barbur Blvd. area. Regarding the Safe Rest Village proposed at the Sears Armory in the Multnomah neighborhood, he said, "We have just begun to learn all the details of the proposal and so our current discussions are centered around this issue, not the larger issue." MNA voted last month to request that the City follow a Type III Conditional Use Land Use Review on the proposed SRV and also that previously approved funding "be allocated and utilized to make the Sears Westside Emergency Response Center fully functional as an emergency response and staging area."

South Portland (Concern Rating - 3.8):

Several members of the South Portland neighborhood made comments on the survey, but although homelessness and associated activities has been an issue for numerous years, they didn't all agree to the "concern rating" of 5 given by three of the five respondents from SPNA, which is composed of three rather distinct and largely residential districts – Lair Hill, Corbett and Terwilliger – each of which is experiencing the issue differently. Says past SPNA Chair, Michael Kaplan, "At least 2 or 3 board members living in Lair Hill have concerns about crimes committed by some homeless individuals." Several members said they support the Safe Rest Village proposed along SW Naito Parkway and one, Jeanne Galick, stated: "Personally, I think EVERY neighborhood should host a small homeless village that includes services. If the problem can be equally shared, it is not an insurmountable burden."

Says SPNA Board member, Jim Gardner, "Solutions to homelessness are global issues far broader than our immediate area. Ideas for solutions to our immediate problems have focused on a desire for greater police presence and enforcement of laws, and local volunteer efforts to clean up trash and graffiti."

West Portland Park (Concern Rating - 4):

WPPNA Chair Javier Moncada reports that his neighborhood has seen homeless people living inside the West Portland Natural Area and calls it an "emergency humanitarian complex" issue. In tracking the City's Shelter 2 Housing Continuum project (S2HC) over the last several years, WPPNA generally supported a few limitations (no SRVs in parks, city-code utility tie-ins for RVs to become permanent ADUs) but is broadly supportive of the idea that "something needs to be done," says Gary Runde, who also chairs SWNI's Land Use Committee. There is a "great amount of sympathy for the homeless," Runde says, "but [we're] looking for the city/county/state 'to do something'. There needs to be more information from the City project team to understand the path forward."

The **Arnold Creek, Markham and South Burlingame** neighborhood associations did not respond to the survey by publication deadline.



President's Corner: Steve Mullinax

"If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?" (Shelley, "Ode to the West Wind.")

I see a few daffodils emerging early in Bridlemile. Currants budding, hazelnut trees festooned with catkins. Maybe crocuses soon? I hope that the passing of winter brings fresh life to your neighborhoods!

Continuing in this issue of SW News, our writers and editorial volunteers feature discussion of the City's proposed Safe Rest Villages site for homeless people at the Sears Armory. Homelessness is a problem that will not be resolved without serious resources to address it. The City of Portland, and Multnomah Co., must step up.

SW Portland residents, of course, have something to say about proposed solutions such as the Safe Rest Villages. SWNI plays an important role in facilitating citizen discussions. Our series in SW News highlights citizen voices and brings knowledgeable writers to our pages. SW News reaches over two thousand households. SWNI is helping to support relevant citizen forums. We provided internet conferencing services for the December Multnomah Village NA meeting, as we will for more upcoming meetings that Multnomah has planned. SWNI's Land Use committee, as well as other SWNI committees, bring together representatives of all interested SW Neighborhood Associations to discuss advocacy on the City's plans.

The proposed development of the Alpenrose property will be on SWNI's radar for some time. Hayhurst NA has the lead role. Other NAs as well as SWNI Committees like Land Use, Transportation and Parks will provide forums for following and discussing the development as plans emerge.

SW News also partners with community organizations like Neighborhood House and Southwest Trails, with advertising space to help them promote their programs and events.



Bringing fresh life to our neighborhoods, SWNI 2nd VP Laura Campos reported in SW News January issue that

Volunteers from the Watershed Committee added more than 65 native plants to the landscape at the Multnomah Arts Center cottages. This activity was part of an ongoing effort to create habitat for wildlife and filter stormwater at the MAC. Since this project began back in spring of 2020, more than 300 native plants have been planted!

The Watershed Committee "will continue to create community partnerships and identify opportunities to engage in projects to care for watersheds in our neighborhoods and support environmental justice."

As a reminder, City Code 3.96, as amended in 2018, provides the legal framework for programs governing Neighborhood Associations and District Coalitions, such as SWNI, administered by the Office of Community and Civic Life. The ONI/Civic Life Standards provide additional rules, such as those for organizing new district coalitions or NAs changing District Coalitions. Civic Life, SWNI and all the NAs are bound by the Code and the Standards.

Please pay attention to the work of the City Charter Commission as they develop options for reforming City government and elections. The Charter Review process happens just once every ten years, so now is the time to be involved.

The City is now going through its annual budget process for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. This will determine the funding for all City agencies and programs, and how the City addresses key issues like homelessness, public safety, transportation, water, environmental services and more. Of course, the funding programs directly impact our neighborhood organizations will be on the table, under the budget for the Office of Community and Civic Life. That budget proposal has not yet been posted. Work sessions begin March 2 and hearings begin April 4. To follow the budget process, see the the City Budget Office's web page, FY 2022-23 Budget Development.

The SWNI Board, in December, approved our budget for first half of calendar 2022. The budget covers rent, insurance, office expenses, electronic communications and a part-time bookkeeper. Our basic expenses are covered through June. **Many thanks to our generous donors!**

SWNI is in it for the long haul. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Steve Mullinax

SWNI President



Why Support SWNI?

Our Mission:

Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc., empowers citizen action to improve and maintain the livability of Southwest neighborhoods.

-
- 1 Non-profit grassroots organization
 - 2 Independent voice for SW Portland
 - 3 Community-based engagement
 - 4 Source of unbiased information
 - 5 Forum for open dialog and decisions
 - 6 Support for neighborhood associations

Now, more than ever, we need the support of our community so we can continue to serve you and advocate for what's important to our unique area of Portland. This year, SWNI has received more than \$60,000 in donations from 90+ private citizens who believe in SWNI's mission and value to us in Southwest Portland.

Won't you join them? Please let our participation in public affairs be citizen-driven not bureaucracy-driven. Use the [Donation Button](#) on our website, or the form below, to make your tax-deductible donation. Thank you!

Yes, I believe in SWNI and its importance to Southwest Portland and the livability of our community. Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____.

Please make your donation out to Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc.,
(include your address if you wish to receive a receipt) and mail it to:

**Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc.
Multnomah Arts Center, Room 5
7688 SW Capitol Hwy.
Portland, OR 97219**

Neighborhood House

Neighborhood House Senior Center

Senior Center Reopening Postponed



Unfortunately, our planned reopening of the Senior Center had to be postponed, due to the current surge in COVID-19 cases. We are hopeful that the situation will improve soon.

For updates, please check the Senior Services page of Neighborhood House's website: <https://nhpdx.org/senior-services-2/> or call the Senior Center (503-244-5204).

When we do reopen, the following precautions will be followed:

Everyone must wear a mask while in the Senior Center (properly worn over both mouth and nose).

Proof of vaccination will be required to enter the Senior Center – please bring your vaccination card or a picture of it on your phone. These measures are being taken to protect everyone's health and safety.

Please also note that entry to the Senior Center will be through the exterior/parking lot doors at the back of the Multnomah Arts Center.

There will still be remote services provided for those who are unable to come into the Senior Center – call 503-244-5204 or email Carol Vaughn at cvaughn@nhpdx.org for more information.

FREE TRANSPORTATION FOR SENIORS

Need a ride? Call Ride Connection at 503-226-0700 at least four business days before your trip. Individual trips are provided at no cost to seniors 60+ and people with disabilities. We also are currently offering our free Southwest RideAbout Shuttle trips to grocery stores. Sign up by calling Ride Connection. All drivers and passengers are required to wear face masks unless they have a medical condition or disability that prevents them from wearing a mask. Drivers are unable to carry bags into individuals' homes and there is a limit of three bags per passenger. Please stay home and check in with your healthcare provider if you are not feeling well.



FEBRUARY GROCERY STORE TRIPS

- **Tues., Feb. 1:** Raleigh Hills Fred Meyer (Senior Discount Day) or New Seasons
- **Tues., Feb. 8:** Walmart, Costco or WinCo
- **Tues., Feb. 15:** Beaverton Fred Meyer or Trader Joe's
- **Tues., Feb. 22:** Walmart, Costco or WinCo

We also pick up and deliver prescriptions and food boxes from our Food Pantry. To schedule, please call Marie Haviland, Transportation Coordinator at 503-246-1663 ext. 6103.

FEBRUARY RECREATIONAL TRIPS

Thursday, Feb. 10

Oregon Historical Society

When: Bus leaves Senior Center 10 am, returns 1:30 pm

Admission: Multnomah Co. residents (with proof of residency) FREE'

Non-residents \$8

We're off to explore Oregon history! Current exhibits include Freeze the Day! A History of Winter Sports in Oregon, Oregon is Indian Country, and Frances Stilwell: Oregon's Botanical Landscape.

Thursday, Feb. 17

Portland Art Museum

When: Bus leaves Senior Center 10 am, returns 1:30 pm

Admission:\$25 general

\$22 for seniors age 62 and up

\$5 for up to 2 admissions with Oregon Trail card

2 free adult admissions with Multnomah County Library Discovery Pass

FREE for veterans and museum members

Manual wheelchairs are available free of charge.

The Portland Art Museum is internationally recognized for its collection of more than 50,000 objects, displayed in 112,000-square-feet of galleries. Current exhibitions include Mesh, celebrating Native American art and culture, Rock of Ages, the paintings of Portland artist Isaka Shamsud-Din, and Color Line: Black Excellence on the World Stage, an exhibit from the 1900 Paris Exhibition by sociologist, historian, and civil rights activist W.E.B. Du Bois.

Neighborhood House: February Activities

OTHER ACTIVITIES FOR SENIORS

Free Zoom Classes

All of our virtual classes are free and open to any senior aged 55+. Come join us as we get fit and stay safe. The links to all of our online classes can be found at <https://nhpdx.org/remote-classes-for-seniors/>.

