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Hillsdale Farmers' Market kicks off 17th season, Molloy returns as manager



# The Southwest Portland Post

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**April 2018** 

# City bureaus deal with four watersheds along with 30 percent design concerns

#### **CAPITOL HIGHWAY PROJECT**

By Erik Vidstrand The Southwest Portland Post

The Southwest Capitol Highway Project continues to move forward reported Chris Lyons, chair of the Multnomah subcommittee.

Lyons provided an update at the March meeting of the Multnomah Neighborhood Association. Last fall, the bureaus of Transportation and Environmental Services provided residents with its 30 percent design.

"The city said this is one of the hardest projects they have ever done," Lyons said. "There are four watersheds and [numerous] topography issues to contend with."

Lyons explained that the west side of Capitol Highway would have an all-purpose path, which wasn't the neighbors' favorite choice.

"The city didn't have the money to separate out the bike lanes and sidewalks," Lyons said.

The city spent several months responding to the committee's concerns of the first design. Parking, swales, and keeping bike lanes as straight as possible were some of the main issues Lyons presented.

"We wanted to clarify that the only maintenance the residents will have," Lyons said, "will be maintaining the sidewalks in front of their

"They would also preserve as many trees as possible and pay special attention to intersections like Dolph, reduce the use of retaining walls, and add crosswalks as needed."

The committee has also recommended the city reduce the speed limit along Capitol Highway to 25



BES staff visited Southwest Capitol Highway neighbors near Basin 3. Front row: Marianne Fitzgerald, Nayda Boone, Nancy Miller, Michele Ruby, K Christensen, and Bev Shields. Back row: Al Iverson, Angie Clark, Jason Clark, Michael Jordan, and Becky Tilson (Photo courtesy of Murphy Terrell)

miles per hour. The current limit is 35 mph.

Lyons shared some of the highlights from the city's letter.

"We appreciate your insights and your commitment to this joint Transportation and Environmental Ser-(Continued on Page 3)

# Controversy over Spring Garden Park remodel includes landscaping, parking



Spring Garden Park is currently under construction but should be opening in late May or early June. (Photo courtesy of Portland Parks and Recreation)

By Jack Rubinger The Southwest Portland Post

Joel Schaper lives across the street from Spring Garden Park, a 4.65 acre site in southwest Portland, acquired in 1999, in an area that has been park deficient for some time.

Schaper said he has lived happily in the Multnomah neighborhood for several years, and was originally happy about plans to develop the park, but now he's not so happy.

His beloved lush, green park is getting a messy makeover consisting of bark dust and hard surface areas. Schaper believes these changes are forcing folks off 50 years of established walking paths.

"Since the landscape didn't change too much it seems like the paths that were naturally used should have just been paved. The wet area from the stream/spring in the back of Spring Garden Street has still caused a very wet area at the bottom of the park," said neighbor Ken Boltz.

"We warned the parks people about this area and it seems like the warnings were not listened to since the area is not draining properly, "Boltz said.

"Since. Since the project is almost finished, this will probably be a problem spot for years."

Park bureau officials are defending their process and their communications to the community, saying that there have been numerous community and open house meetings related to the reconstruction of the park.

"The community was very clear about the desire to develop a natural space that came from the master plan process while at the same time providing ADA access through the site, soft surface trails, creating a contemplative garden space as well as a hybrid nature playground," said Jennifer Yocum, community relations manager for the park bureau.

"More specifically, the majority of the park is planted with meadow and wildflowers directly in line with what we heard from the community members," she said.

Boltz and other neighbors are displeased that the park bureau is allowing cars to park on the north side of the street in smaller than normal parking spaces.

Neighbors complain this change will force cars to park in a traffic lane and make it unsafe for pedestrians, bicyclists, and cars. Schaper said he is upset because these changes were made without any neighborhood input.

