

Minutes of the Southwest Hills Residential League

Call to order:

A meeting of the Southwest Hills Residential League board was held at Stroheckers, on Thursday, January 18, 2007. The meeting convened at 7:00 PM with SWHRL President Jim Thayer presiding.

Attendance:

Board present: Alice Stolzberg, Jim Thayer, Julia Harris, Lena Lane, Norman Turrill, Steve Gann

Board excused: Darroch Cahen, Nan Koerner

Board absent: Aloha Wyse, Don Livingstone, Nancy Owen, Tom Miller

Jim established that a quorum was present.

The agenda for this meeting was circulated via email and distributed at the meeting.

Motion: Approve the minutes, with corrections, from the November board meeting.

Made by: Julia Harris

Second: Steve Gann

Motion passed unanimously.

Jim had a conversation with Lena, and they decided that the Land Use committee would be a better fit for her. Alice will step in to be the Treasurer. At this point, Lena had not arrived at the meeting.

Motion: Alice will be elected as the Treasurer at the end of this meeting.

Made by: Norman Turrill

Second: Julia Harris

Motion passed unanimously.

Land Use issues:

Steve Gann wrote a letter to the city about the proposed lot split on Scholls Ferry. Jim did some research on it, and edited parts of the letter to make the re-zoning from R20 to R10 the main focus; the argument was that smaller lots would be detrimental to the neighborhood. Most of the lots in the immediate area are R20. Steve also included information about previous collapses and the continuing instability of the hillside. The place where the new access would be is a blind curve, and the proposal would add two additional houses on the same new access route. There have been 2 fatality accidents on Scholls Ferry close to the proposal. There are also emergency services issues. There appear to be inconsistencies on the map that need to be dealt with.

Steve: Where the access road/driveway is proposed to come out, you can't see down the hill. This would have two driveways servicing four homes coming out in the middle of the blind corner.

Nanette: Mary Mark called about her desire for a left-turn signal on Scholls Ferry at Patton, and it was suggested that we try to make the developer pay for the signal.

Steve: There is one house there now, which they plan to take down and build three.

Jim: We had to get the letter in last night, so left most of Steve's comments in.

Steve: Transportation should be a major issue. Everybody speeds there, though the speed limit is 35 mph.

Jim: His letter has gone in. Do we want an additional submission with comments by Mary Mark? This is stretching things a bit, the location is in unincorporated Multnomah County, but the city (Portland) does have jurisdiction for land use planning in this area.

Norman asked why the city doesn't annex the little unincorporated pockets.

Jim: There was a survey done years ago, they're not allowed to annex.

Steve: Years ago one family owned the entire property. They were going to build three additional houses, but then the county and the city agreed to have Portland handle the land use issues in this area since it lies on the far western edge of Multnomah County. The county had tentatively approved the plan, but the city put an environmental zone over part of the proposal and turned down the plan. I think it ended up before LUBA. This entire area is a mishmash of different cities (Portland and Beaverton) and counties (Multnomah and Washington) all having varying degrees of jurisdiction affecting the residents.

Steve: The hearing is February 7th and he will be there. We can provide supportive testimony, and add some additional information as well. He will get some of the neighbors to go as well. The family living in the Duplex has been there 18 years, and are currently renting from the person who wants to divide it.

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Norman asked why the city doesn't annex the little unincorporated pockets.

Jim: There was a survey done years ago, they're not allowed to annex.

Steve: Years ago one person owned the whole thing. She was going to build a greenhouse, then there was a spat between city and county, and she ended up losing in court. It was a mishmash of city and county overruling each other on development projects.

Steve: The hearing is Feb 7th, and he will be there. We can provide supportive testimony, and add any additional information as well. He will get some of the neighbors to go as well. The family living in the duplex has been there for 18 yrs, but they are renting from the person who wants to divide it. While he may not want to testify, he can give us a lot of information.

Jim passed out a letter from the developer of the **SW Upper Drive project**. He would like to come to the Jan 31st meeting. Jim thinks that is not the best choice for him, there will be too many people there, but he will try to fit it in to a crowded agenda.

Council Crest Radio Tower

Jim talked to Bob Ox at Office of Technology for Portland. They went to a Hillsdale NA meeting and ran into Don Baack; everyone at the meeting was vehemently opposed to rebuilding the tower at that location. As a result of the depth of opposition, the city will not be prepared to meet with the public until March. *The Oregonian* has approached Jim to find out when and where the issue will come up. We will bring it up at the Jan. 31st meeting. We should think about sending a letter to the city suggesting other locations. The current decaying tower is in a prime scenic area, and it was supposed to be temporary. There are a lot of technical issues involved, as well as free speech issues. The issue has been deferred until the city's response in March.

Sam Jackson Condo Project

There is a proposal to put condos on Sam Jackson Parkway. Traffic is a major issue. The condos would hug into the hillside. 279 units are the maximum allowed, but the actual number will probably be less. There is a huge demand for lower cost housing in that area. Jim contacted Anton Vetterlein of the Homestead NA. Marquam Village is a student slum, and needs to be reformed before building something else. There is the potential for that to be The Pearl in miniature up there.

Steve: The best thing, but expensive, would be to build a sidewalk up to OHSU, but they will only build it down, to transit. There will be a connection to the Connor trail, which was built just a year ago.

