

Oct. 2015 SWNI NEWS article

The Campus Institution Zoning Project eliminates Lewis and Clark's need to go through a 5 year plan and neighborhood involvement that is required today. What is defined as "campus" and what is not considered "campus" is a critical issue. The Lewis and Clark College property designated as "Campus Institution" is on Map 5, p. 122.

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/article/540443>. A distinction should be made regarding what institutional properties are outside vs inside a campus proper. This Institutional Zoning project is driven by the institutions. The project affects Collins View more than any other neighborhood. The huge issue is whether institutions will have a blank check as to what they want to do with developing their property. Shouldn't there be some kind of neighborhood involvement regarding some properties?

Another issue in the zoning project draft is on page 27 [underlining is my emphasis]: "Small Scale Energy Production that provides energy for on-site or off-site use are considered accessory to the primary use on the site. Installations that sell power they generate—at retail (net, metered) or wholesale—are included. . . .not more than 10 tons per peek of biological material or byproducts from other sites may be used to generate energy." Biomass includes medical waste. "Other sites" means material will be trucked in. While this does not seem to affect Collins View or Lewis and Clark College right now, it certainly opens the door for all institutions to develop commercial and energy production and sale without oversight as they deem profitable.

Jamie Partridge, an organizer with Communities and Postal Service United, spoke to us about the history and current situation of the USPS. Collins View Neighborhood Association signed to support the "Grand Alliance to Save our Public Postal Service." (www.agrandalliance.org, www.cpwunited.com, www.savethepostoffice.com). Without any taxpayer funding, the USPS provides affordable, universal mail service to 150 million households and businesses each day. However, in the last three years, half the postal processing plants have been closed, 82 are set to close. In Oregon 37 Post Offices are threatened now. Mail is being delayed and delivery standards have plummeted.

The US Postal Service is not broke. Congress imposed the Postal the Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006 on the Postal Service that no other government agency or private company is forced to bear. Since 2006 the USPS has been forced to spend nearly 10% of its budget (\$5.5 Billion a year) to fund future retiree healthcare costs 75 years in advance. Without this, the USPs would have had an operating surplus of \$600 million in 2013 and over \$1.4 Billion in 2014.

Commercial interests want the profitable sections of postal services. Big mailers give profitable priorities to private shippers (UPS, FedEx) and give USPS junk mail, flooding USPS resources and providing half the revenue of regular mail. They use USPS for rural and less profitable deliveries. This all adds up to higher costs and lower service. Is there a way that we, as customers, could opt to have USPS as the shipper? We need to put pressure on congressional management to improve our Postal Service.

River View Natural Area is in limbo, waiting for the final draft of its management plan to be discussed at the final PAC meeting on Sept 22. The perimeter trail, access to the area, and permitted uses will be spelled out in the plan, which will then go to city council for approval and implementation over a period of years. In the meantime, people walk their dogs off-leash and ride bikes, both currently non-permitted uses. Bikers also ride with lights at night. There is no budget for rangers, and yet the city found \$350,000 for an Off Road Cycling Master Plan (ORC-MP) study to determine proper places for mountain biking in the city. The possibility of considering RVNA for off-road cycling was discussed on a recent KBOO radio show. Many concerns will remain after any management plan is approved.

CVNA minutes are posted on Collins View Nextdoor and collinsview.org

Submitted by Maryellen Read, Secretary, CVNA