

Homestead Neighborhood Association
General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

OHSU – CDRC 3200 SW Gaines, Portland, OR

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm by Rich Davidson.

Agenda, and Minutes,

The Agenda was approved with an amendment putting the presentation on the Veterans Hospital garage after the Backyard Habitat item.. After general introductions, the minutes were approved.

Backyard Habitat Program Gaylen Beatty introduced the Backyard Habitat Program which remains a part of the West Willamette Restoration Partnership even though the Three Rivers Land Conservancy, its original umbrella, folded into the Columbia Land Trust. The Program's goal is to engage private landowners in helping create wildlife habitat in their own backyards. There are 3 aspects: advice about removing invasive weeds, especially near parkland; advice on native plants and help in securing them at a discount; and advice on planting for stormwater management. They help with getting mulch, lending tools, and offer site visits to help with planning. The program wants to target Homestead in the fall to have neighborhood wide site visits on the same day. There are 3 levels of certification, so you don't have to get rid of every scrap of ivy, blackberry, and clematis you have to get certified.

Veterans Hospital Construction John Carrier and Brian Orłowski reported on the new VA garage, for which ground breaking is scheduled in April. It will hold 300 cars for staff parking to make room for more patient parking. It will have the same footprint as the existin glower lot and will come up to the level of Parking Lot 5. It will have decorative metal paneling with a powder coat matte finish in a greyish color. They expect the roof will be below 6th Avenue Drive. The VA plans to replace any trees removed during construction. The entrance and exit will be the same as for the existing lot. Anton Vetterlein expressed concerns about an increase in traffic. They said they already have a big increase in patients who drive around and around searching for parking. The new lot will free up spaces for them. Rich Davidson asked about whether the lighting will be screened from Terwilliger. Terry Egnor asked about the lighting on the roof. The lighting is to be screened and will be hooded on the roof. It could support two more stories.

The VA representatives also discussed a new 20,000 square foot emergency department to be attached to the hospital entrance area. It will enable direct entry to the hospital's second floor. They aren't sure whether they will get the budget for it approved but wanted to advise us. The exterior will have perforated metal screens which will not be shiny and will not be blue.

Standing Reports

*Treasury:*Ed Fischer reported that after writing reimbursement check for grant expenses, there is \$216 in the account..

Outreach: Susan Jaeger introduced Alicia Colson who has agreed to take over managing our website. Alicia said she is also interested in starting a community garden and asked anyone to share idea on a location. Nicole Copen at OHSU was suggested as a contact.

Transportation Anton Vetterlein reported on the new delayed timetable for construction of the sidewalks on SW 11th between Gibbs and Gaines. There was brief discussion of concerns that the city's road repair work will use up all the money and there will not be sufficient money for sidewalks. There was general agreement that if they cannot do the sidewalks we want, we do not want to use the money there. Susan Egnor suggested that if funds were insufficient because so much was going to repair the street, it would provide a reason to extend the Meter District. Anton Vetterlein reported that a majority of the Board had approved sending a letter in support of the City's application for a Transportation and Growth Management Program grant from the state as it will impact the SW Quadrant of the downtown plan and thus impact Homestead. He presented a copy of the letter to be included in the minutes. (Attached).

Land Use Anton Vetterlein reported that Friends of Terwilliger is planning its Centennial celebration for July 2012, with events to include closing Terwilliger for a parade and other items. OHSU's Chris Woo offered information on managing the impact of shutting down Terwilliger. As part of the Centennial, Friends of Terwilliger wants to get some of the historic views restored on Terwilliger. He explained that the Terwilliger views were deemed protected by the 1983 Terwilliger Parkway Corridor Plan (adopted by City Council) and thus were not included in a later urban views ordinance. The Parks Bureau is supporting FOT's effort. He explained that although there were many views along Terwilliger which have been obscured by tree growth, FOT is seeking to restore only 4. His motion to send a letter to appropriate parties to support FOT's view restoration request was approved. He said he would check with Rich Stein on who all the recipients should be. He noted the views were covered in the Olmstead plan for the Parkway. Anton Vetterlein also reported on new trails in Marquam Nature Park. The Parks Bureau has a grant for the trails but it's not enough for all the ones which had been identified. The Parks Bureau will present its plans at the May 5 meeting of the SWNI Parks Committee.

Schools Committee Rich Davidson announced there will be a forum on the bond levies at the Multnomah Arts Center on April 15 at 7 pm.

OHSU Our OHSU liaison announced that OHSU would continue to make available its share of the traffic calming money provided progress is made on a viable plan. Susan Egnor noted that we had not heard back from the city on its position.

Chad Sorber, of OHSU Grounds Department, presented a summary of OHSU's proposed Invasive Plants Management Plan. The plan covers 5 years and would focus first on clearing invasives that represent a threat to patient safety, such as ivy weighing down trees which hang over areas used by ambulances and the public. OHSU plans to use a combination of contract crews, landscape staff, and volunteers to improve its natural areas. OHSU is looking for input from potential partners.

Chris Woo, Project Coordinator with the Transportation and Parking Division at OHSU, spoke briefly about OHSU's game plan for improving some problems with Sam Jackson Park Road. There is a drainage problem because a creek there is reasserting itself. In addition, a section of the

roadway just below Shriners hospital looks like it is separating, apparently because the fill underneath is eroding away. OHSU will put both issues before the Portland Bureau of Transportation for its recommendations.

Sign Cap Design Update The group reviewed the changes to the sign cap design, made comments, and asked to have brighter and clearer examples.

Neighborhood Action Plan The draft Neighborhood Action Plan was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Susan Egnor



Cindy Lesmeister, TGM Grants & Contracts Program Manager

Transportation and Growth Management Program

555 13th St., NE, Suite 2

Salem, Oregon 97301

March 31, 2011

RE: City of Portland 2011 TGM grant application for Central City Southwest Quadrant Plan

Dear Ms. Lesmeister,

The Homestead Neighborhood Association supports the City of Portland's Transportation and Growth Management grant application for its planning work on the SW Quadrant of the Downtown Plan and I-405. Connections between I-405, I-5, state highways 26, 99, and 43, and local arterials and collector streets are a notorious mess. Many streets and arterials converge on the south end of downtown Portland in the narrow space between the Willamette River and the West Hills. Many of the connections between these routes are convoluted or utilize residential surface streets. The city's largest employer (Oregon Health and Science University), the state's largest university (Portland State University), and the city's newest high-density neighborhood (the South Waterfront District) are located close to this convergence. Access between neighborhoods and land uses in the Southwest neighborhoods bordering downtown Portland are difficult or dangerous because of the "spaghetti" of busy roads. Pedestrian and bicycle connections into Downtown Portland from the south are especially problematic. Further development for jobs, housing, and education in the SW Quadrant depend on improved connections for autos, mass-transit, and non-motorized transit. The livability of inner SW neighborhoods also depends on the same improvements. We support the Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability's efforts to plan for more livable and sustainable communities and to help with job creation and retention. We urge you to approve their grant application.

Sincerely,

Rich Davidson, acting President

Homestead Neighborhood Association
3434 SW 12th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97239