"The planners and the people at the top have been subpar and have outright endangered people with their poor plan design. In fact when people voiced concern about the intent most neighbors believed parking wouldn't be allowed," said Schaper.

But according to Yocum, "Given the existing condition of both Spring Garden Street and Dolph Court (both narrow and absent of sidewalks), it's not surprising that traffic and congestion was an ongoing topic during our 12-month public involvement process."

Other neighbors are perfectly fine with developments at the park in-

(Continued on Page 2)

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The Southwest Portland Post 4207 SE Woodstock Blvd #509 Portland, OR 97206

# How will congestion pricing on Interstate 5 affect traffic on Barbur Boulevard and our neighborhood streets?

#### **OPEN FORUM**

By Don Baack

Will a Barbur Boulevard light rail alignment clog our Southwest arterials with traffic diverted from Interstate 5?

I asked Metro's Southwest Corridor team these questions recently. The answer I received was very unsettling.

In effect, Metro says that the Draft **Environmental Impact Statement** rules spelled out by the Feds do not require them to study what is likely the largest strategic change to our use of the freeway system since it was built in the 1960s.

Metro says they do not plan to study the impact on vehicle traffic of congestion pricing before they decide which route to locate the light rail line, along Barbur Boulevard or closer to Interstate 5. This is a bad decision!

Even the most uninformed person in the Portland region will say that if it costs more to drive on Interstate 5 during peak periods, many people will choose to use alternative routes.

The alternative routes are Barbur Boulevard and many of our local arterials and guided by GPS, even local streets.

In recent years, the state of Washington put a toll on one of the bridges



across Lake Washington. The daily average traffic dropped from 103,000 cars per day to 68,000 cars per day, a 34 percent decrease.

Now imagine Barbur Boulevard with 34 percent of the daily traffic of Interstate 5 added to the volume it already carries.

The 2014 average number of vehicles counted by the Oregon Department of Transportation at Iowa Street (the new bridge site) was 142,000 per

Thirty-four percent is 48,280 vehicles diverted onto Barbur Boulevard and our local streets.

Now add in the additional congestion of having light rail down the middle of Barbur Boulevard from Terwilliger Boulevard to the West Portland Crossroads (Capitol Highway, south).

Metro is not studying or even estimating any change in the travel time of their trains under these drastic traffic increase conditions.

Their one track answer is that, given the trains will be on dedicated track, there will not be any changes in travel time if the Barbur alignment is chosen!

Everything I read suggests that Metro is pushing to put the light rail alignment on Barbur Boulevard rather than a route near Interstate 5.

Doing so will constrain the ability of the Oregon Department of Transportation to make changes to Barbur Boulevard to accommodate the increased traffic we all know will happen when congestion pricing is implemented.

If Barbur Boulevard is not able to

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handle the additional traffic, guess where the spillover will happen? The traffic will crowd onto our two-lane arterials like Capitol Highway, Taylors Ferry Road, and even our local streets.

If Metro chooses the Barbur Boulevard alignment without studying the diversion impact of traffic, and then comes to the citizens of the region for a huge bond measure to fund the project, the fact that they did not even do an analysis of the impact of congestion pricing on Barbur Boulevard and other Southwest traffic will be a major issue.

The Feds may not require the analysis, but voters will want to see a thorough unbiased analysis of the impact of the diverted traffic on the street and on light rail operations before we invest in a project that will be around for 100-plus years.

Alternatively, Metro can choose the Interstate 5 route and dramatically reduce the risk of voters rejecting the bond measure.

Don Baack is a Hillsdale neighborhood activist, SW Trails board member, and longtime advocate for active transportation.

The Post welcomes reader response. Please email guest columns (500 words) or letters (300 words) to editor@multnomahpost.com. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for brevity, clarity, punctuation, and libel concerns.

### **Spring Garden Park**

(Continued from Page 1)

cluding increases in accessibility, the lower meadow, added improvements to frontage parking on Dolph Court and a variety of contemplative areas.

