

CVNA Minutes Jan 6, 2016

Minutes are posted on Collins View Nextdoor and on collinsview.org

Riverdale High School: Janice Olguin, humanities teacher, substituted for Paula Robinson. Emergency Responder Appreciation Day is scheduled for Jan 20. The Physics class is going into rocket building again. We will try to keep them out of yards this year. The girls' basketball team received a trophy and the boys placed third in the holiday basketball tourney.

Lewis and Clark, Mark Duntley: Classes will be back in session on Jan. 19th. Very few students are on campus right now. Students occupied the president's office until break. We will see what happens when they return to campus. Some of their demands haven't even been thought about much. One of the demands was to change the name of the college. Thirty to fifty students were involved in the occupation. The good news is that the protest shows the students have great concern for, and sense of, justice. They are concerned yet there is no violence.

The Community Friends Program at Lewis and Clark College is looking for local families, couples, or individuals to help international students practice their English skills and learn more about American culture and life in Oregon. For more information, go to https://www.lclark.edu/programs/academic_english_studies/community_friends/ or Amy Baskin, Community Friends Program Coordinator amy@lclark.edu, 503-432-7186

Prakash was one of the Lewis and Clark's international students.

Chairman's Report, Jim Diamond: Southwest Corridor Plan (part of the Portland Comprehensive Plan) Steering Committee meeting was scheduled for Monday, January 11, 2016 - 9:00am to 11:00am in the Beaverton City Council Chambers. The steering committee makes recommendations for the plan to the Metro Council and other partners. The public is invited to give testimony at the beginning of the meeting. The Steering Committee will make a recommendation on which high capacity transit alignments (bus or light rail) should continue to be studied in the Tigard and Tualatin areas. The options must include limited access to be eligible for federal funds. Information packet is online [<http://www.oregonmetro.gov/event/southwest-corridor-plan-steering-committee-meeting-16/2016-01-11>].

A meeting to provide feedback on a preferred park design for Spring Garden Park was scheduled for Thursday, January 7, 2016 at 6:00 PM.at Multnomah Arts Center.

The last City Council hearing on the draft 2035 Comp Plan goals, policies and land use map was held at Self-Enhancement, Inc. (SEI), 3920 N. Kerby Ave.

Committee Reports

Public Safety, Gene Lynard: The Safety Vigils project continues and volunteers are needed. Our Taylors Ferry/Terwilliger intersection and the Terwilliger/Palatine intersection were deemed too dangerous for the volunteers. Gene will submit the Terwilliger/Primrose intersection as a safety vigil site option.

Transportation, Prakash Joshi: The same things are still going on – studies on how the traffic moves per hour, per season. We would like to have a flashing lights at Primrose.

Primrose is the access to River View Natural Area (RVNA). They never considered transportation issues in considering RVNA as an Off Road Cycling destination. The project got funding directly from transportation for sidewalk and parking installations without our input.

NET, Bob Fischer: SWNI safety hazard maps show liquefiable soil, the major gas pipeline down Boones Ferry, forest fires and the Lewis and Clark chemistry lab as hazards in our area. Dry cleaning is now done with safe chemicals so the Burlingame Dry Cleaners shop does not get a hazard sign.

At the December meeting, Jason Holmgren from Lewis and Clark College announced plans to organize a hand-on fire extinguisher training class.

Jim VanDomelen will have the treasurer's report at the February meeting.

RVNA. SAVE THE DATE: *[from John Miller, in absentia: We could use as many voices as possible at the City Council meeting on **January 14th at 2pm**. City Council will be hearing testimony and ultimately deciding whether or not to adopt the River View Management Plan. You may recall that off-road cycling was not allowed to be discussed as part of this plan per Ms. Amanda Fritz and Mr. Nick Fish. The Plan can be found at: www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/riverview]*

CVNA has a chance to have an impact on the decision. You can look at the agenda online ahead of time. We should go in numbers-2 pm, Jan. 14 at Council Chambers. Our presence will be in significant opposition to the Off-Road Cycling community, who will be there in force. The numbers of neighbors attending should make a strong statement that supports the land use conservation easement.

The Oregonian's year-end self-congratulatory editorial on how stupid city government is in banning bikes from RVNA is diametrically opposite CVNA's official position that the city is doing the right thing, that the management plan process was open and transparent, that the conservation content is something that the Oregonian is not aware of at all. Jim said the editorial undermines the public's confidence in city government. Please see below for Jim Diamond's letter to the Oregonian in response to the editorial:

Collins View Neighborhood Association response to "A Bad Year for Portland Leadership"

To the Editor:

The Oregonian Editorial Board has misrepresented the City of Portland's management of the new Riverview Natural Area (RVNA) in its most recent editorial ("A bad year for Portland leadership: Editorial Agenda 2015")

"A comprehensive list of relatively minor blunders would be too long for a single editorial, but it would include the city's sudden decision to boot mountain bikers from the River View Natural Area, leaving Portland, a supposed cycling mecca, virtually devoid of decent off-road options."

