

East Portland Parks Coalition

MINUTES

Thursday,
May 3, 2012

7:00 – 8:45 PM

East Portland Neighborhood Office
1017 NE 117th Avenue
Portland, OR 97220

MEETING CALLED BY	Alesia Reese	TYPE OF MEETING	Regular Monthly	NOTE TAKER	Alesia
ATTENDEES	Linda Robinson, Friends of Gateway Green Gateway Park, Parks Board		Joyce Ley, Wilkes Headwaters Wilkes Community Group		
	Dolores Wood, Raymond Park Greening of PowellHurst Gilbert		Arlene Kimura, Chair Hazelwood Neighborhood Assn		
	Frank Rinella, Glenfair Park		Brenda Sweeney, Chair Glenfair Neighborhood Association		
	Alesia Reese, Chair Woodland Park Neighborhood Association				
EPNO OFFICE	Lore Wintergreen, East Portland Action Plan		GUEST	Gay Greger Leach Botanical Garden	
PORTLAND PARKS	Jeff Milkes				

LEACH BOTANTICAL GARDEN

GAY

DISCUSSION	Gay provided information on the process of the Leach Botanical Garden's efforts with news that the Portland Development Commission will provide funding. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designs of the Garden and the options for improvements were discussed
CONCLUSIONS	Many thanks goes to City (and Park Bureau) Commissioner Nick Fish for his incredible support of Leach Botanical. Those citizens who testified and provided written support were also important to the effort to fund the improvements, especially to ensure safety for pedestrians and cyclists. Modifications to parking and the entrance will enhance safety for all who attend.

GREENING OF POWELLHURST GILBERT NEIGHBORHOOD

DOLORES

DISCUSSION	Dolores described the efforts happening in Powellhurst Gilbert: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raymond Park's Northeast corner of the property the house is to be demolished. Design modifications are proposed to allow for a loading zone for park visitors to stop and drop off picnic items. Request Closing Time Sign be enlarged. • Along with Audubon's Jim Labbe, 30 people participated in the Kelly Butte Hike. Interest in creating a Friends of Kelly Butte organization is being explored (Kelly Butte Buddies). Concerns about erosion on the slope and issues of accessibility are being explored. • Safety issues about the handing of BBQ briquettes in the parks were discussed. Jeff will look into the problem. Currently, open flames (BBQs) are prohibited in the Parks.
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GLENFAIR PARK

BRENDA/FRANK

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns expressed by the neighborhood regarding the addition of picnic tables to the Glenfair Park site were addressed by Parks (Doug Brenner), Crime Prevent Specialist Terri Poppino and East Precinct representative St. Gorgone. Frank agrees to support the installation of the picnic tables and Jeff (Parks) will monitor the situation. If they are problematic, they will be removed. • At a different neighborhood park a Dog Waste bag dispenser was initially installed poorly. It has not been corrected. Suggest that bag dispensers be installed N/S to avoid east winds. • Closing the Park at 10 PM has proven beneficial along with calling police when necessary. Expectation of more park visitors this summer may help keep illegal activity reduced. • Brenda expressed frustration with the lack of communication with Parks regarding Neighbor Night Out Planning and scheduling. Jeff made assurances scheduling issues would be resolved. • Request Parks examine its street addresses –Glenfair Park address is incorrect.
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CONCLUSIONS	Glenfair Neighborhood's willingness to accept picnic tables is welcomed. Careful monitoring by East Precinct, ONI's Crime Prevention specialists and the neighbors themselves will determine the success of the Park's improvements.
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HAZELWOOD PARKS AND GREEN SPACES

ARLENE/LINDA

DISCUSSION	Neighborhoods request Park Bureau invoices be provided to present to funding agencies, especially those neighborhoods with Small Neighborhood Grants. City of Portland's stringent invoicing requirements necessitate proving the invoice by mid-June (at the latest).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gateway's Movie in the Park (July 27th, <i>ET the Extraterrestrial</i>) will be accompanied by a Community Fair. • Gateway Fun-O-Rama Parade will be held May 19th on NE Halsey Street, starting around 11:00 AM. • Concerts in the Park (Ventura and Parklane) have received funding for all four concerts.
CONCLUSIONS	Summer activities are being schedule. Linda is doing a great job and performing a valuable service to all East Portland Neighborhoods with her attention to the east Portland Website.

PARK BUREAU UPDATE

COALITION

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile Playground Program has been expanded in East Portland with impacts to hiring youth within the communities. As more sites are open, food service and playground employment opportunities will continue. • Hunger Free Oregon Grant will be used at Harrison and Cully parks.
BUDGET	<p>There will be significant budget cuts to Parks maintenance and service, but not as drastic as first feared. Irrigation cuts will mean that lawns will go Brown in the summer and many flowers and shrubs will be lost.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buchman Pool will close along with the Fulton Community Center • Community Schools and the Teen Program were saved along with the Graffiti program.
CONCLUSIONS	Thanks and appreciation goes to the Park Bureau's front line employees who have seen service and program cuts for several years in a row. While Parks has been designated an essential infrastructure element, the proportion of budget reduces has been greater than other services. The Portland Park Bureau was named the best in the nation and receives an 85% approval rating.
As service, maintenance and programming reductions continue support for parks will wane. A proposed Parks Bond measure will have difficulty convincing voters as their engagement and participation in parks is challenged. Brown lawns, dead trees and flowers, accumulation of garbage and limited restroom access will reduce park participation and engagement.	

