



www.swhrl.org

Viewpoints

January 2007

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P.O. Box 1033 Portland, OR 97207

2006-2007 Board

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Quarterly Membership Meeting! January 31, 7-9 PM, Ainsworth School Come direct the future of your neighborhood

On September 26th, SWHRL held its first quarterly member meeting at which the board reports its progress on issues of importance to the community. At each one of these meetings it is the intent of the board to present to the neighbors some of the larger issues with which SWHRL has been grappling.

At the September meeting, we presented arguments both for and against joining the city's neighborhood coalition network. The city has encouraged individual neighborhoods associations like SWHRL to group together into larger geographic "coalitions". For us this means that we would likely join Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. (SWNI) a nonprofit coalition that provides support services to sixteen Southwest Portland neighborhood associations and three business associations.

At the September meeting we discussed at length the pros and cons of joining the coalition. Briefly, the arguments in favor of joining the coalition focused on gaining access to the monthly newsletter, improving our ability to work collaboratively with nearby neighborhoods that are facing similar issues, and access to amenities such as "event insurance" that facilitate neighborhood gatherings.

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The arguments against joining the coalition focused on the inertia that might result

from joining the larger coalition, SWHRL's historically "independent" status, and some lingering animosity towards the coalition left over from our bitter boundary battles. It was also suggested that unlike many other neighborhood associations which are smaller, SWHRL remains a larger and better funded organization that could conceivably be very effective on its own. In the end we put the issue to a vote of the attending members and the consensus was 10 - 3 in favor of joining the coalition.

As announced in our September issue of the Viewpoints, we deferred the final decision to the January members' meeting to allow all those with opinions on the subject to mull over the issue. Unless there is a groundswell of opposition to joining the coalition, the SWHRL board will vote on joining the Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. coalition at this forthcoming meeting.

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is governed by a board of directors with representation from each neighborhood association and local business association. Funding for SWNI derives mainly from an annual contract with the city, but also from independent

local fund- raising. These funds help pay for staff, an office and the publishing, printing and distribution of the Southwest Neighborhood News - a free monthly newspaper that chronicles the goings on in our Southwest area of the city.

--- Jim Thayer

President's Message

Investing in our neighborhood

Neighbors:

When I assumed the Presidency of SWHRL in May of 2004, SWHRL had just benefited from two major infusions of cash. The first was part of a legal settlement with the City, and the second was a private contribution by Bill Goode, the attorney who helped bring the suit. Bill was also the husband of SWHRL's President at that time, Pamella Settlegoode. In all, the proceeds that SWHRL received as a result of the legal action and Mr. Goode's contribution amounted to over \$20,000.

Much of the rancor aimed at the SWHRL leadership at that time arose from a conviction by many neighbors that suing the city for money was inappropriate, especially given the fact that the President's husband benefited directly from the lawsuit. I too, felt strongly that these were "ill-gotten funds" and in the days and months following this hotly contested election I made it clear that I wanted to either return these funds to the city or invest them alongside city monies to fund a project that would benefit our neighborhood. In this way we could invest these monies while assuring that the benefits accrued to our neighborhood. It is still my intent to do this.

At the January members meeting I would like to solicit ideas from our community about how you would like to see these funds applied. One approach under consideration is to define a project where a SWHRL "challenge grant" could be enough to assure a near-term investment that might not otherwise occur. In this approach we might apply our funds to a preliminary engineering study that would fund the initial phase of a specific project, IF the city would agree to complete the project in a timely manner after the completion of the initial phase. Such an approach could be applied to a number of projects, such as building pedestrian walkways or installing traffic calming measures on key arterials in the neighborhood. Other ideas might include investments in trails, bike lanes or improved bus service for the neighborhood. I believe it would be in the interests of the community to consider how we might put this money to good use for the community at large, and the January members' meeting seems like the ideal setting to discuss this question. Please join us on January 31st to consider how we might best invest \$20,000 in our community.

----Jim Thayer

Neighborhood Representatives Wanted!

If a development is proposed for your neighborhood - such as the 28 unit condo project on SW Broadway - would you hear about it in time? Would you know how to respond? Please help us help you and your neighbors by being a link between the City of Portland, our neighborhood association, and your immediate neighborhood.

