

Minutes of The Community Association of Portsmouth (TCAP) Forum held 4 May 03 in Columbia Cottage, 4339 N. Lombard, Portland, OR

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Susan Landauer, Chairperson. **Attending:** Nineteen members and three visitor/presenters, Tom Griffin-Valade, Mark Wigginton, and Nikki Thompson.

Chet Orloff, PSU Instructor was introduced by Susan Landauer. Graduating Seniors at PSU are required to do a project involving community service called a Capstone project. He will teach students to collect oral and written histories about Columbia Villa and the surrounding community. The goal is to capture as many facets as possible. He brought application forms for distribution and said he hoped he would have many responses for this project.

Minutes of the April Forum were available to all attending and were read individually. **MSP** to accept the minutes as they were presented.

Self-introductions were made at the request of the Chair, with a brief statement of why each attendee is interested in participating in our neighborhood meeting, and whether h/she was new to this association.

Patt Opdyke, Land Use Chair, interjected a news flash she felt we all needed to know about: "The last meeting scheduled for public input on the St. Johns Community Plan is scheduled for Saturday, May 17."

Portland International Raceway (PIR): Mark Wigginton, PIR Director, spoke on the possibility of holding a once a summer Drag Race weekend at PIR. He briefly reviewed some of the recent history concerning public concern about the increasing noise issues in neighborhoods surrounding PIR, and indicated that he was seriously interested in having all possible support for approval of this extra race. It would be an economic benefit for the community and PIR needs to generate more income from additional big events. Those benefiting, in addition to PIR, include motels/hotels, fast food and local restaurants, and businesses involved in tourist trade.

Mark indicated there were four noise level variances already approved by the City of Portland, and PIR was currently only using two. He stated that approved noise levels normally do not exceed 103 decibels and races do not go past much past 10 p.m. He says much of the sound is less than 103 decibels at the track's perimeter, and probably only 70 decibels in the neighborhoods. A sound test, involving about 4 cars like those in Drag Races, would be performed on the 30th or 31st of May.

The Rose Festival CART races (one of the variances) test from 120-130 decibels, and Drag Races would be about 10 decibels higher. The Drag Races would be scheduled on an August weekend, with Friday races from 9:00 a.m. to 5-6:00 p.m.; Saturday from 9:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. or maybe a little later; Sunday from 9:00 p.m. to 4-5:00 p.m. Mark said they would expect from 20-30 thousand spectators. **Q:** How much of economic benefit would stay locally? **A:** Most of the money goes to businesses, which would include PIR, and some, of course, would include the large chain hotels. Those persons hired just for single events would be the major local direct-to-pocket local recipients. **Q:** Does PIR accept responsibility for damage done to individuals resulting from environmental stress, and has there been consideration of sound barriers, or mechanical changes such as adding mufflers? **A:** Sound barriers and noise proofing are too expensive. It would cost \$40 million just to take care of one side of the track. It isn't noisier than some industrial and commercial areas in our area. PIR has assisted Swap Meet vehicles by allowing them to park at PIR, thereby getting more vehicles off the freeway, and decreasing traffic impacts.

The Forum had been announced as the time for people to attend and speak up whether they are either for or against this proposed annual, unusually loud race weekend. Comments, summarized, included: 1) Noise pollution is already excessive in our area, and we are very much against any additional scheduled loud vehicle races. 2) Especially in the summer, when it is warm and windows are open, it becomes unbearable and is a health hazard for persons with a fragile health status, and Doctors have warned us to avoid being in such an atmosphere. 3) It makes it unpleasant and sometime impossible to have any family and neighborhood back yard events, since it is often hard to hear each other. It is worse if the wind is blowing, even gently, toward the Portsmouth area. 4) If it is "only" 70 decibels in the neighborhoods, and that is highly annoying, then the projected increase would be totally unacceptable. 5) The sound of the "vrraroom vrraroom," the revving of the big motors, brings back memories of young adult days, and we really

don't mind it. 6) We have been among noisy racers with our own vehicles and are true fans. 7) Alcohol sales at the event will bring additional problems.