Mondays

- **9-10:15 am:**
Meditation with Carole Melkonian
- **10:15-11 am:**
Qi Gong with Carole Melkonian
- **1-2 pm:**
Stability Ball with Peggy Frieze

Tuesdays

- **10:15-11:15 am:**
Rhythmic Chair Exercise with Peggy Frieze
- **11:45 am-12:30 pm:**
Health & Wellness with Peggy Frieze
- **1-2 pm:**
Intermediate Tai Chi with Catherine Holder
- **2-3 pm:**
Tai Chi for Better Balance with Catherine Holder
- **3-4:30 pm:**
Buddhist Meditation and Study with Candle Summers

Wednesdays

No classes

Thursdays

- **10:15-11:15 am:**
Rhythmic Chair Exercise with Peggy Frieze
- **1-2 pm:**
Intermediate Tai Chi with Jim Dalton
- **2-3 pm:**
Tai Chi for Better Balance with Jim Dalton

Fridays

- **10-11:30 am:**
Yoga with Peggy Frieze
- **12:30-1 pm:**
Functional Movement/Chair Exercises with Carrie Craven

OUTDOOR LINE DANCING CLASS with Barbara Hansen

2-3pm Mondays/Wednesdays/ Fridays

At the covered basketball court – Multnomah Arts Center
(please follow applicable social-distancing and mask regulations)

SENIOR FOOT CARE CLINIC

The next Senior Foot Care Clinic is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 9, and there are appointments available. The cost is \$40 for a 20-minute appointment with a skilled foot-care nurse. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 503-244-5204.

AARP TAX-AIDE

The Senior Center is setting up appointments for assistance with the preparation of 2021 Tax Returns. Please call 503-244-5204 to schedule an appointment. Leave a message with your name, phone number and email address.

HOLIDAY CLOSURE

The Senior Center and Neighborhood House Aging Services will be closed on Monday, Feb. 21, in observance of Presidents' Day.



PBOT

SW Capitol Highway Project Update

2022 is a big year for the project.

Most visible elements of the project – sidewalks, bike lanes, new paving, lushly planted rain gardens – will become tangible and usable.

By this time next year, PBOT hopes to be substantially complete, with perhaps some tree and shrub plantings still outstanding. Construction began in June 2021 and will continue through the rest of this year.

WORK COMPLETED IN JANUARY

- Several retaining walls were backfilled along SW Capitol Highway.
- Work began on the southernmost retaining wall, in the 9400 block of SW Capitol (see photo).
- Retaining wall work continued at the Multnomah-South stormwater facility.
- Crews finished the water main installation in SW Capitol between Garden Home Road and Carson Street.
- PBOT staff have been working with property owners on time extensions for temporary construction easements.
- The new water main in Capitol Highway between Garden Home Road and Carson Street was pressure-tested and sanitized.
- Crews began hooking up homes to the new main, involving water shutoffs lasting a few hours.
- Daytime paving occurred at SW 40th and Multnomah Boulevard.



- Work continued retaining walls in the 9400 block of Capitol Highway, including completion of the southernmost wall.
- Retaining wall work continued at the Multnomah South stormwater
- Final pavement restoration took place on SW 40th Avenue on either side of SW Multnomah Boulevard.



The southernmost retaining wall on the SW Capitol Highway project had its footing poured in early January.

TRAFFIC AND TRAIL IMPACTS

- The southbound detour of Capitol Highway that has been in place since August will remain unchanged.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Retaining wall and drainage cell construction will continue at the Multnomah South stormwater facility. This large facility is about 65% complete.
- Work should begin in the Multnomah North stormwater facility next to the Post Office.
- Starting in late February or early March, retaining wall construction will begin on Capitol Highway between Alice and Primrose Streets; these are the tallest walls on the project. They also will be the final walls to construct on Capitol Highway, setting the stage for sidewalk construction.
- In March, a major closure of Capitol Highway will be necessary near Dolph Court in order to install several deep stormwater maintenance holes.
- Stormwater pipe and maintenance hole installation on SW 42nd Avenue and Alice Street will occur sporadically throughout the late winter and spring.

WORK PLANNED FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS (JANUARY 24 - FEBRUARY 4)

- Water Bureau crews will continue connecting homes to the new water main on SW Capitol Highway north of Carson Street. Affected residents will receive notices at least three days in advance.
- Monday through Wednesday, January 24 to 26, crews will upgrade the traffic signal at SW Multnomah Boulevard / SW 40th Avenue. See traffic impacts below.
- Retaining wall and drainage cell construction will continue at the Multnomah-South stormwater facility.
- Retaining walls in the 9400 block of SW Capitol Highway will be completed.
- Property restoration work will occur on SW 42nd Avenue south of Alice Street.

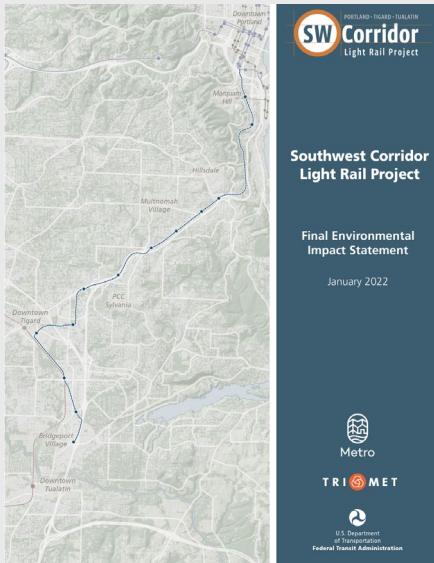
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the project webpage for updates at www.portland.gov/transportation/capitolhwy.



SW Corridor Plan

Final EIS on SW Corridor Light Rail Project Submitted to Feds



The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Southwest Corridor Light Rail Project has been submitted to the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA). Although voters rejected a local ballot measure last November that included funding for the project, the FEIS was completed “to ensure the project is eligible for future federal funding”, according to Jamie Snook, Major Projects Director for Tri-Met.

At this time, planning and design for the project are on hold until funding is identified. No timeline or specific plan been established for when the project might again seek public approval.

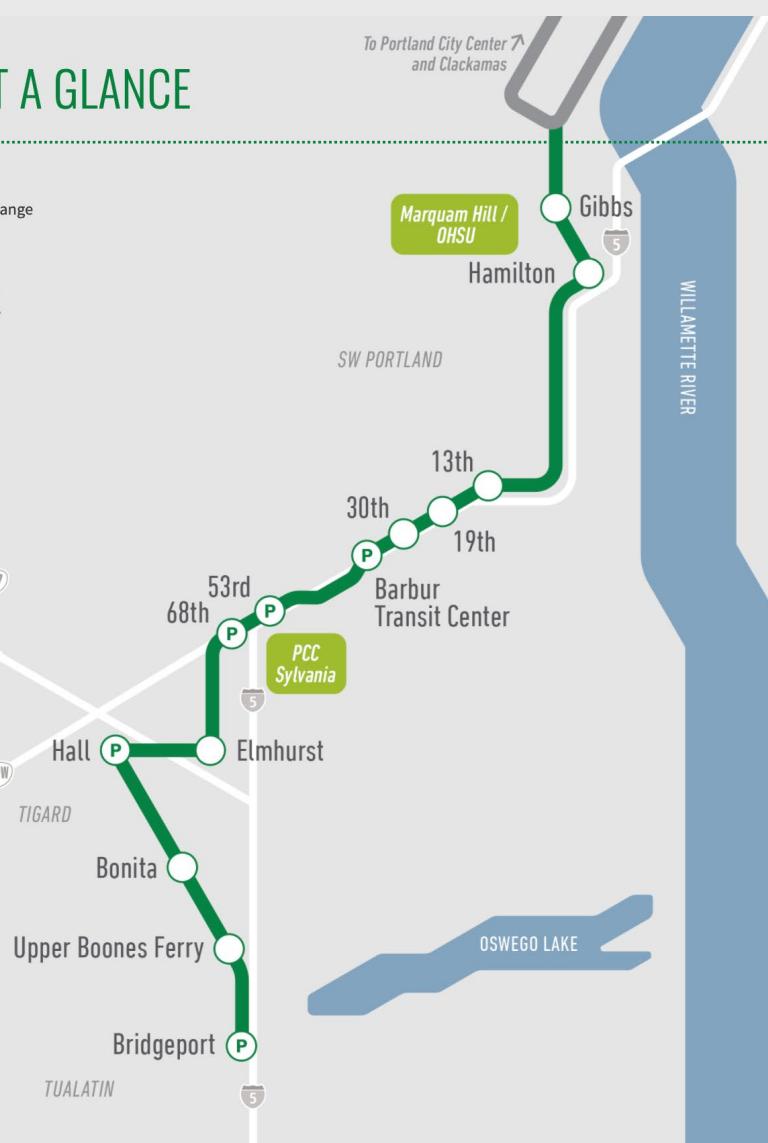
The FEIS contains information about the project’s potential impacts and benefits and specifies strategies to minimize or mitigate significant impacts. After its review, the FTA will issue a Record of Decision on the project’s compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

The FEIS is available at swcorridorplan.org. To sign up for updates, visit trimet.org/swcorridor/contact. For questions, contact TriMet Community Affairs at 503 962 2150 or swcorridor@trimet.org.

THE ROUTE AT A GLANCE

March 2019 preferred alternative
Conceptual rendering subject to change

- Alignment
- Existing light rail
- Stations
- Stations with Park & Ride



Bureau of Planning & Sustainability

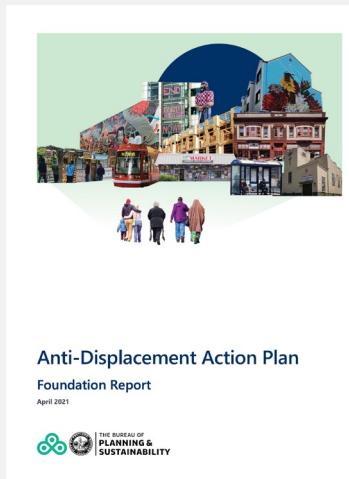
Project Updates

ANTI-DISPLACEMENT ACTION PLAN

www.portland.gov/bps/adap

What:

The Anti-Displacement Action Plan (ADAP) aims to increase the resiliency of the city and our communities to deal with racial and economic disparities that contribute to displacement.



Status:

The new zine, "A Dream Rezoned," was [recently published](#) and tells the story of a Black family in Northeast Portland whose property was denied city permits, deemed a "blight" and bulldozed. Read 'A Dream Rezoned' [here](#).



Contact:

Kathryn Hartinger
503-823-9714

Kathryn.Hartinger@portlandoregon.gov

EZONES MAP CORRECTION PROJECT

www.portland.gov/bps/ezones

What:

Correcting the location of environmental overlay zones (Ezones) to better align with rivers, streams, wetlands, floodplains, forests, steep slopes, and wildlife habitat.

