

**Southwest Hills Residential League
Board Meeting
October 24, 2007
Ascension Episcopal Parish**

SWHRL Second Vice President and Transportation Chair Julia Harris called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM. President Jim Thayer arrived at 7:20PM and led the remainder of the meeting.

Julia established that a quorum was present.

Board present: Don Livingstone, Jill Habernigg, Julia Harris, Nancy Seton, Tom Miller

Board excused: Aloha Wyse, Andrew Holtz, Darroch Cahen, Norman Turrill

Board absent: Alice Stolzberg, Lena Lane, Lucy Bosworth, Simone Goldfeder, Steve Gann

Others present: RuthAnn Bedenkop, SWNI Outreach Coordinator.

Motion: Approve the meeting agenda.

Made by: Don Livingstone

Second: Tom Miller

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Approve the September 19th meeting minutes, as presented.

Julia pointed out that the minutes neglected to list her as Excused, and that Alice was not credited for presenting the Transportation report. The motion was amended to approve the minutes with these corrections.

Made by: Don Livingstone

Second: Nancy Seton

Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Alice Stolzberg was not present; there was no Treasurer's report.

Ruthann Bedenkop's Message

- RuthAnn introduced herself as SWNI's new Outreach Coordinator. Her main responsibilities include outreach to neighborhood residents, working on small grants, and community building. She said that she intends to find under-represented groups and bring them into contact with neighborhood resources.
- Her position is only funded through June 2008. She will be in the SWNI office Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, but has the flexibility to be available at other times, if necessary.
- Jim asked her to take a look at SWHRL's grant application, which would fund mailing the SWHRL newsletter to everyone in the neighborhood, not just members. She promised to take a look at it. Jim suggested that she contact Brian Hoop at ONI, who might have information on mailing costs for the entire neighborhood, as this was done 2005/2006 during the overlap resolution process.
- Tom said that SWNI has an annual newsletter that goes out to all residents, and that if that will be delivered to all SWHRL residents, perhaps SHWRL does not need its own mass mailing.
- Ruthann said that this mailing is done only if BES (Bureau of Environmental Services) wants to do it, and then BES pays for it. SWNI has never done a mailing like this on its own.

- Discussion also brought up the advantage of having the more targeted SWHRL newsletter, rather than a more generic SWNI newsletter. Many residents in SWHRL probably don't know that SWHRL exists.

President's Message – Jim Thayer

- Jim discussed the Spirit of Portland award. He said that it was Don Baack's idea to nominate the leaders of Hillsdale, Homestead, Bridlemile and SWHRL for their work on the overlap resolution. He read the text of his nomination.
- Tom suggested also acknowledging the large number of neighbors who were impacted by the process. Jill suggested approving the nomination with the inclusion of more specific examples, such as the mention of the people who were sued, including two teenagers; this would help people unacquainted with the issues better understand how onerous the process was.

Motion: Accept Jim's nomination with the inclusions of mentioning Rick Seifert, and mention of the fact that many people not named were impacted by the process.

Made by: Nancy Seton

Second: Jill Habernigg

Motion passed unanimously.

- Jim reported on the Chevron station at the Sylvan interchange. There are many contentious issues, including lack of adequate parking, lack of alignment between sidewalks and crosswalks. The area is overcrowded now, and there is a new restaurant moving in. Vince McMahon, who owns the Chevron station, has asked SWHRL to write a letter to ODOT requesting that he be allowed to construct a parking area. There was a discussion about how best to configure the area to include increased parking and safety for pedestrians. Jim will write a letter to ODOT.
- Jim said that he had just come to the meeting from 2 SWNI meetings dealing with future plans for school facilities. The new superintendent of schools is visiting schools and meeting with students, janitors, principals, and other stakeholders. The goal is to make the best use of existing assets. Some parent groups have suggested leasing some of the buildings and using the revenue generated to refurbish other facilities.
- Jim will contact the principal of Ainsworth School to discuss this, and follow up on the issue she brought up at the last membership meeting, about teenagers gathering near the school late at night and creating a disturbance and littering the school grounds.
- Jim mentioned that he had been in touch with Ted Walsh, former SWHRL Board member, who has files for all Land Use issues going back 20 years. Jim has them now, and found a letter from Terwilliger Plaza that promises that they would build a sidewalk on Broadway. Jill mentions a path or road off of Hoffman. Tom suggested that there could be a long stairway from Broadway down to Sherman.
- Jim said that he would like SWHRL to help Kelly Yeong on her work on the Conner trail, where there is a condo development proposed on Sam Jackson Parkway. He will contact her about this.
- Nancy said that the non-profit Trust for Public Lands is investigating the possibility of purchasing this Sam Jackson Parkway property.

