

February 5, 2014, Minutes

Collins View Neighborhood Association (CVNA)

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, March 5, 2013, 7 p.m.

e-mail: cvnamail@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.collinsview.org/> and <https://collinsview.nextdoor.com/login/>

Attendees: Samantha Walker, Tricia Brand, Anna Browne, Bob Fischer, Dana Fischer, Dave Johnston, Dixie Johnston, Prakash Joshi, Charlotte Joshi, Fran Laird, James Luse, Gene Lynard, Jim VanDomelen, Kimberly French, Denny Barnes, Maryellen Read, Sylvia Bogert (SWNI), Rob Cruzen, Vanessa Preisler, Patricia Rogers, Jen Seamans (SWNI, Watershed Center), James Peale, Bruce Armstrong, Coryn Buckholdt, Hank Burkholdt, Leann Knapp, Paula Robinson, Alexandra Clarke, Astrid Dragoy (PP&R), Kate Holleran (Metro), Marija Spencer (PP&R), Emily Roth (PP&R), Officer Caspar (Portland Police)

Meeting convened at 7:07 p.m.

Samantha opened the meeting by talking briefly about SW Transportation Corridor Project. She said a document describing it has been uploaded to Next Door and we'll talk more about it at the March meeting. Copies of the document were also passed around. Samantha encouraged everyone to read it over as there is very good information in it.

She wanted to save most of our meeting time for discussion with guests from Portland Parks and Recreation about the Riverview Natural Area (also referred to here as the "park"). There were a few committee reports first:

Officer Caspar—said there had been some vandalism in the cemetery but nobody called it in, so he reminded everyone to report anything to him directly:

- (503) 545-3504 – for informational stuff
- call the police *nonemergency* number—503-823-3333—if the situation will need a report or police attention

He said a stolen vehicle was recovered in the 8900 block of SW 5th Avenue last month. It was stolen from North Portland and sat idling from 6 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., so about eight hours with the engine running and a broken window but nobody called it in. He said to please call in anything that looks out of place. He added that a speeder had been stopped on Terwilliger but otherwise things have been quiet.

Transportation—Prakash said the neighborhood has asked for a pedestrian crossing and flashing light at SW Primrose & Terwilliger.

Lewis & Clark—students are back from break and have a big program coming up, part of politics week: "Left, Right & Forward, The Future of Both Political Parties with Michael Steele, the former Republican National Committee chair, and U.S. Rep. Harold Ford on Wednesday, Feb. 12, at 7 p.m. at Agnes Flanagan Chapel.

Riverview High School—Paula Robinson, principal, said the students are doing well. The basketball team is trying to make the playoffs and the musical went well despite the lead having an operation 1.5 weeks before opening and a dancer twisted her ankle before the performance. Both students went on anyway. She also mentioned that the high school's secretary drives to work from Salem and would like to live in Portland, so if anyone knows of humble lodgings for a

responsible person, please let Paula know. She was also encouraged to put that notice on Next Door.

Riverview Natural Area

Astrid Dragoy, the natural areas zone manager for PP&R, was the first to speak. She said she attends SWNI meetings and heard several folks are unhappy about what's happening with Riverview Natural Area (RVNA). She said she came to our meeting primarily to listen and try to answer questions. First she laid out some facts:

- The park is 146 acres that PP&R purchased in summer 2011.
- It was one of those star properties they'd been looking at for many years and felt very fortunate to be able to purchase it.
- PP&R started cleanup and stabilization right away.
- They looked at what it would take to create a place where people could access and enjoy the property. Their work has really transformed it in the last two years – they removed trash, tree forts and invasive species (a ton of ivy, just cutting that back was huge).
- It's an ecologically rich property and the biggest acquisition they've been able to make inside the city limits in forever.

Emily Roth and Maija Spencer, both planners on the project, introduced themselves.

Kate Hollerin, a natural resource scientist with Metro, works on conservation easements (she explained that federal tax law applies in those cases). She said this natural area has two public parties involved. They are focused on:

- conserving and enhancing the core habitat
- keeping the several streams located on the property clean and running – she said that point was very important
- keeping access open to the public was also important

She said all this was an extra layer of protection to the things they're already doing. This land was so abused for so long it really needs a ton of work and care and they will monitor the property annually. She added that there will be consequences if plans don't go as designed but they typically work in close partnership with all parties so they can address issues before they become problems.