Status:

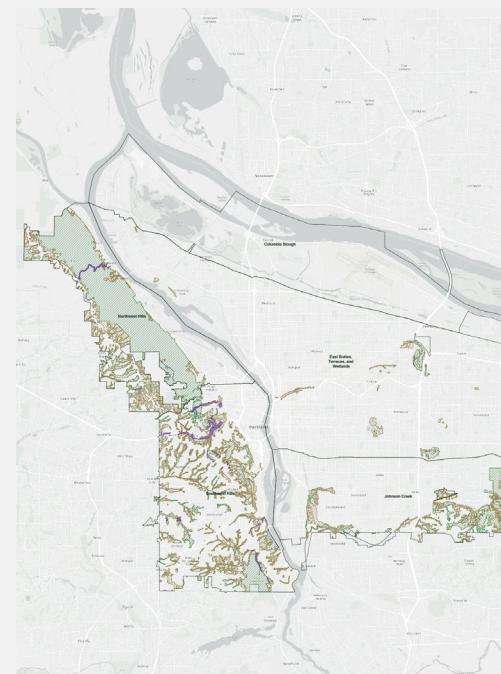
Last year, the Planning and Sustainability Commission (PSC) recommended the Ezone Map Correction Project to City Council. City Council will be holding a public hearing on the project in early 2022.

Next opportunity to engage:

Council hearings are tentatively scheduled to begin in early 2022. Check the [project webpage](#) for updates on the hearing date and time. Requests for site visits may be submitted through the [Ezones Map App](#) or by contacting project staff. Those interested can always [sign up for email updates](#).

Contact:

ezone@portlandoregon.gov or
503-823-422



RESIDENTIAL INFILL PROJECT - PART 2

www.portland.gov/bps/rip2

What:

This project will extend the housing options of RIP1 to all single dwelling zones by adding middle housing types in the low density R10 and R20 zones. RIP2 will bring the City into compliance with the State's middle housing rules by adding provisions for cottage clusters and attached houses in all the single dwelling zones that were not included in RIP1. RIP2 will also bring the City into compliance with the State's new middle housing land division rules by creating a new streamlined procedure for dividing the housing units onto their own lots.



Status:

In December, the PSC held a public hearing for RIP2. Verbal and written testimony is summarized on the [project webpage](#). The Proposed Draft staff report and code amendments are still available for review, as are [videos of the RIP2 virtual information sessions](#).

Next opportunity to engage:

The PSC was scheduled to meet in January to discuss potential amendments. The Commission is scheduled to vote on their [recommended package to City Council](#) on February 8. Those interested can always [sign up for RIP2 email updates](#).

Contact:

RIP2 project staff
503-823-1105
residential.infill@portlandoregon.gov

Bureau of Planning & Sustainability

Project Updates (continued)

SOUTH PORTLAND AREA PLANNING

www.portland.gov/naito-mainstreet

What:

Working with PBOT and community members to develop land use, circulation and urban design plans around the Ross Island Bridgehead in South Portland, and featuring a Naito Main Street Plan. This effort is part of BPS's [Southwest Corridor Inclusive Communities Project](#).



Status:

Following the failure of Metro's regional transportation funding measure in November 2020, PBOT is putting their transportation projects on hold related to the Ross Island Bridgehead realignment and Naito Main Street. BPS staff will include the public feedback received so far on the proposed equitable development concepts for the bridgehead opportunity sites, and the racial equity analysis goals in a draft land use plan to be published later this winter.

Next opportunity to engage:

None at this time.

Contact:

Kevin Bond
503-823-1112

Kevin.Bond@portlandoregon.gov

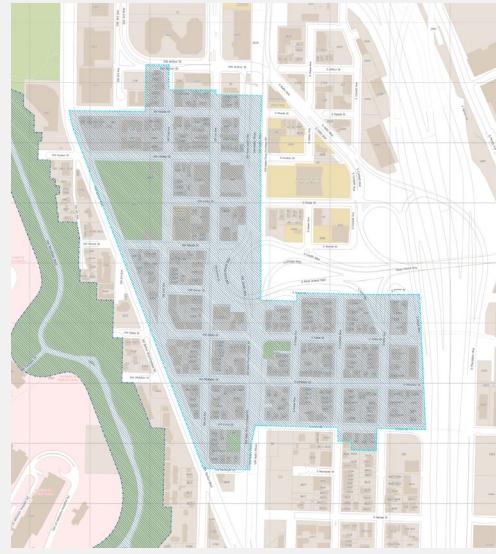
SOUTH PORTLAND HISTORIC DISTRICT

DESIGN GUIDELINE

www.portland.gov/bps/sphd-guidelines

What:

New approval criteria for alterations, additions and new construction in the South Portland Historic District.



Status:

A Community Advisory Group (CAG) is meeting on an as-needed basis to guide development of the draft approval criteria.

Next opportunity to engage:

CAG meetings are open to the public, with time reserved for public comments at every meeting. The next CAG meeting will be held in the winter via Zoom.

Contact:

Brandon Spencer-Hartle
503-823-4641
Brandon.Spencer@portlandoregon.gov



WEST PORTLAND TOWN CENTER PLAN

www.portland.gov/bps/wpdx-town-center

What:

The West Portland Town Center (WPTC) Plan will lay out a vision for a healthy, connected, and multi-cultural town center and includes an action plan to meet the diverse needs of current and future residents and businesses.

Status:

The [Proposed Draft](#) of the WPTC Plan is available for public review. Learn more in the online [Proposed Draft Overview](#), the online interactive [MapApp](#), or by watching the [video of the August 10 staff briefing](#) to the Planning and Sustainability Commission (PSC). The PSC held two hearings in September and three meetings/work sessions on the proposed plan in October and November.

Next opportunity to engage:

The public testimony period is closed. The PSC continued its discussion of the WPTC Proposed Draft at its [regular meeting on January 11](#). [Video of the work session](#) is available on YouTube. [Materials for the work session](#), including draft amendments to the plan, are available for review.

Additional PSC work sessions on the Plan are scheduled for [February 8](#) and [March 8](#), with a vote possible on March 8. The PSC is expected to send their recommended version of the Plan to City Council in March. City Council will then review the recommended plan and take public testimony (verbal and written) starting in the Spring or early Summer 2022. Those interested can always [sign up for WPTC email updates](#).

Contact:

Joan Frederiksen
503-823-3111
wptc@portlandoregon.gov

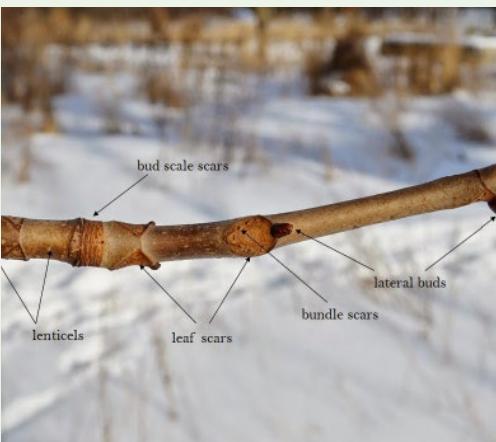
PP&R Urban Forestry

Upcoming February Events

**WINTER FRUIT TREE PRUNING**

Saturday, Feb. 5, 10 am - 2 pm

Last call for fruit tree pruners! Wintertime fruit tree pruning brings an entirely different set of goals and objectives than summer fruit tree pruning. Learn more about which trees need care this time of year and practice at Urban Forestry's [Delta Park Orchard](#). Only a few slots remain!

Register [here](#).**WINTER TREE IDENTIFICATION**

Saturday, Feb. 26, 10 am – noon

Learn winter tree identification skills with special guest instructor Martin Nicholson, Hoyt Arboretum Curator. Explore bark, buds, and twigs on this guided walk.

Register [here](#).**SW Trails**

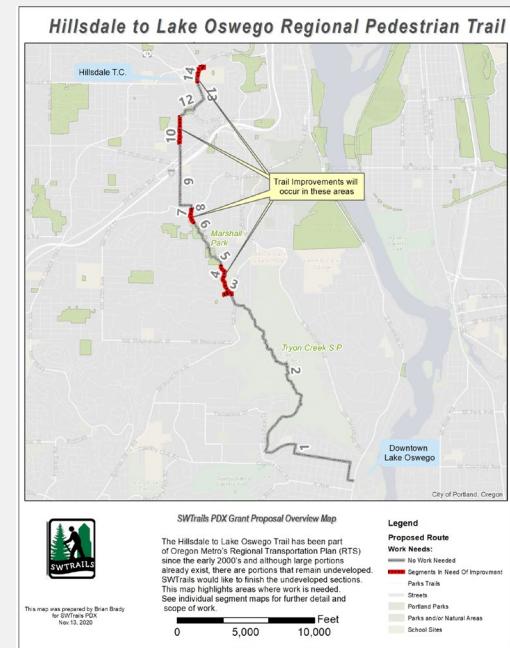
Ambitious plans for 2022

- Seek permits to repair Trail 1 from SW Twombly to SW Melville, create a new connection at SW 25th and SW Seymour, create a new trail on SW 26th from Texas north, and begin efforts to improve Trail 4 at 10th and Canby.
- Perform trail maintenance on Portland Parks trails the first Thursday of each month and participate in the "Individual Volunteer" trail maintenance program of Portland Parks. Projects will include improving the trail from the south end of Marshall Park to SW 11th, rebuilding steps in Woods Park, adding improvements to the existing Raz Baack Crossing of Stephens Creek Natural Area, and repair damaged fences in many areas.
- Work with the SW Transportation Committee of SWNI to identify and set priorities for improving the crosswalks on city streets throughout SW Portland.
- Add more self-led hikes to our existing inventory.
- Implementation of Fiscal Sponsorship with the SW Volunteer Tool Library if it succeeds in securing a site for the library.
- Continue monthly hikes on the 2nd and 3rd Saturdays, weather permitting
- Participate in Multnomah Days Parade and staff a booth.
- Hold monthly meetings on the 4th Thursday of each month (the 3rd Thursday in November and December).
- Conduct a comprehensive inventory of existing SWTrail Signs across all jurisdictions to better inform the public of our existing urban trail network. (See a real-time dashboard of our progress [here](#))
- Lead guided tours of the Red Electric Trail route for elected officials.
- Celebrate the opening of the new Red Electric Trail Multimodal Bridge in spring of 2022

Hillsdale to Lake Oswego Regional Pedestrian Trail:

- Repair a portion on SW 19th from Moss to Capitol Hill Road if funding from earmarks becomes available during the year and permits are forthcoming.
- If called on by Oregon State Parks, build a portion on Tryon Creek Park Property after earmark funds are available.
- Develop a website when earmarked funds become available.
- Begin the coordination of the design, acquisition, and installation of signage for the Trail when earmarked funding becomes available.
- Build new trail on a portion of the Trail on Portland Parks property, from north end of Marshall Park to SW17th and Taylors Ferry Rd, if Portland Parks (permits pending).