If SWHRL receives notice from the city of a proposed development in your neighborhood, we will pass on the information to you. You in turn will provide feedback to SWHRL from your neighbors. If the consensus is that further action is warranted, we can help craft a response to the City to make sure your views are represented.

No particular expertise is required. No committee meetings to attend - though you are most welcome at any SWHRL Land Use committee meeting or SWHRL Board meeting. Just be willing to talk with your neighbors, and let us know what they think. Or let us

know if you see anything happening in your neighborhood that you think SWHRL should know about. Missing trees? Mysterious land surveys? Be our eyes, ears - and mouth.

Are more reps needed for your neighborhood? They probably are. Want to help? Give us your name, address and phone number.

Contact:
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Downspout Disconnect – You can do it!

The City of Portland is now accepting Clean River Rewards registrations.

Clean River Rewards is Portland's stormwater utility discount program. With Clean River Rewards, Portland ratepayers can save money and work for clean rivers and healthy watersheds at the same time.

If you manage stormwater on your property, you can receive up to a 35% discount on your stormwater management charges because your actions help protect rivers, streams and groundwater from the damaging effect of stormwater runoff.

Clean River Rewards was officially launched on October 31st, 2006. The City is now accepting Clean River Rewards registrations and will begin posting discounts to customer utility accounts.

Program Requirements

- You must register to receive a discount
- For residential properties, the discount is based on managing stormwater runoff from roof areas only. For commercial properties, the discount is based on managing stormwater runoff from both roof and paved areas.
- How you manage stormwater cannot threaten or damage property or the environment
- The maximum discount is 35% of the basic stormwater rate.
- The discount remains in effect through June 2017. To maintain the discount, the utility account must remain active, stormwater facilities must be properly maintained and operated, and the City must be granted access to the property for limited inspections of stormwater facilities
- The City will charge penalties and retract awarded discounts if a ratepayer files a fraudulent registration.

<http://www.portlandonline.com/bes/index.cfm?c=43444&>



Transportation Survey Results

Thanks to all those who completed the Transportation Survey included in the last issue of Viewpoints. Results show respondents desire improvements in public transport and safety for pedestrians and cyclists. Driving infrastructure was rated as being most important, but satisfaction with this mode of transportation was higher than the other modes.

Specifically, an additional bus route from Washington Square to Sylvan and the Zoo MAX station and more frequent and extensive service on the 51 were requested for public transport. Auto volumes and speeds were cited as problems. The lack of sidewalks and/or bike lanes particularly on Broadway, Patton, Dosch and Marquam Hill Road were mentioned as problems for pedestrians.

Response

Based on survey results, SWHRL's transportation committee will work on rectifying these situations. We will begin with the following projects:

Enforcing the speed limit on Patton, Humphrey, Broadway, and other dangerous areas; Eliminating all-day commuter parking on Fairmount; Changing the timing of the lights at 405-6th-Broadway interchange to allow Broadway Drive autos access; and Installing sidewalks or sidewalk alternatives on Broadway, Dosch, Marquam Hill Road, and Patton between Dosch and Scholls Ferry.

Volunteers Needed

If you are interested in helping with any of the above projects, we welcome your support and ideas. One project where we are in great need of volunteers is monitoring speeds using our speed gun. One volunteer would work the speed gun and another tally results. This will make drivers aware of their speeds and the data collected can be used in instituting change. It's a great way to help for a small commitment of time. If you have an area you would like to monitor, please contact us:

info@swhrl.org

Board Refers Bylaw Amendments to Membership Meeting

By Norman Turrill, Legal Committee Chair and First Vice President

Because of the massive changes in the SWHRL Bylaws passed by the Board last April, two minor details were overlooked. The first flaw was a reference in the original Bylaws to a "Executive Secretary" position. This must be changed to "Executive Assistant", which is the title used elsewhere in the Bylaws for our hired staff person.

We noticed the second problem when we tried to schedule our September Membership Meeting. The Bylaws currently specify the meetings must be on Wednesdays, but Ainsworth School was not available on the Wednesday that the Board wanted. In fact there are only two or three places within SWHRL boundaries where we can hold a membership meeting. So we had to violate the Bylaws and held the meeting on a Tuesday. (No one noticed!) The second amendment corrects this minor problem by replacing "Wednesday" with the word, "date" in two places.