"I was pleased to see that the on-site staff worked with many neighbors as concerns came up," said Sara Childers, who lives near the park. "We're very excited about the developments and the addition of hybrid nature play elements."

Park construction is on-going. Although there is still considerable work ahead, Yocum said the park bureau is on track for a grand opening event scheduled for June 16.

The park bureau has a goal of opening the park to the public even earlier than that June date but exact timing is to be determined, due to weather and landscape establishment.





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#### **CAPITOL HIGHWAY PROJECT**

(Continued from Page 1)

vices project," project manager Steve Szigethy wrote. "Our team continues to work through design and related tasks, including stormwater modeling to determine the best way to move forward with the project."

The 60 percent design, expected this summer, will likely incorporate comments from staff and the community as well as information from updated modeling results.

"It is highly likely that striped crosswalks with warning signs will be installed at the five bus stops along the route," Szigethy said. "It is unlikely that flashing beacons or other traffic signals will be warranted, due to budget constraints.

"An arborist has assessed more than one thousand trees along the corridor. Staff are also meeting individually with property owners to discuss specific concerns about other vegetation."

After the project is completed, owners are welcome to plant additional vegetation on their properties, but should coordinate with staff to avoid future maintenance issues.

"Our proposed removal of the on-corridor stormwater facilities will approximately double the length of segments where a planter strip can be provided between the sidewalk and bike lane on the east side," Szigethy said.

"We are thrilled; no swales on the corridor!" Lyons interjected. Editor's Note: the reasoning was that the clay soils along Capitol Highway wouldn't allow



BES director Michael Jordan (center) listens to a Multnomah neighbor describe storm water issues. (Photo courtesy of Murphy Terrell)

the normal percolation and drainage that swales provide.

The project approach to on-street parking is to provide it only in locations where adjacent properties have no off-street parking options.

"PBOT is also working closely with ODOT and Metro to solve the [West Portland | Crossroads dilemma," Szigethy said. "There are multiple intersections and challenges.

"The state transportation bureau will allot \$3 million to reconfigure traffic movements in this area and to potentially install a traffic signal at Capitol and Taylors Ferry Road.

"The project team will brainstorm ways in which art can be accommodated in the project by other means since there isn't a budget for this item," Szigethy said. "We encourage suggestions on ways that public art could be incorporated into the

project."

For remaining local streets, staff encouraged community members to stay engaged with the Neighborhood Streets Program to advocate for specific spending priorities such as Local Transportation Infrastructure Charge funds.

Local Improvement Districts will also remain a tool for property owners to pool resources and potentially leverage public funds to improve their streets.

"We look forward to continued partnership and consistent communication with the community as this project moves toward construction in 2019," Szigethy said.

### **Neighbors in Basin 3 take** city staff on walking tour

Murphy Terrell, who represents the Multnomah neighborhood on watershed issues, recently coordinated a walking tour of the watershed issues in Basin 3 with city staff.

Becky Tillson, watershed manager with the Bureau of Environmental Services, and director Michael Jordan joined a dozen neighbors on March

"We met at the Clarks' house because their house floods," Terrell said.

BILL GORDON

"We walked up to Dolph Street where BES bought property for Basin 3. We followed the water flow along Dolph and through back yards.

"We tracked all conveyances along open ditches, covered culverts, and followed drains which all empty into Spring Garden Creek which eventually flows into Tyron Creek."

According to Tillson, the bureau will study the neighbors' flooding issues they are currently facing on their property separately from the Capitol Highway Project.

"We wanted to hear their descriptions of the situation and to see it firsthand," Tillson said.

"We have data and information from over the years from a variety of sources. BES is working to create a plan to address the challenges faced by residents.

"The site visit was an opportunity to update neighbors on our progress," Tillson said. "We were able to walk most of the basin and discuss where the water flows, what infrastructure exists, and how well it is functioning or not."

