

East Portland Parks Coalition

East Portland Neighborhood Association
 Meeting Room
 1017 NE 117th Avenue
 Portland, OR 97229

MINUTES

Thursday,
 February 2, 2012

7:00 – 8:30 PM

MEETING CALLED BY	Alesia Reese	
TYPE OF MEETING	Regular Monthly	Note Taker: Alesia
ATTENDEES	Linda Robinson	Hazelwood Neighborhood Assn, FoGG, Parks Board East Portland Action Plan, Gateway and East Holiday Parks
	Arlene Kimura	Chair, Hazelwood Neighborhood Assn. East Portland Action Plan
	James Labb	Portland Audubon Society
	Bich Trinh	Portland Audubon Society, East Portland Liaison
	Mary Walker	Friends of Powell Butte, Powellhurst Gilbert Neighborhood Association
	Tom Lewis	Chair, Centennial Neighborhood, Friends of Parklane Park, ONI Budget Advisory Committee
	Joyce Ley	Wilkes Community Group, Friends of Wilkes Headwaters
	David Hampstead	Hazelwood Neighborhood Association, Portland in Motion East Portland Action Plan, East Portland Neighbors, Inc.
	Alesia Reese	Chair, Woodland Park Neighborhood Association
CITY STAFF	Abby McFarland	East Portland Community Center, Manager
	Lore Wintergreen	Director, East Portland Action Plan
	Eliza Lindsay	East Portland Neighborhood Office

PORTLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

JIM AND BICH

DISCUSSION	<p>It has been since June 2010 that the Portland Audubon Society has made its East Portland home at Leach Botanical Garden. This partnership has allowed for better access to East Portland residents with free events drawing more than 800 participants and over 300 volunteer hours. The activities include bird walks, bike rides, paddle trips and summer camp, just to name a few.</p> <p>Partnerships with school districts under the SUN (Schools Uniting Neighborhoods), the Park Bureau and neighborhood associations have provided opportunities for new activities. The Portland Audubon office works for regional equity access with experience in funding, including working with Trust for Public Lands, Verde, Human Solutions, East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, Powellhurst Gilbert Greening Committee and Portland State University, among others.</p> <p>Portland Audubon Society advocates for tree canopies, green ways and improved access for East Portland with other advocates, including East Portland In Motion.</p> <p>Portland Audubon Society supports the identification of vacant land inside the Urban Growth Boundary as a means to support land acquisition for parks and green spaces.</p> <p>Other activities include nature walks on Kelly Butte, Springwater Wetlands partnership with Bureau of Environmental Services and Parks along with a Re-Greening effort for East Portland.</p>
PROJECTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Internship Program is currently under development for implementation for 2013 which will provide High School and College youth experiences in conservation and natural history. Build constituency in East Portland and West Gresham to develop momentum in supporting a Parks District for East Multnomah cities (Fairview, Gresham, Troutdale and Wood Village).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer wetlands opportunities in East Portland and support land acquisition and public ownership of prime natural habitat.
CONCLUSION	Portland Audubon Society is proud to be a full partner in East Portland and supports the efforts of residents to engage in recreational, conservation and educational experiences.

PARKS BUREAU UPDATE

ABBY MCFARLAND

DISCUSSION	(Map) Raymond Park has been expanded with the acquisition of a house which will be evaluated. This access will provide a path into the park at SE 115 th Avenue.
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WILKES HEADWATERS AND WILKES PARK

JOYCE

DISCUSSION	<p>Wilkes Community Group has been awarded grants which support two Movies in the Park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 13th <i>Dolphin Tail</i> along with the Band: " Working Stiffs" • August 11th <i>UP</i> along with family activities and a barbecue. Music: "Working Stiffs"
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Whitaker Ponds provides an example of the bridge replacing the culvert with a railcar bridge in 2013.

(Please note Wilkes Community Group Parks Report-attached).