It takes a village to maintain a trail system.
SWTrails PDX



SWNI Neighborhood Reports

Bridlemile

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, February 9, 7pm
 Virtual – see [SWNI Calendar](#)
 Chair: **Vacant**
bridlemile-president@swni.org
bridlemile@swni.org

BRIDLEMILE NET “STOP THE BLEED” TRAINING



A bleeding injury can happen anywhere. People die quickly from bleeding from gun wounds, auto accidents, and other forms of trauma. We can make a difference by stopping the bleed, if we know how. The Bridlemile Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) is offering a “Stop the Bleed” class at 7pm, Monday, Feb. 7, via Zoom. Learn the skills to stop bleeding and save lives in emergency situations. Sign up in advance for the Stop the Bleed training.

To participate, you will need the following items:

- Medical dummy, friend/spouse/family, stuff doll
- 1 triangle bandage, could use a bandana
- 2 rolls of gauze
- 15x9 pad, could use maxi pad
- T-shirt
- Tourniquets (optional)

The Bridlemile NET can help provide these materials if you need them. Please fill out this Sign Up form to request materials. Here's the Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84364112330?pwd=ekFlc1FKdDFrcmVwbS9ocUlyWTFSdz09>.

Meeting ID: 843 6411 2330
 Passcode: 149731

Crestwood

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, March 9, 7pm
 Virtual – see [SWNI Calendar](#)
 Chair: **Marianne Fitzgerald**
fitzgerald.marianne@gmail.com

Crestwood’s January meeting focused on the [draft West Portland Town Center \(WPTC\) Plan](#) and local topics of interest.

Guest Joan Frederiksen of the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS) gave an update on the Planning and Sustainability Commission (PSC) WPTC work sessions (<https://www.portland.gov/bps/psc>). PSC has scheduled two more work sessions before they develop recommendations to City Council; the recommended draft should be ready for a last round of public comments in late spring or early summer 2022.

BPS staff recently prepared draft amendments to the plan; 10 are highlighted for further discussion and 22 are considered minor amendments. The PSC discussions focused on the first highlighted issue regarding incentives to retain existing lower cost apartments. Another amendment asks for PSC direction on whether to keep the Markham (now Luradel) Pedestrian/Bike bridge over I-5, which is a high priority project for Crestwood neighbors. The draft plan proposed to delay this project in order to fund new WPTC projects. Crestwood NA testified against this proposal because it is key to connecting destinations between our neighborhood and WPTC.

Crestwood neighbors also talked with Pastor Stephen Dilworth of the West Portland United Methodist Church. The WPUMC proposal to build affordable housing on the community garden site is on hold for now because their affordable housing grant application did not get funded. He also told us more about the houseless couple living next to the community garden on SW 46th.

The church community has been trying to connect them with resources and neighbors are concerned that recently they became victims of offensive tagging. That led to a conversation on houseless issues in our neighborhood and Commissioner Ryan’s proposal to locate a Safe Rest Village on the Sears Armory site on Multnomah Blvd. Crestwood neighbors recognize that housing is not very affordable, and we support needed solutions to get people into shelters or permanent housing.

Our next meeting is Wednesday March 9. Mike Vaughn, Multnomah County Assessor, will join us to discuss the property tax system, factors that influence property taxes, how to understand a property tax statement, and property tax trends in Multnomah County. Our other guests will be Leah Fisher and Sharon Keast of the Office of Community and Civic Life.

We hope you will join us in March. Please [let us know](#) if you have questions anytime or would like to be on our mailing list.

Marianne Fitzgerald, Chair

Collins View

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, February 2, 7pm
 Please visit [collinsview.org](#) for advanced registration
 Virtual – see [SWNI Calendar](#)
 Chair: **Elise Delisser**
chair@collinsview.org
 Contact: board@collinsview.org

A REPORT ON RIVER VIEW NATURAL AREA

Collins View does not have a public school, a playground, or a public park, but we are blessed with – and invested and involved in – the health of “our” Tryon Creek State Natural Area and the River View Natural Area (RVNA).

SWNI Neighborhood Reports

RVNA is a 146-acre undeveloped forested parcel on Collins View's eastern boundary between River View Cemetery and Lewis & Clark College. The site, an important link in the Westside Wildlife Corridor, is connected to the Willamette River through culverts under Highway 43. It is contiguous with [Powers Marine Park](#) which features large woody debris providing refuge for endangered Chinook, coho salmon and steelhead trout. RVNA is in the key position in the Wildlife Corridor for discharging critical aquatic resources to the Willamette River. See <http://riverviewfriends.org/history.html> for the history of this area.

With the last couple of dry winters, and last summer's triple-digit degree temperatures and drought, our concern for wildfires in RVNA is at an all-time high. Vernal pools – a seasonal, "ephemeral" or temporary type of wetland habitat that is formed by the accumulation of winter rains and snowfall, typically in shallow depressions in woodlands – have either disappeared or have been diminished by recent dry years. But maybe, with La Nina promising rain this year, they will be back.



Pacific Giant Salamander as found in RVNA

Animals that depend upon vernal pools for reproduction and development of their young are called vernal pool indicator (or obligate) species. The [Giant Pacific Coast Salamander](#) is one of these and is also one of our residents.

Salamander eggs are in gelatinous blobs attached to plant stems just below the water's surface. Because they are very sensitive to changes in water quality, vernal pool denizens are important indicators of environmental health. RVNA waters are at risk because of the surrounding urban density with its fertilizers, chemicals, and street runoff. **WARNING!** The Giant Sal is one of the few carriers of a parasite that causes "Salmon Poisoning" or "Salmon Disease" which can also infect and possibly kill your furry friends. This is another good reason that RVNA has a "No Dogs Allowed" Policy.

Friends of River View Natural Area (FoRVNA) is the recognized RVNA stewardship partner with Portland Parks & Recreation. We don't have nonprofit status. FoRVNA is, however, listed as a partner on the West Willamette Restoration Partnership (WWRP, Westside Wildlife Corridor) website.

FoRVNA is in the process of lining up RVNA science and nature activities, such as bird walks, vegetation ID (identify the good plants and the bad guys), walks, and hopefully educational Zoom meetings with environmental experts to lighten up the dark days of winter.

Please respond to FoRVNA via FriendsOfRiverViewNaturalArea@gmail.com with suggestions. Out of sight, out of the box, and out-in-left-field ideas are welcome! Submitted by Friends of River View Natural Area

Far Southwest

Next Meeting:
Tuesday, June 28, 7pm
Virtual – see [SWNI Calendar](#)
Chair: **Martha Campbell**
Contact@farswpdx.org

It is finally February and, in our neighborhood, there are plenty of bulbs sprouting their green tops meaning that snowdrops, crocus and daffodils are not far behind. Those floral colors will brighten the area soon. One new neighbor planted 80 bulbs. I'll need my sunglasses to see that wonderful color.

But back in December, our neighbors came together in a masked street mingle with a couple of Mariachi to sing Happy Birthday and Feliz Navidad to our neighbor, Pauleta, who celebrated her 90th birthday.

Her house had been "flocked with flamingos" to add to the fiesta vibe. We have Far Southwest neighbors who have a lovely pink herd at their home all year round. There is minimal upkeep with the birds, and they produce maximum enjoyment.

We are grateful for that community spirit in Far Southwest.

2022 LOOK-AHEAD

Looking ahead we hope to gather our neighborhood volunteers to assist in another Lesser Park area clean up, date to be determined. We are also hopeful to have the ability to find grant money to pay for some gravel and maybe a few donuts for those who lend a hand. Far Southwest members, we're always looking for your ideas to boost our neighborhood livability.

SWNI Neighborhood Reports

Our January 25, Far Southwest meeting began with accepting the meeting minutes from October 2021 and continued with our agenda topics which included:

- 1) The Sears Armory Reserve and plans for using the location in Multnomah as a Safe Rest Village for those experiencing homelessness.
- 2) Update on SWNI and how we work with their resources and our neighborhood.
- 3) The Ivy Pull at Lesser Park held on January 26. This time with a team approach from Portland Parks & Recreation and the Westside Watershed Resource Center.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mary Ventura from SWNI Schools Committee reported that there wasn't a Schools meeting this month.

However, in our neighborhood Jackson Middle School (JMS) is fundraising with Impact Northwest to assist those who need a boost in maintaining their current residence rather than to find themselves in a position where they might have to "re-home" or find another place to live.

That is much more costly than accepting a donation or a "bridge" to be able to stay in their present housing. To learn more and/or donate visit [Make an Impact-Impact NW](#).

Marcia Leslie shared her report from the SWNI Public Safety Committee which included an update Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET). These volunteers train with Portland Bureau of Emergency Management (PBEM) and Portland Fire and Rescue. Volunteers help with warming, cooling centers, disaster preparedness and weather-related displacements.

The NET training information and registration can be found by visiting [PBEM](#). This is a great opportunity to be prepared and assist your neighbors.

Marcia also reports that car thefts are up and carjacking, too. Don't leave anything in your car, even a bag of junk is a bag of something to someone who would break in and steal your car, so leave your vehicle free of any items.

Always follow good situational awareness. Is that trip to an ATM at 10pm worth it? Be safe neighbors.

WELCOME TO ALL

We'd like to welcome all residents of Far Southwest to our next meeting on Tuesday, June 28. Meeting details to follow.

Please continue to read the monthly SWNI News to learn more about services and information that might be helpful you from your SWNI team, currently an all-volunteer team.

Finally, welcome and thank you to Sheila Logan who is our new member of the Far Southwest organization.

Martha Campbell, Chair
Far Southwest Neighborhood Association

Hayhurst

Next Meeting:

Monday, February 14, 7pm
Virtual – see [SWNI Calendar](#)

Chair: **Marita Ingalsbe**
marita.ingalsbe@gmail.com

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Hayhurst's annual election of officers was held in January. Welcome to our new SWNI Schools Committee representative, Sarah Pitzman, who joins Board members who graciously accepted nominations for another year.

Returning officers and committee chairs are:

- **Chair:** Marita Ingalsbe
- **Vice-Chair:** Randi Sachs
- **Secretary:** Kendall KIC
- **Treasurer:** Dylan Lauzon
- **Equity & Inclusion:** Janet Hawkins
- **Land Use:** Susan King and Leslie Hammond
- **Parks:** Marita Ingalsbe
- **Public Safety:** vacant
- **Transportation:** Chris Swan

We will continue our focus on increasing outreach and engagement to make sure that all of our community members are welcome and supported.

