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# The Southwest Portland Post

Southwest Portland's Independent Neighborhood Newspaper

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SW Hope: Feed the  
Hungry campaign  
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Portland, Oregon

Complimentary

March 2009

## Southwest residents voice their opinions at community budget forum

By Allison Rupp  
The Southwest Portland Post

In the third of three citywide community budget forums, nearly 100 residents of Multnomah County, mostly from Southwest Portland, gathered at the Multnomah Center on Tuesday night to discuss the programs they felt should or should not be trimmed from the 2009-2010 city budget.

"This is a very difficult budget for us," Mayor Sam Adams told the crowd. "We need to cut five percent from the budget for next year...But we take your input very, very seriously."

Organizers instructed those who attended the forum, which was open to the public, to choose one area of interest from the city's general purpose funds, such as Arts and Culture, Parks and Recreation, Housing, or Police.

Each area of interest offered its own table where guests could discuss and rank the programs offered by that service. A "table leader" representing that service facilitated the discussions and answered questions.

Some tables, like the Parks and Recreation or the Housing table, filled up

quickly. Others, like the Public Utilities or the Fire and Rescue table, attracted only one or two supporters.

At the Arts and Culture table, Jeff Hawthorne, the deputy director of Portland's Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC) explained that the City of Portland provides the vast majority of funds for the non-profit organization.

In three to five years, Hawthorne and Mayor Adams, who supports RACC, are actually hoping to increase funding from four million dollars to 20 million dollars.

"We need more city funding than what comes to us through the general purpose funds," Hawthorne said, which last year was 3.7 million dollars.

Meanwhile, at the Housing table, Housing Program Manager Stephen Fulton from the Bureau of Housing was explaining the City's ten-year plan to end homelessness, which began in 2005.

When a guest at the table asked how it was going, Fulton tilted his hand to indicate so-so.

"It doesn't really have the funding to get there," Fulton said.

The general fund money given by the city comes as both ongoing funds and one-time use funds, he explained. Much



Jeff Hawthorne (center with nametag), deputy director of Portland's Regional Arts & Culture Council, answers questions at the Arts and Culture table during the community budget forum, held Feb. 24 at the Multnomah Center. (Post photo by Allison Rupp)

of the homeless initiatives are funded by the one-time use funds, which he hopes to convert into ongoing funds.

At many of the tables conversations veered toward increasing funding for the programs discussed rather than cutting back. Many guests pointed to a handout outlining the current distribution of the budget and wondered why nearly 75 percent of general purpose dollars go to Fire and Police services.

Out of a representative \$1,000 shared among 13 services, fire services were shown to use \$277 and police services

\$459. During the budget adjusting exercise, many people deducted funds from these services first.

Organizers concluded the forum with an electronic vote that displayed results immediately on a screen. Out of 62 people who voted, a majority of 27 percent called housing their primary concern in their neighborhood, while a majority of 42 percent called economic development their primary concern for the city of Portland.

Laurel Butman, the principle management analyst for the Office of Management (Continued on Page 5)

## Southwest activists call for reforming legal protection for trees

By Lee Perlman  
The Southwest Portland Post

Planners and community activists, including several southwesters, are calling for reform of the city's laws on the planting, cutting and maintenance of trees. The Citywide Tree Project is trying to increase the city's total tree canopy, planner Roberta Jortner told the Portland Planning Commission last month.

Currently tree canopies cover 26 percent of the city's land area, which compared to other cities is "better than some, notably Seattle (18 percent), but not as good as others" such as Baltimore, which has 34 percent coverage, said Jortner.

More specifically, they have specific

targets such as public right of way, where the goal is to increase coverage from the current 17 percent to 35, and in industrial areas, going from seven percent to 15. To do this, the city needs to make its regulations "transparent, consistent, equitable and efficient," she said.

Currently, laws on this subject are divided among six city bureaus. Morgan Tracey, chair of a citizen stakeholders group that studied the issue, said that the "Multitude of laws make it difficult to see how they work together."

In fact, Tracey said, they are sometimes contradictory. They are also "inconsistently applied. One owner may be exempt from regulation while his next-door neighbor must undergo review to cut a single tree. The laws don't distinguish

between majestic and nuisance trees."

According to Tracey, when trees are cut for new development, "replacement requirements aren't clear." When laws are disobeyed or ignored enforcement is uncertain and inconsistent, in part because "inspectors are not trained arborists and may not recognize what is a big deal."