Jordan said he was pleased to meet directly with the neighbors. "It was useful for me to see the stormwater challenges," he explained.

"I am grateful to the neighbors for taking the time during a work day to meet with me," Jordan said. "Our hope is to continue to work with all of the residents to develop a neighborhood-scale solution to these challenges."



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bleachers, near the food

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vard and Capitol High-

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dogs are allowed if on

leash. For more infor-

mation, visit swtrails.

org. To volunteer to

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Sharon Fekety, fekety@

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#### **COMMUNITY LIFE**

By KC Cowan and Don Snedecor The Southwest Portland Post

Spring Concert at the J: The Jewish Community Orchestra, featuring mezzo soprano Laura Thoreson, will perform works by Bizet, Saintsaëns, and Dvořak among others at its Spring Concert. This event will take place on Sunday, April 8 at 3 p.m. at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, 6651 SW Capitol Highway. Tickets are available at the door on the day of the concert: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, \$5 students. Children under 6 are free. For more information call (503) 244-0111.

Vikings Unearthed: Garden Home Library is celebrating the neighborhood's Nordic heritage with several events. Learn about the Vikings at the last rainy day documentary afternoon mini-series. See the film, "Vikings Unearthed," the PBS documentary directed by Harvey Lilley. This event takes place on Sunday, April 8, at 2 p.m. at the Garden Home Library Annex, 7306 SW Oleson Road. Free.

**New Art to Peruse:** The art of Kristin Pesola and Andy Kennedy is featured this month at the Multnomah Arts Center Gallery. Meet the artists at their opening reception on Wednesday, April 13, at 7 p.m. Their show, "Closer to Being," features woven paper and ceramic sculpture. The exhibit runs through May 1 at the MAC, 7688 SW Capitol Highway. For more information, call (503) 823-2787.

4 Tryon Creek Walk: This month's SW Urban Trails walk will be led by Lee Buhler. Carpool to

> enue entrance to Tryon Creek State Park. From the trailhead walkers will go through some outer loop trails including Lewis and Clark Trail, Cedar Trail, and Red Fox Trail. See a variety of native forest

15 Garden Advice: Discover how the Fourth Avbeautiful native (and Portland Opera will present the company's fifth non-native) plants can annual Big Night concert on April 14 at 7:30 p.m. at bring more birds, bees, the Keller Auditorium, downtown. Music Director and butterflies to your George Manahan will lead soloists, orchestra, and pests and improve garhow to plant and care

for them without harmful garden chemicals. This event takes place on Sunday, April 15, 2 – 3:30 p.m. at the Capitol Hill Library, 10723 SW Capitol Highway. Registration required; register online, in the library or by calling (503) 988-5123.

That Wilson 70s Show: Dust L off your 70s wardrobe for the annual Wilson High School Auction on Saturday, April 21 at 5 p.m. Come as the disco queen or funky soul king and help support Wilson's clubs, sports, academic programs, and staffing. Tickets include dinner and two drinks. The fun is at PDX Sports Center, 8785 SW Beaverton Hillsdale

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High Bridge over Tryon Creek. (Wikimedia photo)





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# Hillsdale Farmers' Market kicks off 17th season, Molloy returns as manager

#### THE COUNTRY STORE

By Erik Vidstrand The Southwest Portland Post

The Hillsdale Farmers' Market 17th season begins on April 8 and will run every Sunday through Nov. 18. New hours this year are from 9 a.m.

The year-round market hosts over 50 local farmers and food artisans from Oregon and Southwest Wash-

A wide range of vegetables, fruits, meats, cheeses, honey, baked goods, and ready-to-eat foods are available on a seasonal basis. The market also features master gardeners in the growing season and local musicians.

"Back in 2002, there were not too many farmers' markets in the Portland area," said Eamon Molloy, market manager.

