



2005-2006 Board

Broadway:

Allen Bachrach
503-221-1226 greatmazel@comcast.net

Chesapeake:

Mark Clemons
503-244-0837
mark.clemons@comcast.net

Aloha Wyse

503-244-7595 aloha@hevanet.com

Davenport-Hoffman:

Nan Koerner
503-227-2146

Dosch Road:

Nanette Klimkow
503-246-8103 nanettka@earthlink.net

Fairmont:

Nancy Owens
503-242-0030 nancy@hvalp.com

Marquam/Homestead:

Tom Miller
503 274-0717 seetomsee@yahoo.com

Scholls Ferry:

Steven Gann
503-246-0527 steven@masterprint.com

Stroheckers:

Jim Thayer
503-220-0755 jim@thayers.org

Norman Turrill

503-827-8251 nturrill@mac.com

Sunset:

Rick Seifert
503-245-7821 wfs12@columbia.edu

Terwilliger:

Walt Amacher
503-244-043 wseditor@aol.com

Westwood Hillsdale:

David Blum
503-913-0526 blumdavid@qwest.net

Viewpoints

November-December 2005

Info@swrl.org

PO Box 1033, Portland Oregon 97207

Your help needed to resolve overlaps

In December neighbors in three neighborhoods will have the chance to say how they want to resolve overlapping boundaries that the Southwest Hills Residential League has with the Hillsdale and Homestead Neighborhoods.

Inside this issue of Viewpoints, Viewpoint readers will find survey forms regarding both overlaps. If you live in SWHRL

Please turn over page for President's Message

you are urged to complete them and return them before the postmark deadline of January 5. Simply fold the surveys to show the return address. No postage is needed.

You are also invited to share your opinions about resolution of the overlaps at two open houses. One for the Hillsdale/SWHRL overlap will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 12, at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church at the corner of SW Dosch and Sunset Boulevard. The Homestead/SWHRL overlap open house will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, at the OHSU School of Nursing, 3455 SW Veterans Hospital Road.

At each open house, an open forum public discussion will be held from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m..

The effort to resolve the overlap results from a SWHRL suit brought against the City last year. As part of the settlement earlier this year, the three neighborhoods are under court order to resolve their differences.

The results of the surveys and open houses will be considered when joint committees draft proposed solutions. The proposals will then be submitted to the respective neighborhood association boards for approval in January.

Options include drawing new boundaries to eliminate the overlaps entirely or simply keeping the overlaps, although overlaps are discouraged under City guidelines for neighborhoods. Another possibility would be to redraw the boundaries so that the size of the overlaps are smaller.

The SWHRL boundary overlap with a third neighborhood, Bridlemile, was

resolved this fall by both boards agreeing to keep the existing overlap. The Bridlemile/SWHRL overlap is considerably smaller than those with Hillsdale and Homestead.

While the two enclosed surveys are similar, the Homestead/SWHRL one presents a "discussion" boundary proposal for comment. It also proposes for discussion the idea of the SWHRL and Homestead boards having one reciprocal member on each board. The Hillsdale/SWHRL survey offers no "discussion proposal."

All three boards emphasize that the survey results and open house comments will be treated as advisory and not binding.

All sides are aware that compromise will be needed in finding agreement.

Some SWHRL board members have discussed the idea of establishing SWHRL "legacy memberships" for SWHRL members who are placed outside the current SWHRL boundary as the result of overlap settlements. The legacy membership, if desired, would be granted by virtue of past membership, and no longer by virtue of residence.

vegetation mitigation is inadequate.

Nine neighbors testified at the October hearing to complain that the development would cause traffic congestion and other problems in the quiet, wooded neighborhood.

The SWHRL appeal means the case will be heard by the City Council at an undetermined date, Koerner said.

SWHRL is appealing a planning commission decision to allow a 75-foot tower and 36 condominiums to be built on a sloping lot on SW Cardinell Dr.

Development of the 1.6-acre site received a go-ahead at an Oct. 4 environmental hearing accepting the removal of an environmental overlay on the lot.

The development calls for the removal

of 66 trees, which must be replaced with 96 trees and native ground cover.