The project is proposing to "bring the codes and processes together to the extent possible," and to codify them into a single tree manual, Tracey said. There should be a "single point of entry" for anyone seeking information about the city's laws on trees, he said.

Owners should be encouraged to prune and thin trees rather than removing them. Since "It is hard if not impossible to preserve a damaged tree, the emphasis should be on preventing damage in the first place," Tracey said. During development review tree preservation planning should occur early in the process, "not what's left over after everything else is planned for."

Jortner suggested that community groups be encouraged to create neighborhood tree plans to "brand" their communities. She commented, "People care about trees as a living amenity, and

when they're gone they're gone, at least for awhile."

Among the other stakeholders who testified was Margot Barnett, who played a key role in the creation of Holly Farm Park. "I really enjoyed serving on the stakeholder working group," she said.

"We didn't always see eye to eye, but we saw how each other stood on this," Barnett continued. "Privately and publicly-owned trees are an important part of our green infrastructure, an important part of our livability. A single point of contact is important. Decisions should be made by people with knowledge of trees."

Regarding another recommendation – making design regulations and codes flexible enough to accommodate tree preservation – Barnett was more ambivalent, saying, "I don't want them so flexible that they hurt neighborhoods."

City Forester David McAlister was critical of the proposals. "Fix what's broken, not what's working," he told the Commission, and leave laws regarding trees in parks and parking strips alone.

"Emphasize education and incentives over regulation," McAlister said. "If we (Continued on Page 7)



Tree Canopy along 45th Avenue near Woods Park. (Post photo by Leslie Baird)

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**Will free-flowing Hoot Owl Corner be abandoned?**

Received the "Notice of Intent" for this project (Vermont Street /Capitol Highway connection) at the Multnomah Neighborhood Association meeting last night.

After reading the three page document, it is unclear to me if the free-flowing curved section (Hoot Owl Corner) of Capitol Highway will be abandoned and all traffic will be rerouted to the new improved square intersection or not.

I understand from conversations during the previous Capitol Highway projects that the south-to-east slip lane is problematic and ripe for elimination. And since I drive it almost everyday I agree.

But routing all northbound traffic down the hill to a dead stop right turn seems counter intuitive to encouraging the flow of traffic. Would not want to make that stop and turn during bad slippery weather, where as the curve is manageable.

I would like to suggest that the existing curve be made One-Way northbound, eliminating the slip lane, allowing the existing right-of-way to become bike and pedestrian lanes.

This would allow space on the north end of the curve right-of-way for merge, parking lot access, and make for an easier northbound passage for all. And I am sure that TriMet would be happier about the various bus schedules.

*Bryan H. Ackler  
Multnomah Village*



Photo courtesy Janet Cornforth

**Reader hopes to trace family that lived in Multnomah circa 1911**

I am writing to your newspaper to request your help. I am hoping that you may have a "letters page", or do features "where are they now?"

My name is Janet Cornforth & although I am English I now live in Spain, I have been tracing my family. I have found that my grandfather's brother Walter Barber (b.1880) emigrated from Sudbourne England, to the USA in 1909.

I have found that from the 1910-1930 census he lived in Multnomah Oregon, he was married to Elsie and had 2 daughters Freda (b.1910 in New Jersey) and Eva (b. 1911 in Oregon), and this is where I am stuck.

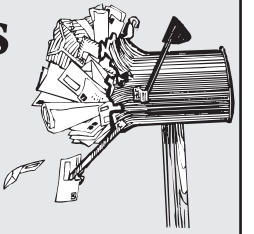
I would dearly love to find out if either

of these two ladies had any children and if so trace them. I do have a lot more details of the family, but do not want to bog you down with too much information, but I have for interest attached a photograph of the Barber children: Walter is on the left, and my grandfather on the right.

I would be grateful if you could appeal to your readers for any information that would help me trace my relatives, or if you think it worth doing a feature, Walter comes from quite an interesting family... his grandfather had an Inn in Suffolk in the mid 1800s and had five wives.