Emily Rob, a natural resource planner and project manager for PP&R, and Maija Spencer, handling public involvement for project, showed on maps of SW Portland how the wildlife is affected in this corridor. The southwest wildlife corridor ranges from Forest Park to Marquam Park to Tryon Creek State Park and includes Riverview Cemetery. It goes east to west and includes lots of wildlife throughout, especially birds and small mammals but also elk. There's also the Willamette River that flows north and touches Powers Marine Park and Willamette Park. There's a lot of wildlife there, too, including fish. She said there are a lot of components such as Ross Island and Oaks Bottom and they're all interconnected. They're paying attention to all of it.

Prakash said our neighborhood has the largest boundary to this park, so we've been paying attention to this for a while, and it's a big plus for us. He had several questions:

- What kind of a say are we going to have into the decision-making process on the park?
- What kind of people will come, what kind of traffic will they bring? Where will they park?
- We want to have a say in how the park's developed and what kind of impact traffic and parking will have on us – not to keep anyone out, but we have concerns about that.

He was told the technical advisory committee focuses on ecology and compatible access for the area, which will be balanced between access and protection.

Prakash said CVNA wants time to coalesce its input in the next eight months and provide it formally, not just tonight. He was also told that on parking, PBOT and L&C had been contacted about parking, including a sidewalk and parking on Palatine Hill Road. (There will be no parking at the bottom of the property or access from there as Macadam is owned by ODOT and they are not a part of this discussion.)

James Peale asked about compatible access vs. balanced access. Astrid said this is a very different property in their portfolio, so it's unique in how they address it. The conservation easement really guides what they can do with what they bought the property for.

Jen Seamans spoke on the history of Tryon Creek vs. how the new park will be managed (Tryon Creek State Park was formed in 1969 by a group of neighbors and became a state park in 1970; the trails were built by volunteers).

Samantha asked the PP&R reps and guests to name five things that would be most helpful to hear from the neighborhood on this issue. They responded:

- We are completing the technical stage of site analysis, so please let us know if we've missed something.
- Give us a chance to put something out there, based on what we've heard; to put a plan together.
- Then let us know where have we hit the mark and where did we miss? Where do we need to do more work?
- What do you want to do about parking access, sidewalks and other perimeter issues?
- Feel free to send us your biggest issues, if you think of something later.
- Dogs and bikes are big issues still. How should we handle those? Should we consider closing the park to dogs and bikes?
- We have to consider the shared use of trails between pedestrians and bikes and the safety issue (speeding, site lines). They are not currently designed well for shared use.

Q: Bruce Armstrong, who lives across the street from the park and walks in there regularly, agrees mountain bike trails have been built illegally and use has skyrocketed. We really need to be aware of that and keep an eye on it.

A: He was told that none of the trails built there now are to PP&R standards, and they're trying to close the worst ones. They may not be aware of all of them but their goal is to make trails safe for pedestrians and also protect streams and wildlife.

Q: The guests were asked where funding to develop and maintain the park is coming from?

A: When they bought the land, funds were dedicated to take care of it because operations and maintenance dollars were added, but there's no protection against recessions or budget cuts.

Q: Any chance this park would be off limits to everyone while you develop a plan and bring it up to PP&R standards?

A: They actually had big conversations about that at the city; they landed on letting the public have access unless they're doing something dangerous, so there has been increased use, especially as they've been improving it. When they were doing trail work in spring and summer, they learned they need to close the trails after they've initially been built because they see too much damage immediately after. Additionally, they might very well close them over the fall and

winter in the future to protect from erosion. There are signs posted saying not to build trails or illegal jumps.

PP&R guidelines do allow mountain biking on its properties, but any future trails will be very different than what's at the park now and there will be fewer trails since bike use needs to be balanced with the other conservation and environmental uses.

Q: Vanessa Preisler lives across from the park on Palatine and says come spring, she and her neighbors will experience a significant impact as the weather gets nice and people come to see and use the property, especially now that it's been bought and publicized. It's very frustrating since there's no oversight of parking and use, and this will happen before PP&R has its plans developed – should we report it and to who?

A: The park is open to all until the plans are done, but neighbors should call the phone number on the signs that are posted and let us know what you're seeing that's contradictory to the posted rules. We really rely on you to do that because you're our eyes. We have park rangers and they can respond quickly, so call anytime. Don't engage with anyone, just call us.

503.823.1637

This number goes to dispatch in the customer service center and they will contact the rangers. Their hours are 7 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., seven days a week. This information is now on Next Door.

Prior to closing the meeting, Samantha announced that the SW Terwilliger Boulevard Sewer Project will close Terwilliger to all traffic from the Iron Mountain Trailhead to Hwy 43 for about a year starting in July 2014. She has since posted this information on Next Door.

Adjourned at 9:05.

Our next meeting is Wed, March 5.

Submitted by Anna Browne