"A community meeting was called in February 2002 and 30 people showed up. In a few short months, the market incorporated and opened in June," said Molloy. "Property owner John Braidwood offered space around the Mexican restaurant to set up the market."

It remained in this area for the three seasons and then moved to the Rieke School parking lot in 2005 where it currently resides.

Some of the original vendors are still present: Herr Family Farm, Sun Gold Farm, Salmon Creek Farm, Linda Brand Crab, Rick Steffen Farm, Boyco Honey, and Salvador Molly's.

"The market received a recognition from Sunset magazine in the July 2011 issue," Molloy said. "It was named as one of the top ten farmers' markets in the west."

The Post asked Molloy for one story that stood out over the years.

"On January 25, 2009," said Molloy, "it was about 25 degrees (Fahrenheit)

and it had snowed. The roads were passable so we decided to open the market. It started to snow again and there was a slight wind. The vendors and I looked at each other thinking, 'Boy this was a stupid idea!"

According to Molloy, once the market opened, the snow stopped, the wind died down, and the customers

"At the end of the day," Molloy said, "everyone had a really good day. One farmer who had a two-hour drive to Portland emailed me later in the week saying, 'I was cursing you all the way up to Portland and thanking you all the way back home."

A new assistant manager was hired last summer. Jacqui Stork said she was working in Tucson teaching nutritional classes to recipients of food stamp programs.

Stork said she was tired of the hot desert and after finishing her graduate degree in public administration, she was ready for a change and decided Portland was the place for her.

"People are very welcoming," Stork told The Post. "The market has about two dozen volunteers on a regular basis but we're always looking for more. Coming up on Earth Day (April 22), we will have the 'Plant-a-Seed Activity' with the Junior League."

Find out more at http://www. hillsdalefarmersmarket.com.

#### La Mota cannabis dispensary to replace Uncle John's Pizza in Markham

One of the few Markham neighborhood businesses closed after many years. Uncle John's Market & Deli, located at the corner of Spring Garden Street and Taylors Ferry Road, is gone due to a lack of business according to a source who knows the owner. The longtime business specialized in pizza and other deli items.



Volunteers Janet Leamy and Don Caniparoli join Eamon Molloy, manager, and Jacqui Stork, assistant manager, at the Hillsdale Farmers' Market information booth. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

In its place, a chain medical marijuana dispensary, La Mota, will be opening in the coming months. Donna Herron, chair of the Markham Neighborhood Association, notified neighbors that the business would grow some plants in the back as well.

"The owners have communicated with the neighborhood," Herron said.

A city cannabis licensing staff member, along with a representative of La Mota, attended a Markham neighborhood meeting recently and outlined their plan to proceed with opening

"They will be returning to our neighborhood meeting in the coming months to give updates," Herron said. "They did express an interest in being a good neighbor and hearing from us if there is something our neighborhood requests of them."

According to Herron, Markham is made up of approximately 1,047 households, two churches, and one

"There are more if you include a couple adult retirement and foster homes, and miscellaneous in-home businesses flying under the radar,"

Herron said.

"That's very unfortunate," wrote Stephan Otto, of Collins View, on Nextdoor. "Nothing against dispensaries, but we already have a lot of them in the area. Wish they were spaced further apart like liquor stores. We were really hoping for a cafe or restaurant.

Herron said that some parents who attended the neighborhood meeting expressed their concern that the dispensary would be too close to Capitol Hill and St. Claire schools.

"However, the city said it is not too close and allowed La Mota to proceed with their plans," Herron told The Post.

While the building is vacant and under remodeling, neighbors have found used needles that caused alarm.

"La Mota was notified and is trying to keep a watchful eye of any new activity or debris on the property," Herron said. "Portlanders spoke and the majority voted to legalize cannabis. The city granted a legal business (license) to open in the Markham neighborhood so Markham welcomes them."

