

## Sears Armory

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plans, 100+ mixed-income, mixed tenure housing units would be made available, with a percentage of the tenants qualifying for support on the basis of need. Similarly, both housing plans would require public subsidy.

CPAH executive director Sheila Greenlaw-Fink elaborated on how her organization's plan would ensure that families and individuals of all income levels can continue to live in the Village, improve the prospects for local schools to remain open and thriving, and provide a vibrant and secure place to call home for hundreds of residents. "We should plan with our children's needs in mind," said Greenlaw-Fink, "and look creatively to the future while honoring the past."

Mike Andrews, HAP director of development and community revitalization offered the following comment on behalf of the housing authority: "With housing prices rising for both renters and home buyers in Southwest Portland, we believe the Sears site provides an excellent opportunity for lower income families to have stable housing that allows them to become a part of the community."

If the Emergency Response Center gets the nod, everything from terrorist attacks to treacherous ice storms would be dealt with from a new combination command and training center, shelter, storage facility, and emergency vehicle deployment hub. POEM director Carmen Merlo: "The city's proposal for the reuse of the center offers a compelling public safety justification."

Merlo went on to explain that currently no emergency response equipment is located on the west side. "In the event of a catastrophic earthquake or other disaster that would damage or make impassable the bridges," she said, "Westside response would be severely

hindered, and the city might not be able to restore critical services."

Over the time allotted for the meeting, many thoughtful and opposing viewpoints about the Sears Armory's near-history were aired. Concerns about everything from the need for low-income, disadvantaged, and workforce housing, to the fear of certain types of individuals associated with such housing, came up.

There was clear frustration which suggests that some feel that aspects of the process have been less than transparent. And there was a thought or two which raised the possibility that visions proposed for the various future incarnations of this 3.7 acre site and its complex of Cold War-era buildings have not been as far-reaching as they might have been.

Sheern took a barrage of questions, attempting to negotiate the public passions surrounding each proposal. He also addressed the fears of some citizens. "I understand that some of you are worried about what might end up in your backyards and neighborhood," he concluded.

*Editor's Note: Portland Community College is the most recent applicant interested in acquiring the Sears Armory site. At the Multnomah Neighborhood Association meeting on May 13, a representative from PCC explained that the college was interested in establishing a community education campus. With some modifications to the existing buildings, PCC would also move its human resources, financial services and data center to the Sears site.*

*A straw poll by the neighborhood association's voting members of the five proposals came out this way: PDOT Emergency Response Center 26, Housing Authority of Portland 15, Westside Christian High School 12, Community Partners for Affordable Housing 8, Portland Community College 6.*

## Skate Park

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Park because I was already a residential and commercial cement finisher," said Gavin Temple, who currently works for Airspeed Skateparks at Gabriel Park. "We stole the land from the hobos, prostitutes and drug addicts and just pushed our own theme. Pretty soon all the riffraff was gone, and all we had left was a skateboard park."

"Burnside is the most renowned skateboard park in the world because of its history," said Tom Miller, founder and chair of Skaters for Portland Skateparks (SPS) and chief-of-staff for City Commissioner Sam Adams. "Imagine a bunch of soccer players going out to a public space and creating their own field."

"I'm a lifelong skateboarder," Miller said, adding, "There's a tremendous unmet need. We discovered that there were tens-of-thousands of skateboarders and no facilities. Kids were on private property - and they needed their own advocacy organization."

In 2005, the city accepted the SPS plan for 19 public skateparks; Gabriel Park is among them. "I think it's great," says Miller. "It will be a big asset for the neighborhood and the Southwest."

For more information on Portland skateparks visit [www.skateportland.org](http://www.skateportland.org). For a history of the Burnside Skatepark project, watch the OPB video "Full Tilt Boogie" at [www.burnsideproject.blogspot.com](http://www.burnsideproject.blogspot.com).

## Food Front

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din came from Germany in 1908 and started a dairy farm, his granddaughter Ardys Braidwood said. "The dance center at the top of the hill was a garage, and all the milk trucks went in there at night to be serviced."

They had over 100 acres and up to 450 milking cows until the school district wanted to build in the 1950s. "At that time my grandpa had passed on and my dad was running the dairy. So they sold property to the school district and developed the little shopping center."

Hillsdale Farmers' Market manager Eamon Molloy was among the first to join the shopping center's new coop. "I'm happy we have a locally owned grocery moving into the neighborhood," he said, noting several farmers already sell to Food Front. Molloy noticed farmers' market business dropped when Wild Oats closed, and said groceries and farmers' markets work together. "You need to buy farm direct but you aren't going to get everything there. You can do it all in one trip with a grocery store next to a farmers' market."

For more information on the Food Front Cooperative Grocery, see [www.foodfront.coop](http://www.foodfront.coop), email [info@foodfront.coop](mailto:info@foodfront.coop), call 503.222.5658 ext. 133, or visit the NW Portland store at 2375 NW Thurman St.

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