*Janet Cornforth  
Cuidad Quesada  
Rojales, Alicante  
Spain  
Tel 0034 966719887  
e-mail bjcornforth@yahoo.co.uk*

**Letters to the Editor**



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# Advisory group agrees with task force on Sellwood Bridge recommendations

By Lee Perlman  
The Southwest Portland Post

For once citizens and officials saw eye to eye, as the Sellwood Bridge Public Advisory Group voted in February to call for a new bridge pretty much in accord with the recommendations of the project's Citizen Task Force.

Despite the pleas of condominium owners who may be displaced by the project the PAG, made up of representatives of participating agencies and jurisdictions, voted unanimously Alternative D, a new bridge immediately to the south of the existing structure.

The advisory group also agreed to use a pedestrian-activated traffic signal rather than a conventional one on the east end, and a signal rather than an elaborate interchange on the west end, as the Task Force had recommended. The PAG called for most of the bridge to have just two traffic lanes rather than three, an issue the Task Force had split almost evenly on.

The issue will now be referred to the Milwaukie and Portland City Councils, the Clackamas and Multnomah County Commissions, the Metro Council and the TriMet Board, all of whom are expected to endorse the PAG recommendations.

The only significant questioning of the proposal came from Metro Councilor Robert Liberty. As he has in the past, he questioned how the \$300 million project will be funded. "I'm concerned we're making these decisions before funding is planned," he complained.

"The more expensive it is, the less likely it will be funded. We may be setting up false expectations." He said he wished that the Task Force had been consulted

about funding, and that staff had done "reality-based planning."

Portland Mayor Sam Adams responded, "We can't go for funding unless we have a project. I would prefer to move forward."

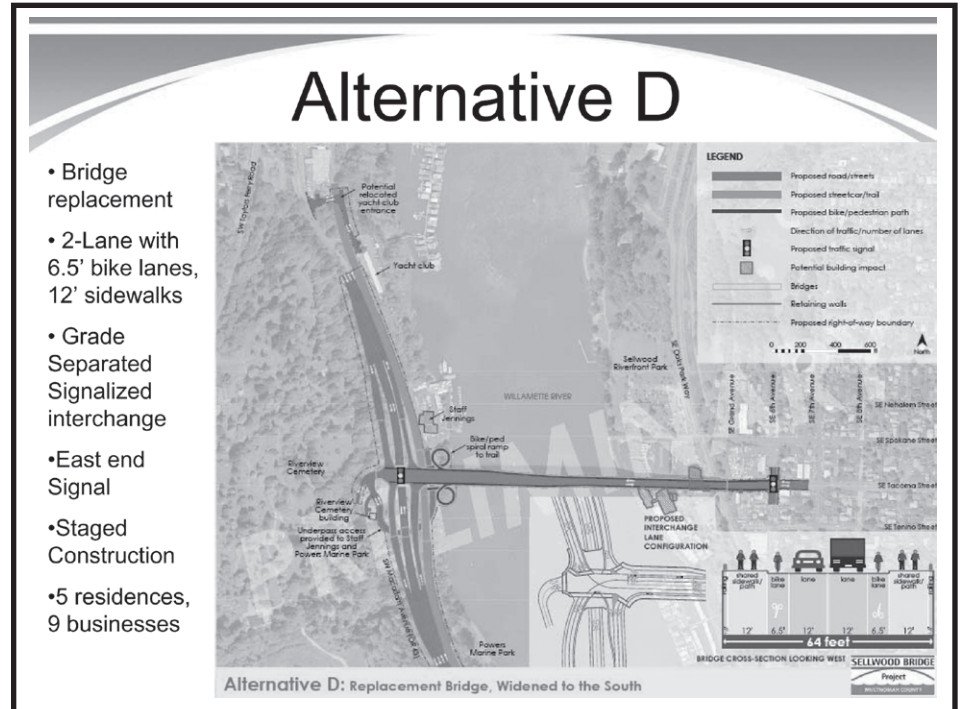
The Task Force examined several possible courses, including rehabilitation of the deteriorating 1926 bridge. The final choice was between Alternatives D and E. Alternative D would necessitate demolition of four units in the Sellwood Harbor, and one in the River Park, condominiums.

Alternative E, which would swing northward from the east side approach on Southeast Tacoma Street, would avoid these impacts but create others; it would come close enough to the Springwater Corridor, Sellwood Riverfront Park and Oaks Pioneer Church to negatively affect them. It would also be more costly, staff found.