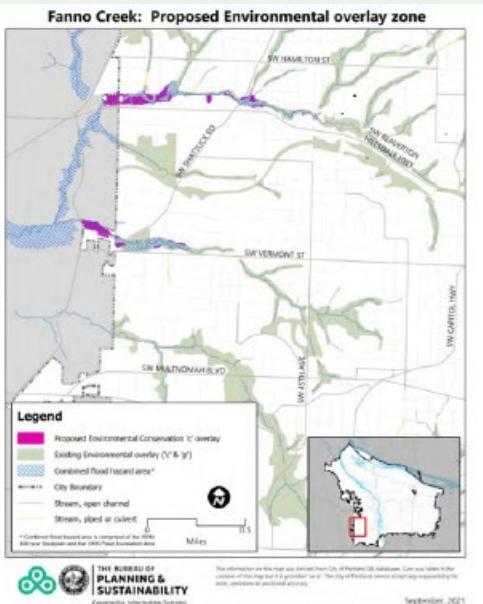


SWNI Neighborhood Reports

FLOODPLAIN RESILIENCE PLAN

At our January Hayhurst Neighborhood Association meeting, Jeff Caudill with the Bureau of Planning & Sustainability gave an interesting presentation on the City's Floodplain Resilience Plan project. There are 3,800 city tax lots and 6,000 acres in floodplain areas in the city, including the Fanno Creek and Tryon Creek floodplains in Southwest Portland.

Hayhurst neighborhood homes along Vermont Creek, a Fanno Creek tributary, are affected as shown on the map. Because the City is completing this plan, residents receive a 25% discount on flood insurance that is typically required by mortgage lenders. Comments can be submitted through the Map App. The City Council decision is expected this summer.



Fanno Creek Floodplain Resilience Map

Photo Credit: City of Portland

ALPENROSE ADVOCACY

Hayhurst and Maplewood neighborhoods are joining with Beaverton neighbors to advocate for a balanced Alpenrose development that is the best it can be for the community, respecting the legacy of the property. The Alpenrose Dairy operation has not confirmed its move plans yet and does not expect that it will be able to complete a move this year.

Portland Parks efforts to acquire the ballfields for a public park have not been successful as of yet. The City expects that the developer will submit an application later this winter. As a reminder, you can view Alpenrose development documents and sign up for updates at this link.

Hayhurst is hopeful that we will be able to hold a Movie in the Park event in Pendleton Park this summer. Much appreciation goes to the Parks maintenance team for quickly removing some highly objectionable graffiti from Pendleton Park in early January.

Stormwater has been an issue in certain areas of the neighborhood. Considerable standing water is still evident at the new Pendleton Creek Woods subdivision under construction at SW 48th and Pendleton.

<https://swni.org/hayhurst-neighborhood-association/>

Hillsdale

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, February 3, 7pm

Virtual – see [SWNI Calendar](#)

Chair: **Tatiana Lifwitz**

vivereinitalia@comcast.net

Our January Hillsdale Neighborhood Association meeting endorsed a residential lot partition in the Hillsdale Triangle. The Hillsdale community proposed expansion of housing in the Hillsdale Triangle area just north of and adjacent to the Hillsdale Commercial area as a part of the Hillsdale Plan approved by City Council about 25 years ago.

Zoning changes were approved at that time, but the pace of real estate development in response to changes is slow. A lot facing SW Sunset Boulevard recently was proposed for a partition into two lots, with the expectation of adding two more dwellings to the area. City approval of this request by the landowner was endorsed by the HNA. Lois Jennings, City Planner from the Land Use Review

Section of the Bureau of Development Services, who is in charge of this matter, commended Hillsdale for its participation. We hope the process will move forward smoothly.

In our monthly meeting we were introduced to the two new Office of Community and Civic Life (OCCL) staffers assigned to SW Portland, Sharon Keast and Leah Fisher. Both bring experience in working with the conventional community service organizations the City has funded. Sharon was a volunteer at SWNI and Arnold Creek Neighborhood Association. Leah was a staff member of SE Uplift, the counterpart of SWNI serving SE Portland communities such as Sellwood-Moreland.

During the extended question and answer session, it became apparent that they will bring administrative assistance to our community. However, they find themselves at the very beginning of their roles and are in the process of learning. They did mention that they represent the first level administrative engagement and authority at the Civic Life office and they will be asking for guidance. Their assignment is to aid in individual organizational issues, such as elections and training, as well as website building and community participation skills building. Decisions have not been made with regard to organizing service events we have held in the past, such as the semi-annual clean-ups and the election forums preceding major local elections.

SMALL GRANT PROGRAM RETURNS

The Small Grant Program for SW Portland has been started again. The dates to apply extended to Jan. 17. While the opening of the application period and the deadline for submission of applications have not been publicized much, Leah described the process for applying. We should anticipate this program will continue in the future as the City sorts out how to bring back services to our area. Community building is the central focal point of the small grants program.

SWNI Neighborhood Reports

Have you been disappointed by things you have seen and heard about in Portland during the past several months? We are not the same community we were when the Hillsdale Neighborhood Association was formed 25 years ago. But then, none of us is the same as we were at that time either. To the extent the COVID cautions allow, our roles today are similar. Initiatives that will strengthen community, broaden inclusivity, and involve old and new friends. For example, pulling ivy and helping a neighbor clear their sidewalk when snow falls. Our community is us. Making our community better helps make Portland better.

Our HNA February meeting will be a planning session for how to move forward working with the City in light of information from the OCCL coordinators. We need your ideas! Please join our monthly meeting on Thursday, Feb. 3. at 7pm.

Our NEW ZOOM link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84184700958?pwd=R3BoQ1ZrS9nd3JIMIBpMGxWa1ljQT09>

ID: 841 8470 0958

Passcode: 811165

Maplewood

Next Meeting:

Thursday, February 10, 7pm

Virtual – see [SWNI Calendar](#)

Chair: **Claire Carder**

scherzcarder@comcast.net

At last month's meeting, the Maplewood Board voted for a new regular meeting date. We hope you can join us in 2022 as the Maplewood Neighborhood Association works to re-invent itself as a stand-alone 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization.

We are working on new projects:

- Updating the new Maplewood NA website which is <https://www.maplewoodna.org>,

- Increasing outreach and community involvement work, and
- Starting to organize for "Free for All in the Park" event, a Portland Parks & Rec program that helps neighborhood associations sponsor community-building events in local parks. Please contact Michelle Mahan, events coordinator, at the website e-mail address for more information or if you would like to help.

Claire Carder, Maplewood NA Chair, is working with the Hayhurst NA and a representative from the Hemstreet Heights neighbors in Beaverton to develop a community outreach campaign around the re-development of the Alpenrose Farm property, a housing development proposal that will have a profound impact on the character of the area of Portland that includes the Maplewood and Hayhurst neighborhoods. We have a website for the proposal to keep the community up-to-date: <https://alpenrosedairy.wordpress.com/> Please visit and sign-up on our distribution list for the most current information.

While we are in the depths of winter, we can observe and appreciate the winter blooming plants that can be seen on neighborhood walks. Witch hazel is in bloom on a fence at the corner of SW 53rd and SW Nevada Court, and winter heliotrope can be found at the corner of SW 54th and Custer has just started.



Witch Hazel in bloom

A special characteristic of blossoms of both these plants are fragrance: Witch hazel has a lovely, sweet scent and winter heliotrope smells like cherry pie! Check these out!

And remember to wear light-colored clothes, reflective gear or carry lights on your evening walks around our lovely neighborhood!

Marshall Park

Next Meeting:

Thursday, February 10, 6pm

Virtual – see [SWNI Calendar](#)

Chair: **Mike Charles**

marshallparkna@yahoo.com

Here are the notes from our January Marshall Park NA meeting:

2021 RECAP

- Throughout the year, neighbors joined Parks & Trails work parties in the parks.
- The Sign Cap project was completed. We added 7 more sign caps for a total of 13. Thanks to all the donors!
- Deer Crossing signs - after a little prodding, the city installed 2 "deer crossing" signs on SW 18th. Two creeks run under 18th and these are favorite crossing points for wildlife.
- Marshall Park Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) was started.

Looking Forward in 2022 . . .

OUTREACH

We posted a "Marshall Park NA" message on Nextdoor.com. It invited neighbors to join our email list, and four new neighbors were added. We now have over 200 emails in our group. If any of your neighbors would like to be part of our email group, please ask them to send an email request to marshallparkna@yahoo.com

SWNI Neighborhood Reports

TREASURER REPORT

We have \$219 in our general account. It doesn't sound like much but our expenses are really small, so we are ok. Thanks to those kind people who donated to MPNA on our website.

REIMBURSEMENT BY CIVIC LIFE

The City's Office of Civic Life has decided not to reimburse \$145 for our normal operating expenses during 2021. They say it's due to our association with Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. (SWNI). This is very disappointing coming from the City department whose role is to support neighborhood associations. We are considering if we want to contest this, or just move on.

PARKS

In 2022, we will continue to work with the Parks Dept. to add another bench or two at the playground. One bench is insufficient for all the families who use the playground, especially during a pandemic.

ROADS

We are trying to persuade Parks or PBOT to cut back the vegetation encroaching on parts of SW 18th which makes this road especially dodgy for pedestrians.

HOMELESS SURVEY

We finished our meeting with a group exercise. We completed a survey from SWNI News, about homeless concerns in the area. This prompted some good discussion. The general consensus was: we like the tiny house concept, as a stepping stone for the homeless, as long as it is properly regulated and managed.

That's all for now, folks. Let's make 2022 a good year for our community.

Regards,

Mike Charles, Chair
marshallparkna@yahoo.com
<https://marshallparkna.org>

Multnomah

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, February 8, 7pm

Virtual – see [SWNI Calendar](#)

Chair: Moses Ross

moses@committowin.com

The Multnomah Neighborhood Association scheduled a meeting on Thursday, January 27, to continue discussions on the proposed Safe Rest Village at the old Sears Armory building. Scheduled to attend were Commissioner Dan Ryan' and the SRV team. The session drew more than 150 participants via Zoom, courtesy of our Coalition, SWNI. For those who could not attend, a recording of the session is available on the [MNA website](#) and a report on the session will appear in the March SWNI News.