The new April Bylaws also specify new procedures for amending the Bylaws. The Board can no longer amend the Bylaws. Any amendment must be passed by a majority of the members at any two consecutive Membership Meetings. So we will vote on the following amendments at both our January and March meetings

Article IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 15. Agenda: Any Resident may request the President or Executive Secretary Assistant to include a subject for consideration at any meeting of the Board of Directors. Such request shall be in writing and received by SWHRL at least three (3) days before the notice of the meeting is required by Section 9 of this Article.

Article VIII. MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Section 3. Date and Time of Membership Meetings:

a. Annual Membership Meetings: Annual Membership Meetings for the election of Directors, and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting, shall be held each year at 7:00 P.M. on a date during the month of May at a time and place designated by the Board of Directors. If the Annual Membership Meeting is not held in May, the President may call the Annual Membership Meeting within ninety (90) days after May by notice. If the Annual Membership Meeting is not held in May or during the ninety-day period thereafter, then any ten (10) Members may call the Annual Membership Meeting at any time.

b. Regular Membership Meetings: The Board of Directors shall set a time and place for Regular Membership Meetings on a date in at least the months of September, January and March.

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| | <p align="center">Join us! To make your neighborhood stronger and more representative!</p> | |
|  | |  |

If you've moved, please fill this out. If not, give it to your neighbor!

SWHRL Membership Application
Southwest Hills Residential League P.O. Box 1033 Portland, OR 97207
info@swhrl.org www.swhrl.org

SWHRL is organized as a charitable, nonprofit organization, and the League's purpose is to preserve and enhance the generally residential character and livability of the neighborhood.

Every resident or a person representing a business or property owner within the League's boundaries qualifies to be a Member of SWHRL. In addition, someone who resides within any previous SWHRL boundaries may become a Legacy Member, subject to Board approval, and accorded the same rights and privileges as Members. Interested persons not fitting either of the previous definitions may become Associate Members, but may not vote or be granted the same privileges as Members.

To apply for membership, you must complete this form and return it to SWHRL.

Name _____

Address _____ Zip+4 _____

Telephone _____ (home) _____ (work)

*Email _____ Fax _____

**SWHRL only uses your email and other information for League business, not for distributing to other organizations.*

Please check one of the following: I am applying for/renewing:

Member _____ Legacy Member _____ Associate Member _____

Contributions are voluntary. Generous voluntary contributions have enabled the League to remain an independent neighborhood association since 1969. Suggested Member Contributions:

_____ \$35.00 _____ \$50.00 _____ \$75.00 _____ \$100 _____ Other

Stamp

SWHRL
PO Box 1033
Portland, OR 97207-1033

Humphrey Blvd. Double Blind Causes Many Accidents

There have been so many accidents and near accidents on this stretch of Humphrey. The SWHRL Transportation committee has compiled a list, below, of the worst infractions.

We continue to pursue this issue with the city, to fulfill our mission of maintaining the residential and livable character of our neighborhood.

You can Help! Contact Julia Harris, Transportation Committee Chair, at 503-223-4368.

2005

4-12-05 – Car crashes into west landscape boulder, pushes into owner’s vehicle and damages, (hit and run property)

8-18-05 - This crash was very bad. An eastbound speeding car destroyed the guardrail. The power pole was sheared off. Power was out for several hours and Humphrey was closed. Telephone and cable was also out. Electrical conduits destroyed. Security camera knocked down, parabolic safety mirror on pole destroyed. The car went

over the cliff and was stopped by a tree trunk half way down the slope. Police, Power Company and others on scene. Even though police responded, the crash was hit and run, as no records were ever made available to recover damages.

9-04-05 – Car hits tree and property line wall after crossing centerline east bound.

Fall- 2005 - Rumble strips and pavement center line RPMs installed by City.

2006

1-04-06- Letter from SWHRL President to City requesting that the strip material be put back.

2-23-06 – An eastbound vehicle crossed the center line and hit the cedar tree adjacent to the residence driveway, knocking it over.

3-03-06- A vehicle slid onto the shoulder east bound and hit cedar tree. Broken glass and plastic left. Tree is scarred.

SHWRL

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