Condominium owners disputed these findings before the PAG. John Holmes of Sellwood Harbor said Alternative D would take out not four units but 12, and reduce the value of 37 more. "I think 'E' is better, but either way it's dependent on financing," he said. "If the money isn't available, just do a rehab."

Another condo owner, Ed Murphy, said that proponents of Alternative D "used emotional appeals sometimes not based on facts." Alternative E was presented as being 75 feet wide, thus having the potential to funnel more traffic through Southeast Tacoma Street and someday force its expansion, he said.

If built narrowly, "E can be built faster and cheaper, it doesn't have a material effect on the park or the church, it doesn't take out any homes," Murphy said.



(graphic courtesy of Mike Pullen, Multnomah County)

However, most of those who testified felt that Alternative E would be a threat to the park, the church, the corridor and, especially, to Southeast Tacoma Street. Barbara Barber, a Sellwood resident, owner of Three Square Grill (in Hillsdale) and a member of the Task Force, said, "When I first moved in Tacoma was impenetrable; there was no New Seasons, no Safeway, and there were shootings at 2 a.m."

Since then, Barber said, it is moving toward becoming "a model for what the rest of Portland can be. It would be a

shame if the bridge were to take out the assets of our neighborhood." She cited the Sellwood-Moreland Improvement League (SMILE)'s march in favor of Alternative D.

Paul Notti of SMILE said that Alternative E would involve "the unknown, the unknowable and the unwise." Citing general public support he said, "Not just some people, but everyone I've talked to favors D." (This produced a chorus of "No!" from the condominium owners.)

(Continued on Page 5)

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## SW Hope: Feed the Hungry campaign attempts to raise 100,000 pounds of food

By Allison Rupp  
The Southwest Portland Post

Three years ago, Patty Campbell-Schmitt knew there were hungry people in Southwest Portland, and she sought to raise awareness of that fact through the SW Hope: Feed the Hungry campaign. Now more than ever, she says, "people know the need is great."

Which is why Campbell-Schmitt, co-pastor at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in the Hillsdale neighborhood, has high hopes for the third annual campaign, kick-started last Sunday and running until April 5.

SW Hope partners faith communities like St. Andrew's with the Southwest Portland charity Neighborhood House to try to raise 100,000 pounds of food or its cash equivalent (one dollar purchases five pounds of food from the Oregon Food Bank).

Neighborhood House then distributes the donations in the form of emergency food boxes to those in need in the local community. The number of boxes requested has increased dramatically in the past year, says Rick Nitti, executive director of Neighborhood House.

In the past few months, they have been serving 420 households (or around 1,300 individuals) per month, up from about 260 in 2007. On the other hand, the weight of food that one dollar could buy at the Oregon Food Bank has decreased by half, down from ten pounds in 2007, when food prices were much lower.

Campbell-Schmitt believes the need can only be met through a coalition of community organizations working together to

achieve the goal—from religious groups to restaurants, scout troops to athletic teams. In its first year, SW Hope attracted 14 religious communities to take on the brunt of the fundraising; this year 26 groups are involved.

"All of the churches have been affected by the recession in some way," she says, "but all of them returned to the campaign with so much enthusiasm—and even more have come on board."

In addition, over 50 other local organizations are participating this year, including a number of restaurants that have agreed to donate a portion of their proceeds on certain Dine Out and Donate days.

"We want each organization to figure out what's doable for them and contribute in that way," Nitti says.

David Barber, the owner of Three Square Grill in Hillsdale, participates each year as a way of celebrating the restaurant's yearly anniversary. On March 24, from 5:00pm-9:00pm, he'll be donating ten percent of the restaurant's earnings to SW Hope.

Other restaurants will be hosting special fundraising dinners, like Fat City Café's spaghetti dinner on April 3, in which all of the proceeds will go to the campaign. A complete list of local eateries participating in Dine Out and Donate can be found at [www.swhope.org](http://www.swhope.org).

While the SW Hope campaign raises critical amounts of food for the community, it also raises awareness that hunger is a problem in Southwest Portland, an area often assumed to be one of the more affluent regions in the city. According to Nitti, over 80 percent of the households served by Neighborhood House are in



Rick Nitti, executive director of Neighborhood House, at the Neighborhood House food bank in Multnomah Village. (Post photo by Allison Rupp)

Southwest Portland.

Many of the groups involved will be sending teams of canvassers door to door to spread the word and ask for nonperishable items like canned food between February 15 and March 15.