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# Metro staff proposes initial light rail route from Portland to Tigard

#### **SOUTHWEST CORRIDOR PLAN**

By Erik Vidstrand The Southwest Portland Post

On March 19, Southwest Corridor community advisory committee members met and received the initial route proposal of the proposed light rail project.

The committee's purpose has been to review project components so they can recommend a preferred alternative route for the 12-mile light rail line between Portland and Tualatin.

According to Eryn Kehe, the project's senior communications specialist, there are just a few meetings left for the committee.

Several members represent the advisory group at Metro steering committee meetings. In turn, the steering committee will make recommendations to the Metro Council who will then make final decisions on the locally preferred alternative route.

Metro Councilor Bob Stacey was present at the meeting and thanked the committee for its service.

"You have gone deeper and have asked more questions than the steering committee," Stacey said. "Keep it up for about 60 more days. Make your decision in a timely manner so we can stay on schedule within a time frame that the federal government has provided."

Chris Ford, Metro project manager, and Dave Unsworth, TriMet director



of capital projects, were on hand to provide updates.

Unsworth explained the proposed route comes with some modifications to reduce operating cost, minimize impacts identified in the Draft Environmental Impact Study, and improve travel time and ridership.

He shared maps of the route beginning at Portland State University. These can all be found on Metro's website.

"Barbur Boulevard has been selected as the route of choice versus Naito Parkway," he said. "The tracks will travel down Barbur Boulevard until the Barbur Transit Center. From there, it crosses Interstate 5 on a new bridge and then runs adjacent to the freeway to Tigard."

"Selecting Barbur over Naito provides a shorter connection up to Marquam Hill," Unsworth said. "It has a faster travel time and fewer property impacts.

"The Ross Island bridgehead improvements are necessary and some

traffic mitigation will be needed. We will work with the city of Portland to make this happen which is very high on the city's list."

The proposed route along Barbur Boulevard will also circum-

vent the two existing viaducts [Newbury and Vermont] and avoid historic and park impacts.

Michael Kisor, the bicycling and pedestrian advocate representative, wants to ensure improvements to the future train viaducts.

"The current viaducts along Barbur are very dangerous and narrow," he said. "Improvements for pedestrians and bicycles should be included on a wider viaduct to include the safety features."

From Hillsdale to the Barbur Transit Center, Kisor said stations will be more accessible and attractive. Fewer property displacements are anticipated and Metro planners hope to avoid a complex bridge reconstruction over Interstate 5.

Unsworth explained that after the Draft Environmental Impact Statement is released, most likely in late May, there will be additional comments. "All public comments will be accepted for 45 days," he said.

The West Portland Crossroads

(where Barbur Boulevard intersects with Capitol Highway) is expensive and proposes challenges, Kehe said.

"Please tell us what you like about this area and what works or not," he said.

A meeting with the leaders of several neighborhoods surrounding the Crossroads will be held early this month.

"We [will] meet together to discuss ways to share information and solicit feedback from leadership and members of the specific neighborhood associations affected in this area," Kehe said.

The team is exploring a new option that involves a MAX station at the current location of the Barbur Transit Station.

The light rail would then travel along Taylors Ferry Road Road. After crossing Capitol Highway, it would cross a new bridge that carries the light rail over Interstate 5 and then travel along the side of Interstate 5 to a station at 53rd Avenue.

"We are planning community events this May and June to solicit neighborhood input about the DEIS and the initial route proposal," Kehe said.

What's next? The Southwest Corridor community advisory committee will meet on Monday, April 2, from 6:15 – 8:45 p.m. The Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. Transportation Committee will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 16. Both committees will meet at the Multnomah Arts Center, 7688 SW Capitol Highway.

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■ Joan Lunden, journalist, former host of Good Morning America and senior living advocate.



# Multnomah NA loses appeals to Land Conservation and Development Commission

#### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

By Don Snedecor The Southwest Portland Post

According to Jim Peterson, Multnomah land use chair, "The Multnomah Neighborhood Association filed objections to the 2035 Comprehensive Plan. On March 15, the Land Conservation and Development Commission rejected all appeals.