GRANT FUNDING	Coalition members discussed the various grant opportunities available, including East Multnomah Soil and Water District Grants Metro's Nature in the Neighborhood Grants East Portland Action Plan Small Neighborhood Grants
NEXT MEETING	Thursday, June 7, 2012 7:00 PM East Portland Neighborhood Office 1017 NE 117 th Avenue

Respectfully submitted,
Alesia J. Reese
East Portland Parks Coalition

Attachments

- Wilkes Park Activities
- Park Bureau Budget
- Responses from Mayoral Candidates regarding East Portland Parks

Wilkes Community Group 2012 Summer Events* Wilkes Park

NE 154th Avenue, South of Sandy Blvd. and North of Milton Street

Friday, July 13:

The fun begins at 6:00 pm in Wilkes Park.

Door prizes will be featured, especially for children.

Live music will be provided by **Working Stiffs**.

The movie feature is **A Dolphin's Tale** which will begin around dusk.

Saturday, August 11:

This afternoon and evening happening will be at Wilkes Park in conjunction with **National Neighborhood Night Out**.

At 3:00 pm we will be waiting for you to arrive. There will be activities for all ages. The latest and greatest bouncy house will be waiting for the eager to take on new challenges.

FREE food will be available!

Live music will be provided by **Working Stiffs**.

A very special feature this year will be a tethered hot air balloon to get you all excited about watching the movie feature, **UP**, scheduled to begin at dusk.

*These events are made possible by your neighborhood association, the Wilkes Community Group, through their partnership with Portland Parks and Recreation.

Please come and enjoy a summer night out with your neighbors and have a grand time. We look forward to meeting and talking with you about your neighborhood.

May 3, 2012

Today, Mayor Adams released his proposed budget. This is an exceptionally difficult year. Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) and other non-safety City General Fund bureaus were obligated to propose deep cuts to our operating budgets at the 4%, 6% and 8% levels. Cuts at these levels go to the core of Parks services.

Mayor Adams has undertaken difficult work and has proposed a 6% cut, or approximately \$2.7 million. We will now begin a careful review of the proposed budget with an eye to protect core services and explore alternatives. It is now Council's job to weigh in on the Mayor's recommended budget, and we will work collaboratively with our colleagues to protect core services.

The Mayor's proposed budget differs substantially from the recommended budget that Mike Abbaté and I submitted in January. The Mayor has chosen to reduce impacts to ongoing parks services such as restrooms and regular trash pick-up.

To balance his budget, the Mayor requested that we submit alternative cuts and revenue ideas. We have done so by providing a list of significant reductions in management and support staff, and providing alternative revenues. Working to reduce this budget is one of the toughest tasks we have had to undertake while overseeing PP&R. We can't say enough about our dedicated employees and partners, nor can we adequately express our disappointment at having to oversee these difficult reductions. During tough economic times, we recognize these cuts come at a real price to our Parks family. We know you love Portland Parks and Recreation, and your support helps us uphold the standards that make us a gold medal system.

For this you have our deepest thanks and appreciation. We will continue to communicate with you as this process unfolds.

Most Sincerely,

Nick Fish
Commissioner, Portland Parks and Recreation
Mike Abbaté
Director, Portland Parks & Recreation

Specifically, how will you resolve/tackle/address the disparate and inequitable access to developed parks in East Portland?

Great question, Alesia.

As you may know, when I was on the City Council I led the charge for the first Portland Parks Bond Measure in 50 years. With the funding from the measure I pushed to build the East Portland Community Center as well as three parks in East Portland. Since then, not nearly enough has been done. That's why I support Commissioner Fish's E205 Parks Initiative and will continue funding that effort when I'm the Mayor. We also need to look further at converting brown fields and bank-blighted property into usable park land.

Again, thanks for the question, and please let me know if there are other ones I can answer.

Best,
Charlie (Hales)

Alesia-

Thank you for your question. Eileen feels that there has been a marked deficiency of attention to East Portland. Eileen will bring more economic development to East Portland, and that includes a prioritization of road paving, ensuring that Trimet maintains and improves the regularity of bus service, and the development of sidewalks and bicycle paths. A core part of the improvement of East Portland is development of local employers. Eileen wants to develop new urban renewal districts to develop local neighborhoods, and end the 'food desert' of food outlets that presently exists in East Portland.

Eileen also favors community gardens, and is interested in using community gardens as a means to develop underdeveloped 'mole lots' parks in East Portland. Right now, the waiting list for a community garden plot is at 2000. Community gardens are an excellent way to teach our children about agriculture and nature, and can provide valuable food independence to our community.

The priority is upon economic development and providing core services- maintaining the quality of our schools, our roads, and an accountable police force. So we are very much for improving the accessibility infrastructure- sidewalks and bike paths. And we want to make sure that all the city's park land is being put to use, whether in a recreational sense or a gardening sense. And we believe that a focus on economic development of East Portland will result in a growing of the tax base that will support future improvements and development of park land in East Portland.

Devon Pack (Eileen Brady)
Team Brady
www.eileenformayor.com

Hi Alesia,

Thanks for writing in. Jefferson is an East Portlander, and so he understands the inequitable distribution of parks in our city. According to the Tribune and the city's budget maps, East Portland ranked last in parks spending in 2010-11, despite a large inventory of newly acquired sites awaiting development.

Jefferson is a supporter of Linda Robinson's work on the [Gateway Green](#) plan, and he believes that Nick Fish's [E205 Parks Initiative](#) is a good step. Now, his key priority will be to fight for funding for parks (and other infrastructure) in East Portland.

Let me know if you have other questions!

Lucy Palmersheim
Policy Director
Jefferson Smith for Mayor