Individuals are encouraged to bring food to convenient drop boxes located throughout Southwest Portland in places like the Multnomah Center, Food Front

grocery store, and Baker & Spice bakery.

Though Nitti, Campbell-Schmitt, and other organizers say that meeting their numerical goal would be wonderful, they believe the campaign will at least get people involved in an important issue that affects their local community. "This is about fighting hunger right here right now," Nitti says.



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## Sellwood Bridge

(Continued from Page 3)

The PAG reached agreement on D very quickly, and almost as quickly on other elements of the project. A pedestrian signal on the east end, they felt, would provide adequate access for bikes and pedestrians, while a conventional signal could result in traffic backups during rush hour and tempt motorists to cut through neighborhood streets.

Regarding the west end Don Hanson,

chair of the Portland Planning Commission, who reviewed the project a week later, said, "Traffic circles look good, but they take up a lot of space. Here reducing the impact is the way to go."

Even with a signal, transportation planner Mauricio LeClerc told the Commission that designing the west approach to the bridge will involve "a huge number of issues."

LeClerc later told *The Post* that this would include providing access to roads from the north and south and a future streetcar, providing for access to private properties that include the Staff-Jennings and Macadam Bay moorages and Riverview Cemetery's funeral home, and avoiding adverse impacts to the riverbank and Powers Memorial Marine Park. In addition, the land has a history of geologic issues and slides.

In the past, Task Force members had accused the PAG of ignoring their recommendations. This time PAG members cited the Task Force's work in explaining

their own votes.

Multnomah County Commission Chair Ted Wheeler said, "I was swayed by the task force. They weren't unanimous but there was a strong consensus, and they gave sensible reasons. There's a significant impact either way, and people will be displaced, but D is more likely to get funded. No one wants phasing, but it's still an option with D."

Mayor Adams agreed, although he added, "We need to be responsive to those most affected."

Lynn Peterson of Clackamas County said, "Not having seen a finer citizen group, I will support all their intentions."

State Rep. Deborah Kafoury agreed, although she said she shared Councilor Liberty's concerns about costs. A priority, she said, should be to help those displaced, "and as quickly as possible." Even Councilor Liberty, while saying that he "would have preferred a different menu," supported Alternative D.

## Budget Forum

(Continued from Page 1)

ment and Finance put the budget forums together. Butman said she was pleased with the discussions she saw this year and with the electronic voting, which was introduced for the first time.

Butman will be compiling the data and comments collected during the three forums to present to Mayor Adams before the City Council budget meetings starting March 9. The information will also be available online at [www.portlandonline.com/communitybudget](http://www.portlandonline.com/communitybudget).

Anyone who couldn't attend a forum but still wants to make their voice heard is encouraged to submit an online testimony on the website.

The City Council remains hopeful that this system will allow community members to take an active role in forming the budget. "After all," Mayor Adams said, "we get delegations from all over the world to see how we do things in Portland."

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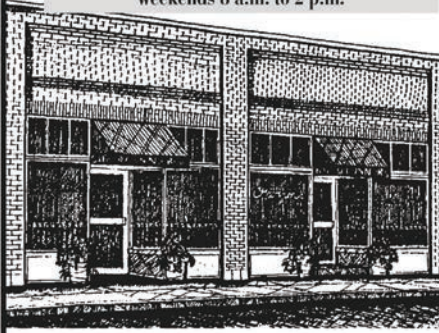
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## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Lee Perlman  
The Southwest Portland Post

### Pedestrian bridge nears design completion, construction

Jodi Yates of the Portland Bureau of Transportation told *The Post* that design for the proposed Gibbs Street Pedestrian Bridge linking the Corbett and South Waterfront areas is "60 percent complete."

The bridge, which will parallel the route of the Oregon Health and Sciences University aerial tram, will be at or near ground level at its west end near Southwest Kelley Avenue. However, it will be 60 feet above Southwest Moody Avenue on its west end.

This is necessary to keep the grade of the bridge at no more than 3.5 percent and make it "ADA compliant," Yates said. There will be stairways from the ground to the bridge, but most people will probably use two elevators, "the largest available, capable of accommodating a bicycle

with a trailer," Yates said.

People have expressed concern about crimes occurring in the elevators, but Yates said that they will have clear glass to allow people to see inside easily, "We tried to take away hidden corners," and that tram operators should be able to observe and report any problems below them.

