

Portsmouth Neighborhood Association
September 6, 2005 Minutes – Forum Meeting
Columbia Cottage, 4339 N Lombard

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Chair Scott Jensen. Introductions were made.

Jason Henshaw reported that Officer Jason Christensen would not be attending as they served two warrants last night, one on N. Fiske and the other on N. Swenson, and he is unavailable tonight.

Lisa Horne reported on an empty house in poor condition at 7609 N. Olin that is strewn with garbage and quite a nuisance in the neighborhood. If neighbors need to report nuisance properties they can do so by logging onto www.portlandonline.com/northportland and clicking on “report a nuisance”.

Minutes of the June 7, 2005 Forum were reviewed by those in attendance. Susan Landauer made a **motion to accept the June 7, 2005 Forum minutes** as presented. Lisa Horne provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

Joseph Readdy from Urbsworks gave a presentation about the New Columbia Community Campus that would include a replacement school for Ball Elementary, which would accommodate 550 students and 50 staff. Doug Capps from Portland Public Schools (“PPS”) and Tuck Wilson from the Housing Authority of Portland (“HAP”) were also present. The Community Campus would include the school, a Boys & Girls Club and University Park Community Center (“UPCC”) with some shared uses among the buildings. HAP will apply for a street vacation of N. Dana Avenue between N. Alaska and N. McCoy Court. HAP has received signatures from adjoining and abutting property owners.

Because the zoning at the site where the new school would be is part CS (Commercial Storefront) and R2 (residential) HAP has applied for a conditional use as a school permit. The hearing is scheduled for September 26, 2005 at 3:00 p.m. HAP would like a letter of support from PNA.

An open house about the Community Campus and UPCC’s plans for a theatre and new gymnasium is scheduled for September 13, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. at UPCC.

Questions and concerns that were brought up included:

- A linkage between the school and the gym @ UPCC given the weather and time spent putting on coats and boots. [The development team is still working on this issue.]
- The safety of children especially for drop off and pick up. [Presently N. Woolsey Avenue and N. Dana Avenue would be used, but if Dana is vacated then alternate plans would be made.]
- Parking impacts to the area. [33 parking spaces for PPS staff have been identified at the Tamaracks.]
- Total cost and sources for the Community Campus. [The total cost is \$15.7 million with PPS providing \$7 million by a loan with Bank of America, \$1 million from HAP, \$3.7 million in New Market Tax Credits, the Boys & Girls Club has pledged \$3 million, and \$1 million from the City of Portland.]
- University Park needs a master plan for the park portion of their property. The Community Center has a master plan but not the park. Neighbors and park users need to be involved in setting a master plan for the park. [UPCC will need a conditional use permit for their planned expansion to include a theatre and gymnasium.]

Jason Henshaw made a **motion** to send a letter of **support of the conditional use permit** sought for a school in Block 17, **vacating N. Dana Avenue**, developing a **covered walkway** between the Community Campus and the University Park Community Center, and exploring **improved drop off and pick up points** for the new Ball Elementary School. Jeanne Knepper provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

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Ken Dodge with Portland Community College's Portsmouth Partnership program gave a detailed description of their services, which include ESL classes, small business development classes and small business advising, academic and financial aid advising for post-secondary education (all provided at the Goal Post) and GED classes provided at the Center for Family Success in St. Johns. The Goal Post is presently located at 6443 N. Lombard, but will move to the Lifelong Learning Center at New Columbia by July 2006. Ken distributed information and asked for referrals to their services.

Jeanne Knepper described a vision that she has for the Portsmouth neighborhood that any young person who wants to go on to community college or a trade school will be supported by the neighborhood to do so.

Jeanne Knepper suggested a project for PNA to consider, which would be to identify by address people in our neighborhood who would need help to evacuate from their homes and to keep a database of this information for emergency responders.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Horne
Board Secretary