The discussion was running much longer than initially planned, so Susan, Chairperson, called it to a close in order to complete the remainder of the evening's agenda. No further group action was taken.

Nikki Thompson, from the Multnomah County Parole Office, stated that some changes are being made in the parole system. These will be announced in the near future. She indicated there has been a marked increase in identity theft and listed some of the things we all need to consider, and put into action, to help protect ourselves. The one we can all do daily is shred or otherwise destroy any invoices, receipts, junk mail even small amount of individual identity records, such as credit card applications, bills or information with Social Security and bank account numbers. We should check our credit status with the major companies providing this service, even though there might be a fee, and carefully check every statement from our credit card, utilities, or other service companies. Nikki was thanked for her attendance and ongoing information sharing with our members of our neighborhood association.

TCAP Board Elections: Ballots were given to voting members as they initially came into the meeting, with their names then checked on the roster of voting-members. Seventeen ballots were handed out. Each voter also had a roster of the current Board Membership with term-ending dates. All officers' terms are one year, with three continuous years maximum. Terms for five Members at Large expired at the end of the two-year span from May 2001 to May 2003. All nominations were made from the floor. After each nomination, with no further nominations made for that position, there was a **MSP** to close nominations for that position. **VOTE:** Aye, - unanimous, no abstentions.

Nominations made for Officers: Susan Landauer, incumbent, was nominated for Chairperson. Susan Franks, incumbent, was nominated for Vice Chairperson; Jason Henshaw was nominated for Treasurer; Helen Warbington was nominated for secretary.

Nominations made for Board ;Members at Large for terms 2003 – 2005, included Elizabeth Humphrey, incumbent, Rev. Jeanne Knepper, incumbent, Melody Velez, incumbent, Edna O. Riddle, and Scott Jensen.

Nomination to fill a vacancy recently created by the resignation of Maria Lopez, for term ending May 2004, was Lisa Horne.

Voting members wrote names of nominees on blank lines under each category. Ballots were collected and tallied by Tom Griffin-Valade. Ballots and voting roster are on file.

Heavy Duty trucks on Chautauqua: Jason Henshaw had spoken to Officer Jason Christensen, our Neighborhood Liaison Officer (NLO,) about the concern expressed by a TCAP member. She had come to the April TCAP Board meeting and asked for assistance in determining whether the substantial increase in numbers of large trucks, and excessive speeds of the very large carriers using Chautauqua, was legal. If not legal, what steps should be taken to either cut back or stop these vehicles. She expressed concern over the speed going past the Park, especially the swimming pool area, as well as endangering youth softball players who may dart into cross walks. She had tallied numbers by the days, obtained the names on trucks to determine ownership, and noted the increase in frequency during the observed periods, The Board had suggested that she attend the Public Safety Action Committee (PSAC) meeting set for the 4th Tuesday of each month. In the interim, Jason Henshaw also had checked directly with our NLO, and learned that Officer Christensen found no restrictions regarding such carriers using Chautauqua, nor had he noticed any increase in truck travel on that street. No further action was taken at this time, but contact with the neighbor reporting the issue will be continued.

eVolvment Update: Jason Henshaw asked how many people had gotten online with our web site, www.portlandonline.com/portsmouth. He reminded everyone that this is a pilot project and it was important for people to become involved in order for it to be considered a viable project. If we need to complain about traffic, or any other community concern, we should try this venue. He stated that the person who brought concerns to a recent Forum could also research his issues online, with assistance available. Since that specific individual had left tonight's Forum following the discussion about the PIR proposal, we would make an effort to get back to him personally. Jason suggests we post questions in the email, and sign up on postings so we can get individual responses.

St. Johns Parade is next Saturday, and Susan welcomed all to participate in TCAP's entry.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. Everyone was invited to have Birthday Cake in honor of TCAP's seventh!

Respectfully submitted by secretary *pro tem*, Helen L. Warbington

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