Land Use Committee Report – Nancy Seton

- No one came to the last meeting. The next meeting will be Nov. 6th.
- Tom McAllister and Owen Kramer, a retired forester, will speak at the Dec. 4th SWHRL Land Use Committee meeting. Nancy asked for suggestions on a topic for them.

- Jim said that Simone had suggested native plants and horticulture as a topic. He mentioned a computer simulation of a huge fire, based on data from the 1951 Bonnie Slope fire. The program is very dramatic, as it illustrates the extent of devastation that would occur if a fire like this occurred today. Because of the increased development in that area, such a fire would take out a huge amount of real estate.
- Tim suggested a talk about birds in the area, something with a historical perspective. It was agreed that the tree topic might be big enough to be the focus for the January 30 SWHRL general meeting. Nancy suggested we might include in the discussion: (1) the conflict between tree preservation and view preservation, which is a concern for some residents, including Tom McAllister and Owen Kramer; (2) information on whom to contact at the city with questions on removing trees, and for help with hazardous trees.
- Jim mentioned David Kuhn, and suggested having a panel with David, McAllister and Kramer.
- Nancy and Jim will confer about the membership meeting on January 30th.
- Nancy went to the last Citywide Land Use Group meeting. Paul Scarlett, Director of the Bureau of Development Services (BDS), stated the goals of BDS, including a goal to become more customer friendly. Bonnie McKnight has worked with them to fund a new neighborhood liaison for BDS. Now they consider that the developers are their main customers; the goal for the future is to give more weight to neighborhoods as important stakeholders in the land use process. BDS is asking for input on the City's website, www.portlandonline.com. Many people expressed their frustration with the website, citing difficulties locating the land use information they were looking for.
- The Portland Bureau of Planning is leading the Citywide Tree Policy project, a multi-bureau effort to review and unify Portland's policies and regulations relating to trees. The project is a high priority action item in the Urban Forest Action Plan. The Bureau of Planning is soliciting comments on their proposed project scope by November 16. Send comments to Chris Scarzello, Portland Planning Bureau, cscarzello@ci.portland.or.us
- There is another "ABCs of Land Use Planning" coming up on November 3rd.
- Jim said that the proposed subdivision near Steve Gann's house at 5925 SW Patton was denied because it did not allow for a through street, and because there was not a tree mitigation plan.

Transportation Committee Report – Julia Harris

- Julia has received crash data from ODOT for Humphrey Blvd., but it is only through 2005.
- The "Ditches to Swales" project is moving slowly.
- The committee's three-part proposal to Tri-Met, for more bus coverage, was denied on all three points.
- There are plans to construct a bike lane on the uphill side of Vista Ave. from the walled curve to Montgomery.
- The police have looked at SWHRL's request for photo radar on Broadway Drive, but they need to do a preliminary study to assess the need, as the photo radar is an expensive project.
- Julia shared information on Speed Reader boards that Mark LeRoux researched. The City would have to place it and buy it, though SWHRL would have the opportunity for input. It would cost \$3,000-\$4,000 to record and analyze the data. The goal is to educate drivers and SWHRL would have the opportunity to analyze the data, and make recommendations to the city.
- Discussion included mention of the fact that Speed Reader boards are only effective as a deterrent for a short time; after a week or so, motorists ignore them.

Jim adjourned the meeting at 9:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Nanette Klimkow
Executive Assistant to SWHRL

Action Items:

- **Jim** will contact the principal of Ainsworth School about the problem of loitering and littering teenagers, including walking around the affected area.
- **Jim** will contact Kelly Yeong about the Conner trail
- **Jim and Nancy** will confer about speakers for the January Membership Meeting.
- **Jim** will write a letter to ODOT about the Sylvan interchange.
- **Jim will contact Sam Adams about Speed Reader Boards.**