The overall cost is about \$11 million, of which about \$7.1 million is for the actual construction. "We're on target to begin construction by the summer," Yates said.

### Neighbors seek memorial soccer field

Parents and neighbors of Ainsworth School are trying to convert a black-topped part of the property into a soccer field, in honor of the late Julia Reiman. The 10-year-old Ainsworth student was killed last year when a private plane crashed into a beach house in Gearhart where she was vacationing. According to Marlis Mock of the Portland School District, the Ainsworth School PTA is seeking contributions for the project.

### New Fulton Pump Station means improvements to Willamette Park

The Portland Water Bureau needs to replace the existing 1912 Fulton pump station on Southwest Nevada Street between Macadam and Virginia avenues. Thanks to some neighborly advice, not only will a new sewerage facility be built more cheaply, but there will be Willamette Park improvements as well.

The bureau considered three options: demolishing and rebuilding the station at its current location, subjecting neighbors to two years of construction disruption; acquiring and demolishing three nearby houses to create a new site, a process that would involve involuntary land condemnation since the prospective owners don't want to sell; or relocate to Willamette Park.

In discussions with the South Portland Neighborhood Association, the bureau found that the third option was by far the most popular – with a twist.

The Water Bureau originally thought that the best park location for the new station would be at the south end of the

park, as far as possible from its main activities.

South Portland Neighborhood Association chair Ken Love, who lives in the old Miles Place colony south of the park, thought a better site would be on the north side, next to an existing, and somewhat dilapidated, restroom.

The bureau has tentatively agreed to this, and has agreed to incorporate new public restroom facilities into the structure. Not only this, but the park location relieves the Water Bureau of the need for construction-related street closures and other expenses that operating in the neighborhood would have necessitated, saving them about \$500,000.

They have agreed to donate this amount to the Park Bureau.

Commissioner Nick Fish, who oversees the Park Bureau, cited this in a recent meeting as the sort of innovative partnership the bureau needs to pursue. He quoted Commissioner Randy Leonard, who oversees the Water Bureau, as being willing to "make a substantial investment in the park."

(Continued on Page 7)

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**NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS**

*(Continued from Page 6)*

I told him, 'Well, now that you mention it, the soccer fields could use some work.' It's a beautiful park, but the fields are in terrible condition." According to Fish, poor drainage has caused a corner of one field to sink so far that players standing there can't be seen from the rest of the field. "We need to work across jurisdictions to get the job done," Fish said.

**Citizen planners want to start planning**

A number of the 50 people who attended a briefing on a new Central City Plan effort had this message for city planners – make us part of the process and do it now!

The Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability is updating the Central City Plan as part of the Portland Plan process. The Central City includes the North Macadam area and other close-in neighborhoods on both sides of the Willamette

River as well as the downtown. The area is designated for intense development subject to design review. Current plans call for modest expansion of the area's boundaries in several areas, such as an extension from downtown into Goose Hollow.

When planners said they intended to report back in a few months on their progress, several people called for more citizen involvement sooner in the process. Dean Gisvold of Irvington said, "I came to learn more about your citizen involvement. I still don't understand it, and to the extent that I do it's inadequate. It's not a partnership, it's staff leading citizens."

Together with several others, Gisvold called for formation of a working group from among those present, and permission to start working.

"Is this supposed to be a citizen-originated plan?" South Portland's Bill Danneman asked. "Where do citizens play into this? We don't want a repeat of the Southwest Community Plan process." That process went years beyond its original timeline, largely because of failure to get early agreement on goals.

Planner Steve Iwata responded, "You're getting our early thinking now. We were debating when to hold this meeting."

Some disagreement between the volunteers emerged during the meeting. South Portland activist and former Metro Councilor Jim Gardner noted that the bureau was making projections based on the Metro 2040 Plan and a more aggressive development approach.

"What about a projection for a policy with less growth than Metro calls for?"

"Why would we do that?" Patricia Gardner (no relation) of the Pearl District asked.

"Because the densest Central City is not necessarily the most livable," Jim Gardner replied.

Disputing this, Patricia Gardner declared, "We have a responsibility to allow people to live here so that they don't have to live in Beaverton." Duane Hunting of Hillsdale suggested, "Gear downtown to people, not cars. People will find a way to get there."