CONCLUSIONS	The enthusiasm within the Wilkes neighborhood is encouraging.
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EAST PORTLAND PARKS

LINDA

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Portland Parks website is complete with a request for content to be supplied by neighborhoods. <i>East Portland Parks Coalition members are VERY grateful to Linda for her hard work on this effort.</i> The site is links to other sites and can be linked to neighborhood home pages. Working with East Portland Office staff, Debby Smith has been crucial in finalizing the web page. • Leach Botanical Garden is looking to the Portland Development Commission for support in improving the entrance and path at the garden. The site is on a dangerous hill with NO shoulder. The path is not accessible for Americans with Disabilities and does not provide safe access for pedestrians and bicyclists. • Eat Holladay Park and Dog Park has received grant funding for the installation of playground equipment this summer. As park users become accustomed to safe interaction, park users will find the shared experiences enjoyable. • Gateway Park, newly established at NE 106th and Halsey Streets, will have a Movie in the Park on Friday, July 27th. This second year for summer park activities will include a Community Fair and many family activities. The movie is yet to be selected.
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CONCLUSIONS	East Portland Parks continue to provide free family fun opportunities to residents throughout the year.
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ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
East Portland Parks Coalition Letter of Support for Leach Botanical Entrance Improvements	Alesia	02-15-2012

MOBILE PLAYGROUND

ARLENE

DISCUSSION	<p>East Portland advocates are expanding their involvement in the Park Bureau process when it comes to the Mobile Playground Program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better outreach would increase engagement • Influence site selection and hiring locally so that staff reflects the community, especially communities of color.
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CONCLUSIONS	East Portland families, especially those of color, are uniformed of the Program that the program is free and many sites are in conjunction with providing lunch meals to youth.
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East Portland parks advocates want to participate in the process, realizing the current state of the Park Bureau budget is challenged. Adding new sites to program, hiring East Portland youth, including those of color and

expanding outreach to ensure participation is challenging. Abby explained the Park Bureau hiring process and the steps needed to address issues of program expansion and hiring. Abby described the background of the hiring process and the safety concerns for staff and participants.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
East Portland Parks Coalition supports funding by the East Portland Action Plan Grant process to expand the Mobile Playground Program to more sites.	Alesia	02-15-2012

GREENING OF POWELLHURST GILBERT

DOLORES

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Springwater Corridor work for volunteers will be held on February 18th at 128th and SE Harold Street. This site has seen volunteers removing invasive species, pull ivy and now is looking to restoring native species at the site. • East Portland Maintenance Supervisor (Larry) has suggested a light be installed at SE 115th Avenue at Raymond Park to reduce vandalism, increase public safety and security. • The new acquisition for Raymond Park is most welcomed by the Neighborhood. A kiosk proposal for Raymond Park will be presented to East Portland Action Plan representative for funding. • Bureau of Emergency Management in its manual lists Parks as a gathering site in an emergency. Office of Neighborhood Involvement is cited at the liaison in an emergency to provide information to residents. A kiosk at the Park, all parks, would allow for translation of emergency information and instructions to residents when other communication systems fail.
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CONCLUSIONS	As all parks are identified in the emergency management program, each neighborhood may want to explore their own emergency management protocols and refer to their parks as places to gather and communicate in an emergency.
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ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
East Portland Parks Coalition to provide of Letter of Support for the Kiosk Project at Raymond Park	Alesia	02-15-2012

EAST PORTLAND PARKS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Powell Butte parking lot is not open. The beginning of the cement pour is not known. • Discussion of Aspen Meadow at SE 136th and Holgate Street is becoming part of the Gilbert Wetlands (once a segment of Holgate Lake. • Centennial Neighborhood will be holding Movie in the Park along with family fun activities this summer. Movie will be <i>Cars 2</i>
NEXT MEETING	Thursday March 1, 2012 7:00 – 8:30 PM East Portland Neighborhood Meeting Room 1017 NE 117 th Avenue Portland, OR 97220

Respectfully submitted,
 Alesia J. Reese
 Chair
 East Portland Parks Coalition
alesiajmr@yahoo.com

**Wilkes Creek Headwaters Property
February 2012 Update**

Underway or completed steps:

Stabilization efforts continue onsite. Most blackberries along the creek have been removed and straw wattles are in place to retain soil in area of the former pond and along the creek. Cedars along property edges have been limbed up for security reasons, and monitoring will continue to deal with conditions that may be hazardous or unfriendly to neighbors. Spring boxes have been secured with locks. Pole post has been placed in Klickitat near entrance. Bureau of Environmental Services and Portland Parks & Recreation have keys as do police and fire.