"The MNA is exploring all options and has reached out to a land use organization and other neighborhood associations to help take the appeals to the Oregon Court of Appeals."

"The decision undermines the importance of citizen testimony and Oregon's land use goals as determining factors into the land use planning process," said Peterson. "We are now depending on the courts to uphold the law."

According to Peterson, the neighborhood's objections were prepared by Fodor and Associates and reviewed by land use attorneys Bill Kabeiseman and Carrie Richter before being filed with the State of Oregon.

What follows is a partial transcript of the staff recommendation of the Land Conservation and Development Commission to reject one of the neighborhood's objections to the 2035 Comprehensive Plan—that the city of Portland failed to adequately consider the 2000 Southwest Community Plan or protect a potential historic district in Multnomah Village.

The Multnomah Neighborhood Association objected to the City of Portland's decision to rezone much of the Multnomah Village Neighborhood Center area to the CM2 zoning district, which the association asserts allows densities, intensities, and building heights that are excessive for the Multnomah Village Neighborhood Center Area.

After the director's decision rejected this objection, the association filed an appeal of that decision.

Before discussion of the specific issues raised in the appeal, it should be noted that the remedy proposed by the Multnomah Neighborhood Association is that the commission partially

remand Task 5 of the periodic review to reconsider application of the CM1 zoning district in the Multnomah Village area to reflect the community character issue and topography and also apply a zoning district with clear and objective standards addressing the association's concerns.

#### **Failure to Direct Planning Actions** in a Manner That Would Achieve **Local Goals and Be Consistent With Past Planning Efforts**

The appeal asserts that the city failed to direct planning actions in a manner that would achieve local goals and be consistent with past planning efforts.

The appeal notes that the 2000 Southwest Community Plan (SWCP) planned for a "small-town" atmosphere for Multnomah Village, with height and design of buildings appropriate for the neighborhood, with a mix of residential and neighborhood-scale commercial development.

The appeal contends the SWCP is not mentioned in the recommended draft for Mixed Use Zoning Districts, which applies the CM2 district to Multnomah Village.

The appeal also contends this action violates the citizen involvement provisions of the SWCP, which state, "use the Southwest Community Plan policies and objectives to create, develop, implement or evaluate new citywide policies, programs, or project proposals to ensure that the concerns of the Southwest community are addressed."

In addition, as noted by the appellant, Multnomah Village has been identified in the past as worthy of a historic district designation, which makes it a Goal 5 resource; the CM2 zoning ignores this history, and thus violates Statewide Planning Goal 5.

#### **Department Response:**

The department recommends that this portion of the appeal be rejected by the commission. The city is not bound by the language or contents of the 2000 Southwest Community Plan.

The purpose of periodic review is to update and, where appropriate, modify the city's previously adopted comprehensive plan and implementing land use regulations.

In any case, the city's decision to mix the CM1 and CM2 districts in Multnomah Village, with the CM1 district being applied to a part of the village core area, is consistent with the excerpts from the 2000 community plan for Multnomah Village provided in the appeal.

Regarding the Goal 5 issue, the appellant has not demonstrated that Multnomah Village is a significant historic resource in the city's comprehensive plan.

The city is not obligated by the provisions of Goal 5 to protect any particular historic character within an area unless the resource has been found to be significant and the city has decided to protect it under its historic preservation ordinance.

## **Multnomah Historical Association holds** annual meeting, seeks more volunteers

By Erik Vidstrand The Southwest Portland Post

The Multnomah Historical Association held its annual meeting on March 14 at the Multnomah Arts Center.

Three dozen people listened as Tim Lyman, president, gave an overview, explaining that the organization houses a history center, a website, as well as a vast archives in storage.

Additionally, the association provides presentations to the public.