The Collins View Neighborhood Association (CVNA) has supported the process through which city of Portland Parks & Recreation has developed a management plan for RVNA that is consistent with Metro's conservation easement (of which the editorial board seems unaware), and the goals and principles as stated in the proposed plan for RVNA. Our neighborhood, including members of the biking community, participated in the Project Advisory Committee within the planning process; the advisory committee included soil and water scientists as well as an expert from the Audubon Society and mountain bikers from across the city, not just Collins View.

Until this plan is finalized, current activities within the natural area are limited to "hiking, wildlife viewing, stewardship activities, environmental education, and research," as stated in Portland Parks and Recreation's FAQ for the management plan. These are temporary restrictions that make sense, given the steep slopes and environmentally sensitive nature of the natural area; dogs on-leash or off- are prohibited for now, as are mountain bikes, and all forms of recreational activity are discouraged during the rainy season.

We in Collins View give kudos to the city of Portland for acquiring this natural area, and their plans to rescue and preserve it. The natural area was private property before its acquisition by the city, and those who hiked or biked there were trespassing, causing considerable damage, despite the efforts of the previous owners to discourage such activities. The editorial board has no first hand knowledge of the condition of this natural area and the negative impact due to the illegal use by the biking community and others.

Through its continued misrepresentations of the issues surrounding RVNA, the Oregonian Editorial Board has done a serious injustice to the City of Portland, Commissioners Fritz and Fish, the Bureau of Environmental Services, and Parks & Recreation, and does a disservice to those members of the community who have invested significant effort in support of the new natural area.

The Riverview Natural Area Management Plan will be presented to City Council on January 14, 2016. The Oregonian Editorial Board should educate itself on the proposal and its rationale rather than make such an inappropriate accusation.

On behalf of the officers of the Collins View Neighborhood Association,

Jim Diamond, Chair, CVNA]

Jim's letter was ccd to the entire City Council. Our neighborhood doesn't disagree with anything at all in the management plan. Bikes driving on steep terrain violates principles of environmental sustainability, and violates mountain biking trail principles. A question was asked, "What has been the impact of off-road cycling?"

We support BES and PPR. Our CVNA letter was sent Monday 1/11. [Copy of this letter is below:

City Council Agenda Item 52, Riverdale Natural Area Management Plan, CVNA testimony

Dear Mayor Hales and Commissioners,

The Collins View Neighborhood Association (CVNA) has supported the process through which City of Portland Parks & Recreation has developed [a management plan](#) for Riverview Natural Area (RVNA) that is consistent with Metro's [conservation easement](#) and the goals and principles stated in the proposed plan for RVNA. It is our opinion that **the language in this conservation easement is extremely important** in assessing any management plan for Riverview Natural Area.

As noted in the [proposed management plan](#) summary for City Council, our neighborhood will probably experience an increase in traffic once access to the natural area is established; this will require future expenditures on improvements that will mitigate this traffic impact.

In our opinion, that process has been transparent, inclusive and well-managed. Our neighborhood, **including members of the biking community**, participated in the Project Advisory Committee within the planning process; the advisory committee included soil and water scientists as well as an expert from the Audubon Society and mountain bikers from across the city, not just Collins View.

We in Collins View give kudos to the City of Portland for acquiring this natural area and the plans to rescue and preserve it. The natural area was private property before its acquisition by the city, and those who hiked or biked there were trespassing, causing considerable damage, despite the efforts of the previous owners to discourage such activities.

The plan is consistent with Council-approved policies and strategy related to protection of the Westside Wildlife Corridor¹, environmental protections², conservation efforts³, and climate change⁴.

¹City of Portland, Parks and Recreation, The Westside Wildlife Corridor, <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/article/204516>

*"The Westside Wildlife Corridor is the forested spine of the west hills that provides the green backdrop to downtown Portland. This local target area will help protect remaining natural habitat, **protect headwater streams**, and create a continuous wildlife migration corridor from Forest Park south along the west hills."*

²City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/article/474043>

2014 Stormwater Management Manual, page two.

*"Stormwater management is critical to maintaining and enhancing the City's livability and improving watershed health. The Stormwater Management Manual allows the City of Portland to **protect both watershed resources** and infrastructure investments with every land improvement. As each development and redevelopment project meets the requirements of this manual, it will contribute to achieving these important citywide goals."*

³City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan, <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/article/509613>

*Excerpt. TMDL parameter, Temperature. General Strategies/Best Management Practices(BMPs) **"Increase effective shade through restoration and protections; Restore natural stream hydrology and cool water refuges and wetlands; Increase natural stream flow."***

⁴2015 Climate Action Plan Summary, page 14,

The plan supports the goals and Policies in the [Comprehensive Plan Update](#). Here are some specific instances:

1. Chapter 7, Environment and Watershed Health

- a. **Policy 7.22, Land acquisition priorities and coordination.** Maintain a land acquisition program as a tool to protect and support natural resources and their functions. Coordinate land acquisition with the programs of City Bureaus and other agencies and organizations.
- b. **Policy 7.51, Riparian and habitat corridors.** Protect and enhance riparian habitat quality and connectivity along Tryon and Fanno creeks and their tributaries. Enhance connections between riparian areas, parks, anchor habitats, and areas with significant tree canopy. Enhance in-stream and upland habitat connections between Tryon Creek State Natural Area and the Willamette River.
- c. **Policy 7.52, Reduced hazard risks.** Reduce the risks of landslides and streambank erosion by protecting trees and vegetation that absorb stormwater, especially in areas with steep slopes or limited access to stormwater infrastructure.