Portions of the property that will become the developed park were seeded last fall and are now sprouting. This will be tall grass that will be mowed several times a year to limit fire hazards while also being low-maintenance.

Near future steps:



Bridge at Whitaker Ponds Nature Park near West Pond. (Photo: Courtesy Kim Breckel)

Plans include replacing the culvert with a railcar bridge in 2013. (See this type of bridge in Whitaker Ponds Nature Park.)

When this is done, the road above the bridge (south) may be removed. This would be purposely done to not establish access points to minimize the human footprint on the area.

Where dead trees do not create a hazard they will remain. PPR plans to leave dead tree material to decay as part of the natural cycle, creating habitat and releasing nutrients back to the soil.

Questions about developing a master plan were addressed in the January 12 meeting with PPR and CWSC representatives.

- Anticipated cost could be in the price range of \$100,000.
- WCG should consider talking to Commissioner Fish about expected/projected time line before moneys will be available.
- Developing a master plan (MP) in phases is not advised or recommended. However, once developed, the MP could be implemented in phases.
- At this time, there are no preconceived notions about what happens with the developed part of the park.

This meeting on January 12 also identified ideas for volunteer activities that have since developed into specific events. Those events are listed on the next page of this summary.

Scheduled Events:

Saturday, March 10, 10:30 AM – 12 PM Wilkes Creek Headwaters Tour

Join Wilkes Community Group, Portland Parks and Recreation, and Audubon Society of Portland to tour the site and learn about the effort to acquire and protect the property and future improvements (ecological and access related to the site).

Please park along NE 154th and NE Fremont as there is no public parking on the park site. We will meet and walk into the site at the northeast corner of the site, which is at the intersection of NE 154th and NE Fremont. RSVP to btrinh@audubonportland.org or leave message at 971.222.6139.

Saturday, March 10, 12:30 PM – 3:30 PM Wilkes Creek Natural Area

Join Wilkes Community Group and Columbia Slough Watershed Council to spruce up the existing Wilkes Creek Natural Area after touring the new Wilkes Creek Headwaters future park. Columbia Slough Watershed Council will be providing snacks and water for our busy volunteers. For more information, contact Sam Schongalla or Kim Breckel. Sam.Schongalla@columbiaslough.org or natur3girl@aol.com

**Wednesday, February 22, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM Wilkes Park Natural Area planting
(9:00 AM – 12 PM for volunteers who wish to be "mentors")**

Join Reynolds Middle School students to plant native trees and shrubs along the banks of Wilkes Creek? Work alongside the students, or come early to be trained to "mentor" the students as they plant. The native trees and shrubs will improve the water quality of Wilkes Creek by lessening erosion into the creek and creating additional shade to keep the water cool for the native fish. Meet at Wilkes Park, 3655 NE 154th Avenue, just south of Sandy Blvd.

Contact: Portland Parks & Recreation – City Nature East Stewardship Coordinator Susan Hawes, susan.hawes@portlandoregon.gov, 503.823.6131

Saturday, April 21, 2012, 9:00 AM – 12 PM Wilkes Creek Headwaters Natural Area (New Sight)

Wilkes Community Group, Solve, Portland Parks & Recreation, and Columbia Slough Watershed Council are partnering for a volunteer invasive species pull at the newly acquired Wilkes Creek Headwaters Natural Area. Come join us in a day of work, celebration, and community building. For details and registration go to the SOLVe website at www.solve.org and click on the SOLVE IT project list available after February 20, 2012.

FYI for this event: Please park along NE 154th and NE Fremont as there is no public parking on the park site. We will meet and walk into the site at the northeast corner of the site, which is at the intersection of NE 154th and NE Fremont.

Summary Update compiled by Joyce Ley, Secretary
Wilkes Community Group
February 2, 2012