SWHRL board member Nan Koerner filed the appeal on Nov. 14. The appeal contests the height of the tower, which Koerner said is higher than that allowed by code and is inconsistent with the neighborhood's character.

The SWHRL appeal also asserts the

President's Message:

SWHRL cooperates with its neighbors in meeting overlap challenge

We're making progress! One down, two more on the way...

It would be an understatement to say that the new SWHRL management is facing lots of challenges. But it is also increasingly true that your new neighborhood stewards are taking up the challenge and responsibility of serving the Southwest Hills across a full gamut of concerns, ranging from transportation, land-use planning, emergency planning, environmental preservation and more.

Consider our priorities:

1. Resolving the Overlaps
2. Land-use and zoning issues.
3. Transportation and parking issues.
4. Increasing membership and expanding board representation from all the local neighborhoods that comprise the Southwest Hills Residential League.
5. Developing a more effective relationship with peer organizations, municipal and county agencies, as well as regional, state and federal bodies to ensure that the quality of life in the Southwest Hills continues to improve in the context of a constantly growing city.

Top priority

Since August, the SWHRL board has been meeting intensively with Homestead, Bridlemile and Hillsdale neighborhoods to hammer out fair and transparent ways to resolve the three outstanding boundary overlap conflicts we inherited from the prior board.

It's amazing how much difference a year can make! About this time last year SWHRL met with the Hillsdale NA and a short while later both parties stormed out to issue angry press releases about each other.

Fast forward five months and the new SWHRL leadership and Bridlemile board have voted to accept the current "overlap" between the two neighborhoods! One over-

lap resolved; two more ready to go!

Now the SWHRL board is entering into the home stretch of one of the most ambitious survey projects undertaken by any group of Portland neighborhoods: a direct mail survey of almost 2500 households in the Homestead and Hillsdale "overlap" areas, plus an outreach to another 2500 households around the affected areas.

Literally scores of neighborhood meetings, reviews by survey experts, discussions with PSU demographics experts, with attorneys, with the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, and with the boards of all the three neighborhood associations have produced a unified survey for each affected community to consider.

Inclusive process

All along SWHRL board members tasked with negotiating the design and implementation of this very public process have opted to be more inclusive, provide more opportunity for notification and discussion, and ultimately to allow for a broader range of resolution options to surface for consideration.

Unlike a year ago, these survey processes are very different:

- They're real "joint" efforts involving SWHRL and Hillsdale, and SWHRL and Homestead and the language is neutral.
- The surveys will go to every household in the affected areas - not just neighborhood association members.
- The opportunity to participate in the questionnaire will be available to the entire SWHRL area - not just those in the "overlap".
- There will be two Open Houses (December 12 and 15) to discuss the Hillsdale and Homestead overlap resolutions, respectively.
- Information gathered in these surveys will be used to inform the two Joint Overlap Committees (composed of members of both affected NA's).
- Each of the two Joint Overlap

Committees will submit a single recommendation to the two neighborhood association boards affected by the specific overlap. If the two boards don't fully support the recommendation, one final joint board session will be attempted to resolve any final issues.

- The distribution and collection of the surveys and questionnaires will be handled by Portland's Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI), who will monitor and report the number of respondents.
- This process is designed to culminate in final ratification votes by the three neighborhood associations no later than the end of February. If necessary Joint board meetings are tentatively scheduled for mid-March to resolve any lingering issues. This will allow final resolution of both the remaining overlaps by the end of March, when the court-ordered requirement to resolve them expires.

Bigger picture

This process is the most inclusive, most clear and accurate way to gauge the communities' feelings. Furthermore we want your input and your advice. We hope that this undertaking will be well received, well attended and well accepted for the solutions it provides.

What you asked for

When some of us considered running for positions on the board last May, we knew this would be no picnic on Council Crest. But with the launching of this survey/open house process, I feel this new SWHRL team has indeed shown its mettle.

As Renee Mitchell put it in a recent editorial, "Sometimes you get what you asked for."

We did, and we hope that what we're giving you is what you want—the chance to be heard.

Jim Thayer, SWHRL president