



www.swhrl.org

Viewpoints

May 2007

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2006-2007 Board

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Council Crest Radio Tower Update

A presentation was made at the March SWHRL Membership meeting by Mark Lampe, Director of Technical Services for the city of Portland, and Mark Gray, Director of Communications.

They said that the current tower needs to be replaced because it is structurally unsound. Over 90 government agencies use the radio system, and there are no commercial users. The current tower was built in 1954-55 as an AM radio tower. The city acquired ownership in the 1960s. It is one of 5 main towers in a system that includes 10 smaller fill-in towers.

Repair is not economically feasible. The current foundation is not capable of supporting the tower. It would require \$2 million to demolish the tower, construct a new one, and migrate functionality. The design and height for the proposed new tower are the same as the current one. Other sites were considered, but a different site would entail a substantial decrease in service, and this is the critical determinant for rebuilding on the current site. Multiple systems are predicated on the current location.

In the light of these realities, SWHRL is working to mitigate the adverse impacts of the construction of the new tower. The replacement project would last 58 weeks, and depends on the weather and availability of materials. The project will enter Land Use Review in about 3 weeks. During construction, loop traffic will be closed and to a lesser extent, pedestrian traffic. The area by the base would be closed for the entire time.

Please be assured that SWHRL is working to mitigate the construction impacts on automobile and pedestrian traffic, as well as addressing impacts on the hiking trails in the area.

SWHRL Contributions are now tax-deductible

As a result of SWHRL joining SWNI, your contributions to your neighborhood association can now be deducted from your taxes, as SWNI has 501(c)3 status.

Make your check out to SWNI (Southwest Neighborhoods Inc), and in the memo line to the left of the signature line, write "for SWHRL". All of your contribution will be credited directly to SWHRL and will only be used for charitable or educational purposes. Contributions directly to SWHRL, which are not tax deductible, can be used for other purposes.

Your generous contributions assist SWHRL in carrying out its mission of preserving and maintaining the residential character of our neighborhood.

Land Use Update

SWHRL continues to monitor the proposed 7-lot subdivision on SW Upper Drive. This week Portland's Bureau of Development Services apprised the developer, Accent Homes, that a review by the city's Urban Forester determined they are not satisfied that an adequate number of trees would be preserved under the developer's proposal.

However, the BDS Staff Report recommends conditional approval of the project, while denying certain requests for reducing setbacks and increasing paved vehicle area. The report sets forth detailed requirements for project approval, including strategies for tree preservation and replacement, storm water management, and Fire Department access.

A public hearing is scheduled for May 16. The City's final decision on the proposal is due by July 27, 2007. The neighborhood can appeal the City's decision.

SWHRL has also written a letter of opposition to the proposed development of 279 condo units on SW Sam Jackson Parkway. We join the Homestead Neighborhood Association in opposing this project, which would compromise access of emergency vehicles to OHSU hospitals, and add a projected 2200 automobile trips a day to a blind curve on an already congested arterial road. Increased congestion on Sam

Jackson Park would force OHSU commuters into our SWHRL neighborhood, onto Broadway Drive-Patton-Fairmount Blvd.-Markham Hill Road, or from Hwy 26 at Sylvan to Humphrey-Patton-Fairmount-Markham Hill. These are narrow, hilly neighborhood roads not designed as commuter arterials. A number of them, for example Humphrey, already have traffic safety issues that SWHRL has been addressing (See below.)

The height and design of the projects are also a concern. The high-density urban-style concrete and glass design of the proposed structures do not fit in with a nature park, or with the scenic Terwilliger Design District.

Contact your Land Use Committee with concerns or comments: Nancy Seton nancyseton@comcast.net

Further information about land use issues can be found on Portland's Bureau of Development Services (BDS) website: www.portlandonline.com/bds "Review land use notices," "Notices and Hearings" Notices are found under both Southwest Neighborhoods Inc (SWNI) and Southwest Hills Residential League in "Unincorporated and Unclaimed Area".

Transportation Update

Based on our Fall 2006 member survey, the Transportation committee continues to improve safety for all modes of transportation in our neighborhood.

- Raised Reflective Markers have been installed on a dangerous curve of Humphrey Boulevard.
- Speed Reader Boards have been posted on the Vista Bridge, upper Vista, Broadway Drive, and are scheduled for other SWHRL locations. Other speed awareness/enforcement measures are planned.
- Traffic light timing has been changed on 6th and the 405-exit ramp at Broadway Drive.

- Rerouting TriMet to provide circular bus service in opposite directions connecting three commercial areas and two high schools: Downtown/Lincoln HS-Council Crest-Dosch-Hillsdale/Wilson HS-Barbur-Downtown has been proposed to TriMet. In addition to route changes, service needs to be more frequent including weekends.
- Safety for pedestrians and cyclists through increased walkways and bike lanes continues to be a focus.
- Support for improvements to the Scholls Ferry-Patton intersection including a left turn signal and pedestrian/cyclist accommodations is being pursued through several avenues.

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

SWHRL Annual Meeting

**will be held on Wednesday, May 30, 7-9 PM
at Ainsworth School, 2545 SW Vista.**

**Elections will be held to elect Board members and officers.
All members are eligible to run for the Board and for office.**

**In addition, there will be a presentation by
Bruce Warner, Executive Director of the
Portland Development Commission**



The topic of Bruce's presentation will be how the Portland Development Commission works to make Portland a successful community and bring quality to our neighborhoods.



SHWRL

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Portland, OR 97207