Your chair encouraged Multnomah residents to submit their comments and questions about the SRV project and folks certainly responded. To date, there have been 160 questions and comments submitted to MNA by more than 40 households. A database of the input was created, and the questions and comments were sorted into categories which allowed us to distill the question count to a manageable 12 questions for the SRV team to prepare answers for and to discuss at the meeting. See the accompanying box for responses received prior to the SWNI News publication deadline.

We will also submit to the City and have available on our website a full summary of those resident comments and questions.

In February, we will continue our discussions about the SRV project. Our February MNA meetings are:

- Tuesday, Feb. 1, 7pm – MNA Board meeting
- Tuesday, Feb. 8, 7pm – MNA general meeting

Check the SWNI calendar for details.

Moses Ross, Chair – Multnomah
NAmultnomah-chair@swni.org

TOP CONCERNS ABOUT SRV IN MULTNOMAH

Based on community input, here are the categories and number of comments received about the proposed SRV at the Sears Armory as compiled by the Multnomah Neighborhood Association:

General (N=71): General question about the SRV, "How long will it be going?" "How many villagers?" Asked without evaluation, and not a rhetorical question.

Safety (N=35): Concerns about safety of neighbors or villagers. Includes worry about increased crime, acting out, harassment, trash, general threats to physical or property safety. Other safety-related comments:

- **Behavior (N=12):** Concerns about people using drugs, mental illness, leading to issues listed under Safety. A subset of Safety. If behavior is a concern, safety is probably also a concern and should be marked.

- **Crime (N=9):** Comments about increase in crime from SRV – a subset of Safety. If crime is a concern, probably safety is also a concern and should be marked.

Distrust (N=20): Distrust in systems, people, or organizations responsible for the SRV, ability to carry out SRV program effectively. "Can't trust city hall."

Reality (N=20): Comments on how well or poorly the model is put into effect, like understaffed, underfunded, regardless of whether the model is sound. Positives include calling it well-funded, professionally staffed. Other concerns like property values, livability, go here, too. Also questions like "How can we help?"

Notice (N=16): Inadequate public notice or involvement before announcing the SRV at Sears and during the project. Implied devaluing of the neighborhood and neighbors. "blindsided" or "not heard", "have no voice."

SWNI Neighborhood Reports

OTHERS:

Model (N=7): Comments on the SRV model apart from how well the model is put into effect. Negatives like “Band-Aid” or “misguided” or positives like “well-researched” or “appropriate.”

Support (N=6): Stating that they support the SRV, even with qualifications.

2015-16 (N=5): Comments about the shelter program at Sears from November 2015 to May 2016

Oppose (N=3): Stating that they oppose the SRV, even with some mitigating



*Painting over graffiti in the Grover Street tunnel;
Photo Credit: Jeff Lang*

South Portland

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, February 2, 7pm
Virtual – see [SWNI Calendar](#)

President: **Pete Collins**
pete@southwaterfront.com

Winter greetings from the South Portland Neighborhood Association!

The SPNA Board met on Zoom on January 5. Tom Gornick gave a report on the continuing discussions concerning the proposed long-term, outdoor Safe Rest Village at 2300 SW Naito Parkway. Tom is working with the Downtown Neighborhood Association (DNA) and other stakeholders to clarify the specifics and to enter into a good neighbor agreement with the City.

Leslie Hammond made a presentation on behalf of SWNI, explaining the history of the organization and the role it currently serves in the SW Portland community.

Our Outreach Committee discussed an upgrade to the SPNA website. The committee will present a proposal for the design and maintenance of a new website at the February meeting.



*A clean-up volunteer in action
Photo Credit: Jeff Lang*

Michael Kaplan led a successful clean-up event at the Grover Street tunnel in December. Several volunteers helped paint over graffiti and picked up trash. Michael summed up the event, “This was a ‘we’ project. Everyone made an important contribution! We received a warm reception from a crowd of hikers as well as those walking and/or biking.”

Unfortunately, the clean walls don’t last long, and these volunteer events must be scheduled regularly. Michael and others have been persistent graffiti battlers both at the tunnel and at the Gibb Street/Darlene Hooley elevator. The neighborhood thanks them for their ongoing efforts.

West Portland Park

Next Meeting:

Thursday, February 10, 7pm
Virtual – see [SWNI Calendar](#)

Chair: **Javier Moncada**
javierfmoncada@gmail.com

West Portland Park’s NA held its first meeting for the New Year on Thursday, Jan 13th. After several years, Deanna Wray, who has served in the capacity as our VP, stepped down. According to our bylaws, we took quick action during our Jan meeting to backfill the position. Amanda Fritz volunteered to fulfill the role. We are grateful for the Board positions, Committee assignments, and hands-on activities that have defined Deanna’s role in WPPNA over the years. We look forward to Amanda’s return to the WPPNA Board in a leadership role, as she has served in numerous capacities on the Board in the past, and brings an historical perspective to the numerous project goals & objectives promoted by our City Bureaus going forward.

“Cabin Fever” best defines our WPPNA meeting attendees, and we all are looking forward to the opportunity to begin holding our monthly meetings in person. An idea was floated at our Meeting to look at outdoor opportunities to meet and address neighborhood issues, such as a cleanup of graffiti at Holly Farms Parks.

Our Next Meeting will be held Thursday Feb 10th, at 7PM via Zoom Call (the Zoom Link can be found on the SWNI Website Calendar tab)

Gary Runde for West Portland Park Neighborhood Association

SWNI Neighborhood Reports

Arnold Creek

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, February 8, 7pm

Virtual – see [SWNI Calendar](#)

Chairs: **Karen Daly & Sharon Keast**

president@arnoldcreek.org

Bridlemile

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, February 9, 7pm

Virtual – see [SWNI Calendar](#)

Chair: **Vacant**

bridlemile-president@swni.org

bridlemile@swni.org

Ashcreek

Next Meeting:

Monday, February 14, 7pm

Virtual – see [SWNI Calendar](#)

Chair: **Taylor Van Ahlefeld**

pdxvon@gmail.com

Homestead

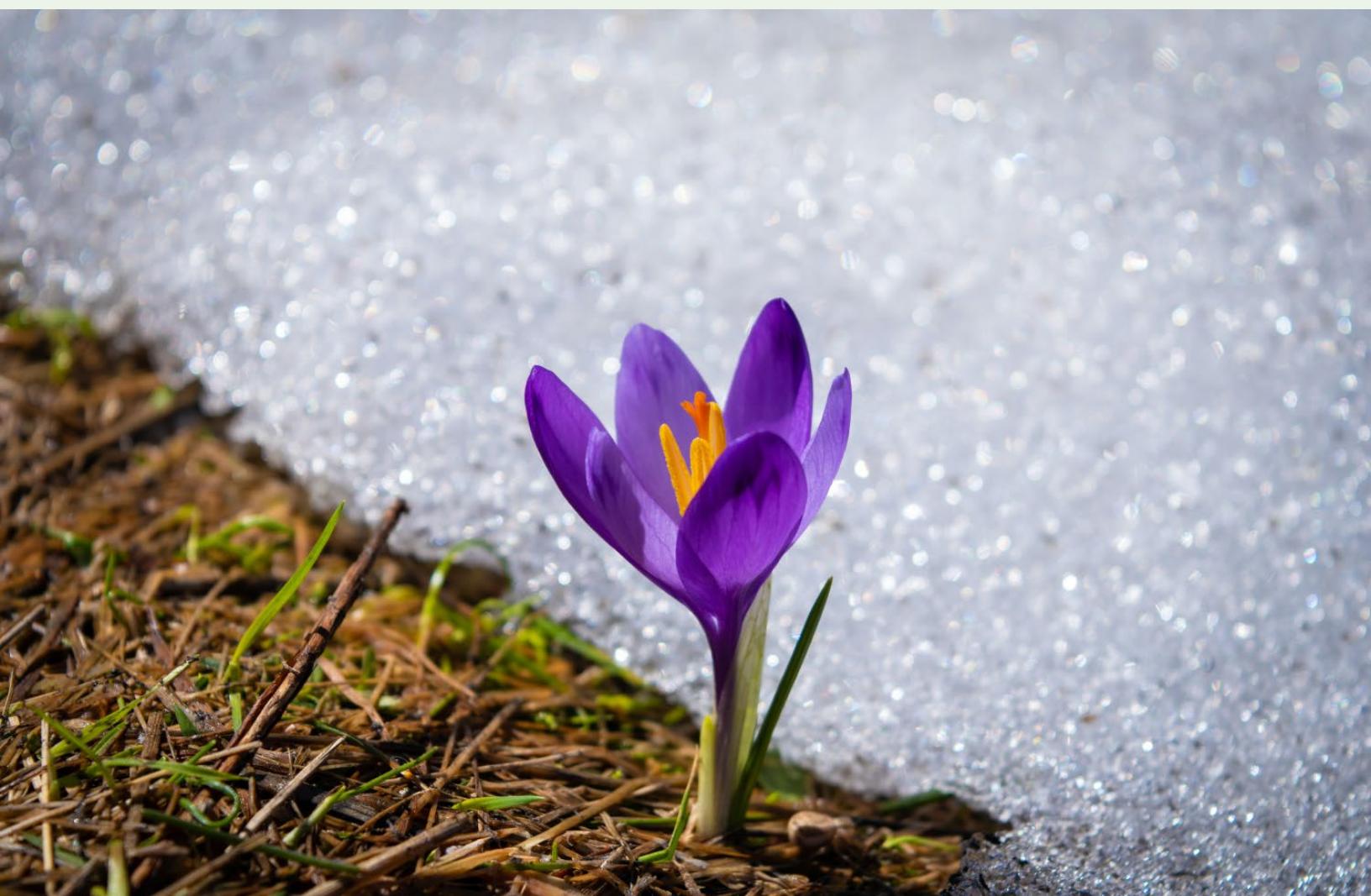
Next Meeting:

Tuesday, February 1, 7pm

Virtual – see [SWNI Calendar](#)

Chair: **Ed Fisher**

edfisher8@gmail.com



SWNI Committee Reports

Land Use

Chair: Gary Runde

land-use-chair@swni.org

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, February 15, 6:30pm
Virtual – see [SWNI Calendar](#) for virtual link

January's Land Use Committee meetings were unusually animated as we dealt with several important items. Almost the entire meeting was spent on the two motions approved by Multnomah NA Board that directed its Land Use Representative, Frank Rudloff, to present to the LUC for consideration and potential forwarding to SWNI Board.

The first motion was to request the City to execute a Type III Land Use Review process for siting a Safe Rest Village at Sears Armory in the Multnomah neighborhood. The second motion was that previously approved City funding "be allocated and utilized to make the Sears Westside Emergency Response Center fully functional as an emergency response and staging area". After considerable discussion, both motions passed (4 approved, 2 abstained). At the Jan. 26 SWNI Board meeting, both motions were tabled.