Jim: Our response should focus on traffic issues. The proposed condos are secure, from a geotechnical standpoint, as they are dug very deeply into basalt. There are design issues, but mainly

it's access/traffic. There might be the need for 2 flashing lights for traffic. We need to come up with a letter soon stating our objections. Putting a sidewalk or walkway up to the top is too expensive. People can walk up the trail but it's steep. The major impact is on traffic. We were concerned about the height also – this is where they are asking for a variance. They want to go 8 ft higher than the current zoning allows. But there is a huge demand for residential space in this immediate area. There is also substantial development potential just north of Caruthers, which is likely to become a major development area for PSU. There have been discussions between PSU and OHSU to develop this area for high density housing. Also, let's fix Marquam Village. Also if Sam Jackson gets bottlenecked here, more people will use Fairmount to access OHSU, which will have a negative impact on SWHRL.

Transportation Committee Report – Julia Harris

The committee did not meet in January, but they decided on who will follow up on specific issues.

Humphrey speed/safety—Andrew Holtz

Patton curve at Homar—David Margolis

Speed enforcement on Patton, Dosch and Broadway—Lynn Takata

Ditches to Swales—Julia Harris

Lack of sidewalks—Richard Seton

Lack of adequate mass transit—Mark LeRoux

Carl Schneider from PDOT attended their last meeting and was very helpful.

Alice: Asked if he asked about having buses more frequently.

Norman: The bus (the #51) is already a shorter bus, to allow it to make the tight turns. It's crowded during rush hour

Jim asked Julia about a watershed group, that has grants up to \$5K, specifically for bio-swales. He will send information on this to Julia.

We have sent a letter of support for 5 TSDC projects.

90024 Broadway Dr, SW (Sherwood - Grant): Pedestrian Improvements

90031 Dosch Rd, SW (Patton - B-H Hwy): Bicycle & Pedestrian Improvements

90038 Humphrey Blvd, SW (Patton - Scholls Ferry): Bicycle & Pedestrian Improvements

90054 Patton Rd, SW (Vista-Scholls Ferry): Bicycle & Pedestrian Improvements

90078 Scholls Ferry, SW (Humphrey - County line): Multimodal Improvements

Sharon White from PDOT would like to do pedestrian safety presentation, it would run about 30 minutes, and she could do it at the next membership meeting in March.

Norman asked if this would attract members to the meeting.

Jim: Suggested sponsoring a meeting with the Ainsworth School PTA, they would be interested in this. It would be something we sponsor, for the neighborhood. We could have the PTA do the invites.

Lena: Suggested having an organization do a presentation on gun locks, possibly handing out free locks. Maybe the Red Cross could come.

Jim: Is afraid that this is becoming too big, and losing focus. He could see a presentation by the fire department and about pedestrian safety, but not firearms.

Julia: The presentation is geared to parents, not kids.

Jim: Wants to talk to the Ainsworth principal. Nanette will get him an e-invite. We might gain members by doing this.

Julia: Made a motion that all *Viewpoints* articles will be submitted by the appropriate committee and all would have by-lines.

Jim: He will come up with a list of articles, and get consensus; at that point we will assign bylines, but some articles don't need bylines. We can have a process where we have more control.

Julia: Doesn't want inaccurate information published.

Jim: Suggested that articles will have an assigned person.

The point is not how diverse the views are, but we want to have control on articles that represent SWHRL. Editorial content needs to be controlled and given proper attribution. If a committee writes it, byline is, for example, "The transportation committee."

Jim prefers not to do it as a rule, but for all to be more careful. There is a discussion about an article that Nancy Lock submitted. Julia had invited her to be on the Transportation committee.

Norman: People need to be cognizant of the deadline.

Nanette: Apologized for the problems with the Winter 2007 *Viewpoints*.

Jim: Attributions will be made when articles are assigned.

Julia withdrew her motion.

Membership Development

Norman: We need to have a budget, as a planning document. We could present it at the annual meeting, and try to make it balanced. It's planning and motivational.

Jim: The membership meeting should be entertaining; a budget discussion will cause people to fall asleep. Maybe we could just have it available as a handout.

There is a brief discussion on how we could use SWNI money. There are restrictions on the use on some of the funds.

Jim would like 20% of members making contributions. Nanette will send her "reminder" letter to the Board for edits, especially suggestions for valuable things that SWHRL has done to benefit the neighborhood. Jim will add language about fixed expenses, the fact that we use our own staff, etc. The Membership committee will come to the Board with a proposal.

Nanette will come up with a list of other fun things to do to raise funds – this will be part of the proposal to the Board.

Treasurer's report - Lena

Jim told her that the Board accepted her resignation effective at the end of the meeting; Alice will become the new Treasurer at the end of the meeting. Lena and Alice need to go to the bank together to transfer signing privileges.

Lena handed out her report.

Motion: Approve the Treasurer's report.

Made by: Norman Turrill

Second: Alice Stolzberg

Motion passed unanimously.

There is a discussion about payments made to Nanette, which revealed that she had not received payment for November. A check was written to correct this.

There was a discussion about arrangements for the January 31st membership meeting

Tram fare discussion

Jim suggested a surcharge, \$2.50 to go up and down. This still won't cover the actual cost which is about \$8. People who work or live on the hill should have lower rate. There is no parking under it; the original thought was that people were going to get the parking free. It is free for staff and patients; the \$4 rate is for tourists.

Jim suggested writing a letter, with a copy to the Homestead NA, that our concern is that this was supposed to solve traffic problems. Patients and staff are subsidized, but people who live there should have a subsidy as well, anyone who lives in the Homestead/Marquam Hill neighborhood. Nanette will draft a letter about this for Jim.

Other Business

Alice had a hit and run accident during the last ice storm; someone ran into her car, parked in front of her house. Also, her husband was passed on Vista.

Jim said that we are thinking about buying a speed counter for the neighborhood, and will refer these issues to the Transportation Committee.

Lena volunteered that she and her son will put up the A-frames announcing the membership meeting.

Nanette Klimkow
Executive Assistant for SWHRL