"Last year," Lyman said, "we sent out electronic newsletters on a regular basis and held presentations at local libraries. Paper newsletters are no more due to costs."

There are about 160 members. Regular membership is \$20 a year and \$12 for seniors.

Founded by parents after the 1979 closure of Multnomah School, the association continues its mission of preserving the buildings, history, stories, photos, and memorabilia of the community.

Due in part to the efforts of the association, the school became the Multnomah Center, which includes



The Multnomah Theatre, circa 1946. (Photo courtesy of J.L.. "Bill" Cate)

the arts center, Neighborhood House Senior Center, Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc., and other community organizations. The center is owned and operated by Portland Parks & Recreation.

Lyman said the group has some cash reserves, but new resources are needed.

"We need volunteers with grant writing experience and computer knowledge."

Anyone wishing to volunteer, donate, or for more information, should visit www.multnomahhistorical.com.



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Dear EarthTalk: What's the deal with some restaurants going "strawless" - that is, no longer offering straws to their customers? What's so bad about sipping your drink through a straw anyway?

- Jeffrey Edwards, Seattle, Wash.

Americans use 500 million plastic straws-or 1.6 per person on average-every day. Based on this, a typical American will use more than 38,000 plastic straws over the course of a lifetime. While drinking through a single-use plastic straw seems innocent enough, don't fool yourself: Many of these straws find their way into our oceans, polluting underwater ecosystems and harming marine wildlife.

Researchers warn that if we don't clean up our act, there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish by 2050.

Plastics don't biodegrade, but instead break into tiny pieces which are scooped up by marine organisms unable to digest them. Or they end up in huge mid-ocean gyres too clogged for ships to pass through.

Cutting way back on or eliminating single-use plastic straws won't completely solve our ocean waste problem, but it will go a long way toward cutting back on plastic in the ocean as well as raising public awareness of the issue in general.

Last September the city of Seattle went strawless in solidarity with the Lonely Whale Foundation's Strawless Ocean campaign (look for #StopSucking on Twitter), a global initiative to remove 500 million plastic straws from the U.S. waste stream in 2017.

Some 2.3 million plastic straws were permanently removed from the city's restaurants, cafes, bars and other businesses-and in July an official ban on plastic straws will go into effect there. Lonely Whale hopes that other cities will follow in Seattle's forwardthinking footsteps.

For those who still love using straws, there are a growing number of reusable alternatives to plastic now available. Bambu Home's handmade reusable bamboo straws come with a cleaning brush and can be used hundreds of times.

Eco at Heart sells reusable steel

straws that are durable, easy to clean and portable, so you can bring them into the car, work or anywhere.

Steelys reusable steel straws come in a wide variety of sizes, including versions with bent tips. Aardvark's paper straws are flexible, customizable and durable—and biodegrade on their own within 90 days.

Meanwhile, another eco-friendly option is glass, such as those made by Hummingbird Straws.

Perhaps even greener are Harvest Straws, which are grown, harvested and cut by hand

in Southern California from heritage, non-genetically modified grain grown without irrigation, using no chemicals in any part of the process.

And reusable water bottles with built-in straws—such as steel and silicone models from Klean Kanteen or glass and metal varieties from Simply Straws—are also a good alternative to plastic straws. You can shop for these and other alternatives to plastic via the strawslessocean.org



The average American uses more than 38,000 straws over a lifetime without thinking about the implications of all this plastic going to waste and polluting our oceans. (Photo by Horia Varlan, FlickrCC)

website.

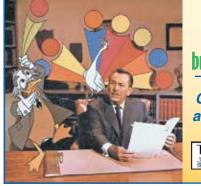
Using disposable paper straws or opting out from using a straw at a restaurant or drive-through are much better options than the conventional plastic straws that will end up as pollution in our oceans or in marine animals' bodies.

It may require a bit of extra work but using reusable straws or alternatives can make a big difference for wildlife and for ourselves.

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