RIP 2

Last month I indicated that the pace for the Residential Infill Project - Part 2 (or RIP2.0) was picking up as a June 2022 deadline looms per State legislation – HB2001 and SB458. I had also indicated that input at a Dec. 14 PSC public hearing on development of a Proposed Draft for RIP2.0 was expansive, as various individuals and organizations came to the hearing with input that called for sweeping changes to the original RIP1 project that had been signed off by City Council in August 2021.

Fast forward to the January PSC

workshop with the RIP2.0 project team. As an observer of the entire workshop, I witnessed thoughtful deliberation by the project team and PSC Commissioners over the top 3 (of 7) issues teed up for RIP2.0 going forward. If interested, anyone can go to the PSC website and launch the YouTube Video Link for the January PSC meeting that contains workshops for RIP2.0 as well as a key item under discussion for the West Portland Town Center.

ISSUE #1: REMOVE OR ALTER WILDFIRE RISK

As noted in last month's segment, WFRisk zones were used to support RIP2.0 proposal to essentially refrain from allowing Infill density (e.g., middle housing) across the bulk of R10 / R20 single-family residential (SFR) zones. It would also go back and remove any properties from the Z-Overlay in our smaller R2.5 / R5 / R20 SFR zones that were specifically added in due to usage of the WFRisk Maps.

Public testimony pushed back on the use of the 20-year-old WFRisk Maps, in light of complete statewide overhaul of WFRisk Maps (per SB 762). Since it was a workshop format, no formal votes were taken, but as of press time, PSC leaned in direction of using the current WFRisk Maps and essentially set R10 / R20 SFR zones to only allow for a home, home + accessory dwelling unit (ADU), or a duplex; with a major provision that future PSCs and City Councils allow a revisit of the R10 / R20 SFR zones after the new State WFRisk maps are implemented (est. within two years), whereby some R10 / R20 SFR-zoned lots could become candidates for infill housing.

The project team brought up an issue that will have to be addressed: HB2001 clearly mandates that a certain % of remaining available citywide land (after Industrial, Natural Hazards and overall Goal 7 ... lands are removed) must be available for infill density. However, the State Land

Division created an administrative rule that forced the calculus down to individual census tract levels (typically 200 lots, more or less). Exceptions to rules can be sought easier than to the legislative bill itself. Currently, at the citywide land basis, RIP1.0 and proposed RIP2.0 would meet the target for % available lands that allow infill housing.

The PSC clearly does not wish to ask for a delay on Project Implementation (June 2022). The final Option for path forward was set for closure at a PSC meeting on January 25. Our LUC will seek the earliest release of the updated Z-Overlay Map for R2.5 / R5 / R7 zones and provide appropriate feedback at the next planned public hearing on February 8.

ISSUE #2: TWO DETACHED UNITS ON A LOT

This is in direct response to SC458 that calls for Fee-Simple Land Divisions (via easy-to-execute process) that creates a pathway for increased home ownership. The project team is addressing a duplex that can become two completely unattached units, avoiding the typical "rental unit" outcome in favor of a sale. An existing home can become one segment of the unattached duplex rule, which drew positive comments. As usual, there are some details to address, but looks like this one will move forward.

ISSUE NO #3: 800 SQ FT ADU BY RIGHT

A pretty straightforward idea – disconnect ADU size limit calculus from the sq. footage of the existing home and overall lot size. Due to limitations by a host of current code, there may be a modified version as final proposal.

ISSUES #4 THROUGH #7

More to follow, but they appear to be tweaks, not major overhauls, to the floor area ratios (FARs) that set housing square footage per lot size and the enhanced FARs if a % of units are "affordable housing" per City Housing Bureau definitions.

SWNI Committee Reports

BEST PRACTICES FOR NAs

Sharing best practices across neighborhood associations during developer activity and Land Use Reviews is a standing item on our monthly Land Use Committee agenda.

As of late, we have discussed a very dense development proposal up on SW Ridge Drive in Collins View, an update on the “Canby Street” development adjacent to Gabriel Park in Maplewood and continued follow up on the status of the Alpenrose Dairy property, to name a few.

In our discussions, we routinely try to frame the concerns in a constructive manner, knowing that as the City moves towards “clear and objective siting and design standards,” developers may have a more straightforward path if/when a formal Land Use Review gets underway.

With that in mind, I would like to wrap up with reference to a photo of a Developer Notice Sign at SW 45th and Vermont where a major housing project is proposed. The desecration denotes frustration that a segment of our community is having with evolution of much higher housing density, albeit, on

properties that fit many of the City’s and statewide land use planning objectives for siting future housing density.

Taking up the issues and concerns with our local neighborhood associations – and following through to SWNI LUC – can create a forum whereby some issues of a proposed development might indeed be identified as clearly legitimate.

Gary Runde, Chair
SWNI Land Use Committee

Public Safety

Chair: Janet Hawkins

public-safety@swni.org

Next Meeting:

Thursday, February 3, 7pm
Virtual – see [SWNI Calendar](#)

We had an excellent presentation from two Portland Police Bureau Central Precinct officers at the January Public Safety Committee meeting.

Officers Nate Kirby-Glatkowski and Amelia Flohr provided us with excellent information on an update on auto theft crimes in SW Portland. Officers Kirby-Glatkowski and Flohr reported the majority of vehicle thefts in Portland occur on the eastside of the city, which has a higher concentration of population and locations where more cars are parked along streets.

The officers described car theft as a crime of opportunity, saying most thieves wish to have quick access, so the theft may just take only minutes at the most. Vehicles from the late 1990's to the early 2000's are frequently stolen based on their older key ignition systems. Specific brands are also targeted by thieves, including Honda, Subaru, Toyota, and Ford vehicles.

WHY ARE VEHICLES STOLEN?

The officers said that most car thieves are repeat offenders who take the car for a variety of illegal purposes such as

attempting to sell it, trading the car for other items or selling it for parts. Thieves who are apprehended also say they were interested in a “joy ride” or simply using it as a warm, dry place to sleep. Finally, stolen vehicles are also used to commit felonies such as bank robbery or using the vehicle to smash into a business to burglarize it.

WAYS TO PREVENT VEHICLE THEFT?

Officers Kirby-Glatkowski and Flohr shared common sense precautions for vehicle owners:

- Do not leave your vehicle running while unattended.
- Do not leave keys in the driving compartment-always lock your car.
- Keep doors locked when parked.
- Park in well-lit areas overnight if a garage is unavailable or under motion activated security lights.
- Use anti-theft car alarms and/or a club attached to the steering wheel.
- Don't leave one's vehicle in an unattended parking lot for long periods of time.

Officers Kirby-Glatkowski and Flohr encouraged everyone to access the PPB website, where you can find crime data information for your neighborhood: <https://www.portland.gov/police/open-data/crime-statistics>

Click on the “Launch Dashboard” button when you access the site to bring up specific neighborhood information.

The Committee discussed a possible NET Fair for late summer or the fall.

Please join us at 7pm, Thursday, February 3, meeting. We will have Jenni Pullen, Community Safety Coordinator with the Office of Civic Life, join us to discuss the Neighbors Together Program. You can find Zoom information for the meeting in the [SWNI calendar](#).



SWNI Committee Reports

Equity & Inclusion

Chair: Laura Campos

equity-committee@swni.org

Next Meeting:

Monday, February 28, 7pm

Virtual Meeting – see [SWNI Calendar](#)

Caste: The system of dividing society into classes. A concept I was taught existed elsewhere in the world, but not in the U.S. When I was learning this concept, a half a world away, an American whose actions for peace and civil rights are celebrated was being introduced to an audience in India as a member of the “untouchable caste” in the United States.

Yes, people outside of the U.S. saw what we ourselves did not see. We have an unspoken caste system in the U.S., and Black Americans were assigned to the class of untouchables.

Does a caste system still exist in the U.S.? One recognized scholar Isabel Wilkerson shares her perspective in her book “Caste”. What do we do with this concept? That is easier. We acknowledge that it exists, and that our country has, at the very least, a history of its own caste system.

Our committee’s name and goal is to bring forth levels of inclusiveness today that exceed those we experienced yesterday.

What are the society structures we see today? Do the “1 percenters” of income occupy the top of society? Do they constitute the royalty the public had to revere yesterday? By fiat, they convey gifts upon organizations and institutions they favor, while employing attorneys and accountants to avoid paying taxes to support the community decisions on which are the most important area of largess as defined by government action. Yet they go to their governments to secure waivers of their financial accountability and responsibility.

A NEW “BOTTOM RUNG”?

Let us now go to the bottom rung of our caste system. That seems to have changed; the folks we least want living on our block are the homeless. We have seen physical barriers erected at places their tents might be pitched; we have seen large stone “landscaping” placed on highway rights of way to keep their camps away. Police are called upon to move them; teams are engaged to clean up after them; private funding sources are used to make water and toilet convenient for them.

These folks are residents in our neighborhoods. They are today’s untouchable caste in Portland.

At our last Equity and Inclusion Committee meeting we discussed the City’s announcement of the new Safe Rest Village site for the Jerome Sears Armory Site. Providing safe haven for the homeless in sites such as this is a part of the City’s plan to bring Portland out of the homeless crisis we now face. We heard some of the many issues the surrounding community will have to deal with.

Do any of us want a Safe Rest Village literally next to us? No. Are there other activities we would not want next to us? Yes. As uses are approved for sites, there is generally a transition of uses from one property to another. Note that farmers generally do not want homes next to them;

the noises and smells at all hours of the day bring complaints. Industrial uses? Same; those businesses do not want to have cars and pedestrians to deal with on an hourly basis.

The Jerome Sears site is most like an historic industrial site, being a U.S. Army Reserve training facility. Even now, the activities as a road and sewer project staging area most resemble an industrial site.

The primary use of part of the Sears site will be residential, with care taken to protect both their neighbors and the residents from intrusion by others. Of more concern may be what happens outside of the perimeter of that SRV. Those are the secondary impacts that come from its placement. What happens beyond those boundaries from the new community residents now residing there warrants extensive review and action. That was evident from the comments made at the meeting.

Let us each strive to learn the complexity of homelessness. Lack of housing? Yes, but what is driving these residents to take up shelter in this manner? How do we help them address the changes needed?

Let us learn and help these residents secure peace. And permanent housing.