2. Chapter 8: Public Facilities and Services

- a. **Policy 8.94, Natural Resources.** Preserve, enhance and manage city-owned natural areas and resources to protect and improve their ecological health, in accordance with both natural area acquisition and restoration strategies, and to provide compatible public access.

We also approve of the current restrictions on activities in order for the natural area to recover, given the environmentally sensitive nature of much of its terrain. We hope that such protections will be extended.

Collins View Neighborhood Association strongly supports sustainable uses of RVNA that are consistent with the conservation values stated in the conservation easement signed by City of Portland July 22, 2011, which says in part 3(b) "*Grantor's permitted uses shall therefore include public access for nature based recreation, such as **hiking and nature watching, environmental education and research*** (emphasis by CVNA)."

It is also our view that language used in the conservation easement clearly prevents activities that are inconsistent with the conservation values stated in the agreement:

- (a) *Specific Purposes: Conservation Values. **The more specific purpose of this Easement is to prevent any use of, or activity on, the Easement Area that will impair or interfere with the***

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/article/531994>

"Building resilience and improving the health of our natural systems, including urban trees, open spaces, rivers, streams and wetlands, and the fish and wildlife that rely on them."

Conservation Values, (emphasis by CVNA) as such term is defined herein. Grantor and Holder have identified that the Easement Area provides protection for important wildlife habitat and water quality, connects riverfront natural areas that function as important corridors for wildlife and people, and is an important refuge and rearing habitat for salmonids along the Willamette River's main stem. **These characteristics of the Easement Area (the "Conservation Values") shall be preserved, protected, and enhanced under this Easement.** (emphasis by CVNA) The Conservation Values include:

1. At 145 acres, the Property contains the largest remaining unprotected and undeveloped habitat patch in the West Hills Wildlife Corridor. The large habitat patch size provides critical interior habitat particularly for species that demonstrate patch-size preference. Additionally, native species diversity and wildlife population stability increase with increasing habitat patch size.
2. The Property supports mature Douglas fir and western red cedar forest including large trees, vertical diversity and canopy gaps. The higher level of structural diversity in mature forest structure tends to host more native wildlife.
3. The protection of seven intermittent and perennial streams and the associated riparian forest provides benefits to water quality and wildlife, including stream shade for favorable water temperatures, stream bank protection, runoff filtration, large wood recruitment, wildlife breeding habitat and travel corridors.
4. The Property's location, due north of Tryon Creek State Park, helps to create and maintain a key connection within the West Willamette Wildlife Corridor.
5. Cold water flowing from the perennial streams located on the Property creates much needed temperature refuge for salmonids in the main-stem Willamette River.

It is our view that the proposed management plan for RVNA is sensible, consistent with those same values **provided that permitted activities are also consistent with the conservation easement**, and will well serve the needs of the community. We applaud Parks & Recreation for their efforts on the proposed management plan.

On behalf of the officers and members of the Collins View Neighborhood Association,

Jim Diamond
Chair, CVNA
9519 SW 2nd Ave., Portland OR 97219

To: City Of Portland, Mayor Charlie Hales
Commissioner Nick Fish
Commissioner Amanda Fritz
Commissioner Steve Novick
Commissioner Dan Saltzman

CC: Council Clerk

Metro Council President Tom Hughes
Metro Councilor Carlotta Collette

City of Portland
Bureau of Environmental Services Director Michael Jordan
Portland Parks & Recreation Director Mike Abbaté
Portland Parks & Recreation Project Manager RVNA Emily Roth

Executive Director, Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. Sylvia Bogert
Secretary, CVNA, Maryellen Read

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Jim Diamond
9519 SW 2nd Ave.
Portland, OR 97219
503-984-2775]

Remember the meeting! : 2pm Thursday, Jan. 14th, City Council Chambers. 1221 SW 4th Ave.

A motion by Maureen Diamond, seconded by Prakash Joshi, to create a **CVNA Tree Committee** was unanimously approved. Denny Barnes, participant in the Neighborhood Tree Steward Program, will chair the committee. Nestled between Tryon Creek, River View Natural Area and Marshall Park, we are still one of the greenest neighborhoods but new development and changing lifestyles have steadily reduced our native conifer canopy. Conifers slow storm water

runoff during heavy rains, lower peak summer temperatures, protect our watershed, provide wildlife habitat and preserve the unique character of our neighborhood.

Anna Brown made the motion that CVNA formally support Denny's application for a SWNI grant to plant more native conifers to enhance our neighborhood's tree canopy.

Anna Browne volunteered at the **Sears Center Shelter** on Christmas Eve. The shelter provides overnight lodging for women and couples. It was very well organized, including having a safe place for clients to leave their belongings.