**Tree canopy**

*(Continued from Page 1)*

over-regulate, people will ignore the laws. But where there are regulations, they need to be enforced and the penalties (for violations) increased."

McAlister's suggestions were not well received by the Commission. "Why should we have separate regulations for public and private trees?" commission member Howard Shapiro asked. "You say it's working, but in some ways it's not. I would like a good reason to have two sets of regulations."

Greg Schifsky of Bridlemile also served on the Stakeholders Working Group, but did not testify. He later told *The Post* that he was impressed with the process so far. "It's an incredibly complex issue," he said.

Schifsky was one of a group of southwest activists that for years have tried to deal with the issue of "disappearing trees." "It's important that people are starting to pay attention to this issue," he said. "It's happening all over the city, but our efforts made it easier to get the process started."

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# Whimsical woodcarving class inspires students at Multnomah senior center

By Polina Olsen  
The Southwest Portland Post

Leroy Nollette carves three-dimensional doodles. "I call them drudles; they're a conversation piece" he said as he selected the perfect tool from his set. And, conversation moved along non-stop at the Neighborhood House Senior Center's woodcarving class along with choice projects tailored for each student's taste.

Today, some students munched sandwiches as they talked and worked. Others opted for the Senior Center lunch. Instructor Cris McBride walked around the room chatting with everyone.

"I started relief carving in 1988," she said. "I had tendinitis in my arms so I figured I'd strengthen them myself by carving. Once you're a woodcarver, you carve everything, even avocado pits. It's a good thing I have a gas fireplace - I don't burn anything."

McBride teaches four times each week including a class at Portland Community College. She spends weekends at shows and seminars. "Most of my classes are two to three hours," she said. "Lots of students come to socialize. I have one student who comes to class every week. He doesn't need any help but it's the only time he finds to carve."

McBride specializes in small, whimsical figurines that often inspire her students. She brought boxes of them to class today. One caught Santa Claus headfirst down a chimney with his feet sticking out. Animals, whistles and carved gnomes dominated. "I sell the blanks and patterns," McBride said. "I don't sell the carvings - my family would kill me."

A young man who joins the class walked over with his latest gnome. "Do

you want to dry brush now?" McBride asked. "You paint against the grain." Brandon Thomas started carving at Portland Community College and wanted to make furniture until he met McBride at an Expo Center show. Today, he's finishing "Buford" whom he described as "a guy covered in hair."

Ann Safley, who drives over from Clackamas, worked diligently on a small turtle. She had trouble rounding the back and asked for instruction in-between cuts. "Chris is a master teacher," she said. "If you've never carved before you'll learn basic cuts and how to handle tools, and you'll go home with a finished product."

"I did a turtle rescue camp in Mexico," she continued, explaining her ongoing interest. "In six days, we released 7990 hatchlings. We take them out on the beach at sunset." Safley, who retired about two years ago, chatted about kayaking during the trip. "We were in Crocodile water," she said. "I was disappointed I didn't see any."

With each student working on individual projects, the time hummed by. Ann Paes, hoping to attract bees to her apple trees, copied a bee goddess from the British Museum's collection. Her friend, Dorine Olsson, makes Santas for her grandchildren and wooden whistles that she donates to a senior center sale in Salem.

Jeanne Hebblethwaite, a former oncology nurse, carves young relatives into reliefs. "I carved my great-nephew playing basketball," she said. "My great niece likes turtles so I made a turtle for her, and a dancer."

Meanwhile, LeRoy Nollette fine-tuned his drudle. "I also make snowmen," he said. And, he takes a class with his grand-



Instructor Cris McBride (left, checked shirt) chats with Ann Safley over some favorite figurines. (Post photo by Polina Olsen)



LeRoy Nollette finishes up a doodle as Ann Hebblethwaite (rear) carves a nephews image into wood. (Post photo by Polina Olsen)

son at Gaston High school. "I was invited to participate. I'm learning more than all the kids put together. You learn something new every week."

## About Neighborhood House Senior Center

Designed for people 55 and up, the Neighborhood House Senior Center offers programs ranging from senior law and meditation to computers, qigong and bingo. Last year their many outings included the Nutcracker ballet and a visit to Moonstruck Chocolates. Membership costs \$20 per year per individual or \$30 per couple, with extra charges for some activities.

For more information call 503-244-5204,

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