Submitted by
Glenn Bridger



SWNI Committee Reports

Schools

Co-Chairs: Patty McMahon

schools-chair@swni.org

Next Meeting:

Thursday, February 17, 7pm

Virtual Meeting – see [SWNI Calendar](#)

The Oregon Dept of Education's highest priority for the 2022 school year is "to safely hold school in-person, all-day, every school day, for every student, all year long". With the Omicron variant surging, in-person learning is challenging, and some schools are moving temporarily to short-term distance learning. ***These school closures and on-line learning are associated with increased social isolation and engagement.***

It's very important for our children to have a respite from this social isolation and engagement. Physical activity/Play/Exercise has been shown to decrease feelings of depression, anxiety, and stress. Extracurricular activities like joining a group/class decreases loneliness and social isolation.

Check out Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) website for Physical activity/Play/Exercise and other extracurricular activities:

- <https://www.portland.gov/parks/multnomah-arts-center>
- [Southwest Community Center | Portland.gov](https://www.portland.gov/parks/southwest-community-center)

You Can Afford it! PP&R is offering new payment options for City of Portland residents that allow you to choose payment levels based on your needs.

- "**Pay What You Can**". Using this option, registered activities can be reduced up to 75%. Registered activities include arts and sport classes, swim lessons, hikes, and more. No application required.

- "**Recreation Center Access Discount**".

Register for an Access Discount to receive reduced pricing up to 90% based on your total income. Discount may be applied to all passes, drop-in fees, and personal training packages. No income verification required.

Spring Break is March 21 – 25! Now is the time to check out the Spring Break Camps and get your children registered to begin participating in these Parks & Recreation programs.

Ida B. Wells High School Virtual Community Event. One year ago, Woodrow Wilson High School was renamed Ida B. Wells High School. Michelle Duster, Ida B. Wells' great-granddaughter, will join an Ida B. Wells HS virtual community event on Thursday, February 24, to help celebrate the one-year anniversary and the Black History Month. Michelle is the author of several books, including "Ida B. the Queen". Most recently she published a picture book about Ida B. Wells, too. Check the Ida B. Wells HS website for information and how to access the virtual event.

Submitted by Patty McMahon
Chair, SWNI Schools Committee

Parks

Chair: Mike Linman

parks-chair@swni.org

Next Meeting:

Thursday, February 3, 7pm
Virtual Meeting – see [SWNI Calendar](#)

The SWNI Parks Committee hopes that 2022 finds you enjoying the wonderful parks and natural areas in our community. Though it may be the winter, we still wanted the community to be aware for a couple of parks related opportunities available in the month of February.

NATURE PATCH AT A PARK

Portland Parks & Recreation is installing a nature patch at the north edge of A Park that will foster wildlife habitat and add natural features to enjoy.

The garden is nearly complete and is ready for planting! Sign up here to plant the patch at one of the upcoming work parties --- Feb 1, Feb 8, Feb 15, Feb 19.

OLMSTEAD ANNIVERSARY

This year marks the 200th Anniversary of the birth of Frederick Law Olmsted, a nationally known landscape architect who helped lay out Portland's park system.

Various groups will be hosting different lectures, panels and films to dive deeper into the social and environmental impacts of Olmsted's work.

February 9, at 7pm: A Screening of the PBS Film "Frederick Law Olmsted: Designing America" and Q&A with the Originator and Consulting Producer, Laurence Cotton. Part of Friends of Columbia Park Olmsted 2022 Good Parks Speaker Series <https://www.focp.org/olmsted-2022-speaker-series.html>.

To Olmsted, a park was both a work of art and a necessity for urban life. Olmsted's efforts to preserve nature created an environmental ethic decades before the environmental movement became a force in American politics. With gorgeous cinematography and compelling commentary, this film presents the biography of a man whose parks and preservation are an essential part of American life.



SWNI Committee Reports

Transportation

Chair: Katherine Christensen

transportation-chair@swni.org

Next Meeting:

Monday, February 14, 7pm

Virtual Meeting – see [SWNI Calendar](#)

SWNI Transportation Committee January meeting had two guest speakers.

Mathew Berkow of PBOT's Development Permitting & Transit Group discussed the Streets 2035 Plan. Streets 2035 is a collaborative document to guide decisions for street Right of Way (ROW) planning.

The Comprehensive Plan lists ROW requirements must meet needs of transportation, access to businesses, street trees, private utilities, municipal and storm water. Streets 2035 attempts to manage the limited ROW space decision criteria given our growing city with limited space due to the static geography. The goals are:

- Better achieve citywide and bureau goals
- Reduce situations that require individual interpretation and inter bureau negotiations
- Increase certainty and clarity for people wishing to develop in and adjacent to the ROW
- Create a consistent starting point for capital project design and development

Current streets conditions are classified on the map at <http://Portland-tsp.com/#/streets>.

Streets 2035 directs zoning for Town Centers and Corridors from the Comprehensive Plan. Civic Corridors are the largest streets up to 76 feet wide at less than 10% or just 37 miles of the Portland. These are designed for major transit priority including trucks, automobiles, bikes and sidewalks.

Implementation is not uniform across the city. Collectors are most often 36 feet wide with 2 lanes of traffic and are found inner East side neighborhoods. West side collectors are most often narrower at 22-24 feet have no sidewalks, etc. There are issues in pedestrian zones with standards. A lot of substandard implementations exist due to geographic and budget constraints. Existing infrastructure also is often substandard.

Some successful example projects in Southwest Portland are: Beaverton Hillsdale Highway with protected shoulders, SW Vermont, SW Maplewood and SW 45th/Carson with new crosswalk, signage and lighting.

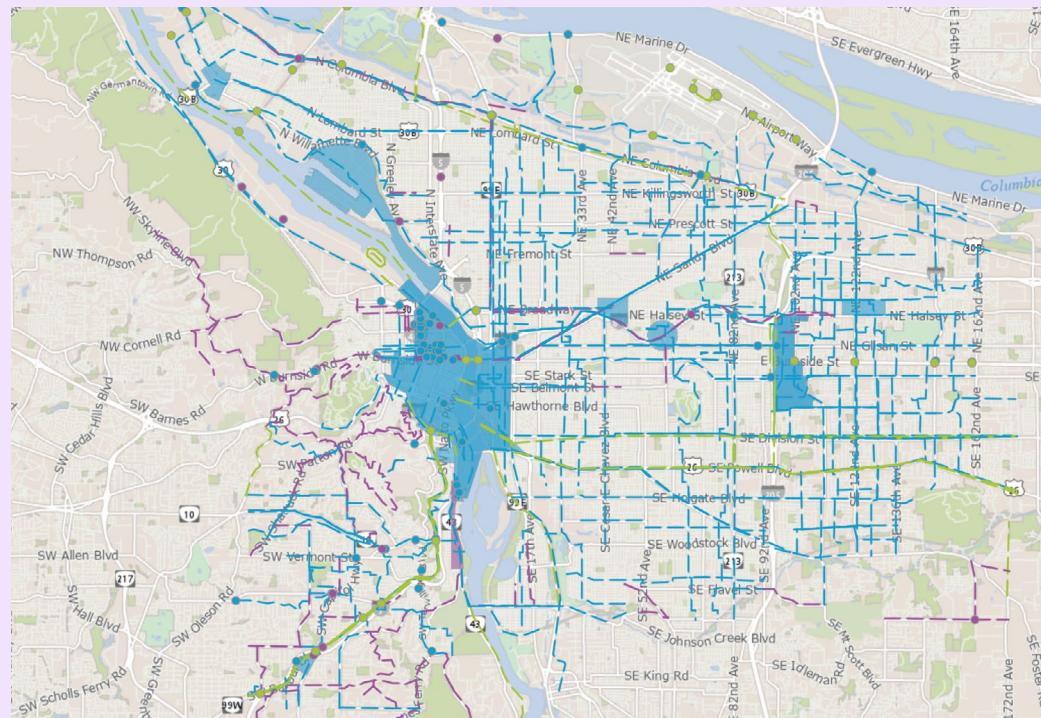
Frontage improvements must take into account slope and storm water management. The Bureau of Emergency Services (BES) is involved with frontage improvements for Southwest Portland that can sometimes reduce project complexity.

There are about 40 collectors for all modes of transportation in Portland. Only 50% of these are flat and less than half have curbs. Costs of implementing standard sidewalks is heavily influenced by existing conditions.

Streets 2035 defines what is expected of developers on these priority corridors. Small developments in non-commercially zoned areas with single houses are common with curbs and no storm water management due to project magnitude.

Another speaker, Josh Roll, Pedestrian Advisory Committee member, discussed public funding for traffic calming in residential areas. They are looking at other ways to assist Portland to meet the safety, equity and climate goals. Another objective is empowering the public to implement projects in neighborhoods.

Portland is challenged with less funding and the City's focus on major streets and catching up equity. The City does allow citizens to paint intersections and shut down streets temporarily and has even implemented a few more aggressive strategies with chicanes and flexible bollards. This group would like to develop a "library" of car slowing means and a consulting group that can assist others in this effort.



Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc., publishes a monthly online calendar providing the times, dates and details about the meetings of SWNI Committees, southwest Portland neighborhood associations and the SWNI Board. **Click on the ** below for access to the live calendar.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30		31	1 Feb	2	3	4
		6pm Multnomah Boa 7pm Homestead 7pm Maplewood	7pm South Portland 7pm Hillsdale Gener 7pm Collins View	7pm SWNI Parks and 7pm SWNI Public Sa		5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		7pm Multnomah NA 7pm Arnold Creek	9am Friends of Marq 7pm Bridlemile NA M	6pm Marshall Park 7pm South Burlingar 7pm West Portland F		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		6pm Tryon Creek Wa 7pm Ashcreek 7pm Hayhurst Execu 7pm Transportation	SW News ARTICLE 6:30pm SWNI Land L 7pm SPNA Outreach	1pm SWNI Finance C 2pm SWNI Executive	7pm SWNI Schools C	9am Friends of Terw 9am SWTrails Stroll :
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
		7pm Rescheduled - S	7pm Far Southwest	7pm SWNI Board		9am Friends of Marq 9am Friends of Wood
27	28	1 Mar	2	3	4	5
		7pm Equity & Inclusi	6pm Multnomah Boa 7pm Homestead 7pm Maplewood	7pm South Portland 7pm Hillsdale Gener 7pm Collins View	7pm SWNI Parks and 7pm SWNI Public Sa	

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Media Group

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We are located in the Multnomah Arts Center, 7688 SW Capitol Hwy., Room 5, Portland, OR 97219-2457

NOTE: Due to COVID-19 and changes in our status with the City of Portland, the Office is closed until further notice. If you need assistance, please send an email to president@swni.org.

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