

## Hillsdale Notebook

(Continued from page 1)

effect a gray rectangle five football fields long.

Initial funding for the project would come from a combination of BEF funds received from grants and an investor able to utilize the Oregon Business Energy Tax Credits (BETC), federal Investment Tax Credits.

Schools included in the Hillsdale proposal are Riecke Elementary, Robert Gray Middle, and Wilson High schools. Under the proposal, BEF would own the site along with the investor during the first six year period, with BEF responsible for monitoring, billing and maintenance.

As an adjunct to the energy generated, an integrated solar educational program would be offered at the affected schools. Walden outlined a plan to name a Solar Champion at each school to assure the BEF educational specialist could coordinate the proposed components and program with all possible teachers in the schools.

After the initial period required by the IRS for ownership, the school would have the option of purchasing the system for a greatly reduced cost or allow BEF to continue the operations and maintenance of the system.

The cost to the school for the power produced after the initial period would probably be much lower than that charged by the utility at that time. If the school were to purchase and operate the system the power would be free after maintenance and reserve costs were set aside.

Walden wrapped up with a plea that the project be implemented before the end of the year. While the general idea of the plan seemed appealing to attendees, some residents expressed concerns about the aesthetics of the installation. There were also questions about the amount of energy that would

be generated.

CSV, the City of Portland and the neighborhood association are working together on a system design that would be financial feasible and visually appealing. A report and example will be presented at the next neighborhood meeting. Commercial Solar Ventures is currently looking for investors to make this project a reality.

"The Hillsdale community and Portland's southwest neighborhoods have an opportunity to make this effort a truly community project," said Walden. "It is a very renewable, sustainable project that supports the education of all neighborhood students, involves the neighborhood at large and is financially supported by a local business interested in supporting their triple bottom line company goals." For more information: [www.c-s-v.com](http://www.c-s-v.com) 503-241-5918

Next on the rundown, environmental specialist Mary Bushman, spoke on behalf of the Bureau of Environmental Services' Willamette Watershed Team (WWT). The WWT is seeking input on issues relating to three southwest Portland sub-watersheds: California, Carolina/Terwilliger, and Marquam Woods. "We are looking for opportunities to address sub-watershed concerns that we may not know about," Bushman said.

Among the fixes proposed to increase the health of these sub-watersheds are removal of invasive species, erosion control, identify-

ing opportunities to protect and restore important natural areas (e.g., George Himes Park), and probably the biggest issue for these sub-watersheds, and for most urban areas in general, reducing the impact of stormwater runoff.

Bushman referenced an unfortunate recent incident in which fire retardant was inadvertently washed into Terwilliger Creek, and talked in more general terms about the "amount of pollutants being washed into our watersheds."

A questionnaire was provided to association members that asked citizens to weigh in on "any storm water or natural resource related problems," or "to identify natural areas in the three SW sub-watersheds that you feel merit special protection."

"Meeting with key stakeholders is a very important part of the planning process," said Environmental Services spokesperson Marc Peters in a follow-up email, "and allows us to learn about the issues and concerns of the people who live and recreate in these areas. As a result, the information can be used to help identify potential priority areas and project sites."

In a final bit of business, Portland Office of Transportation (PDOT) project manager Art Pearce presented a report on the South Portland Circulation Study and North Macadam Transportation Planning efforts.

"It's going to be a long road to achieve safe and efficient transportation improvements in this area,"

said Pearce of the labyrinthine hard-scape around Naito Parkway and environs.

Pearce explained that the North Macadam area and the adjacent freeway systems comprise one of the busiest transportation hubs in the region. "What we have here is a confluence of every regional route, so there will continue to be a lot of demand for vehicle travel through this area."

Pearce outlined how PDOT plans to prioritize projects with regard to short term, long term, and public safety considerations. This list of motor vehicle, pedestrian, bicycle, and transit projects will serve as the City's plan to support the continued growth in the North Macadam area over the next 20 years.

One participant asked if the City's plan included the idea of people being able to live, work, and receive services in the area thereby requiring less driving on a daily basis.


"The zoning is in place for changes, and the Portland Development Commission is definitely a player here," said Pearce, who explained that one of the goals of the overall project is to "make transportation in the area more available to people, not just machines."

"We're actively seeking out a broader universe of ideas," said Pearce of PDOT's outreach, explaining that over the course of the summer his offices would be further evaluating prospects for a "long term strategy to create a multi-modal transportation community in North Macadam."

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declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their creator with [inherent and] inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it sit the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new governments laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.

But when a long train of abuses and usurpation [begun at a distinguished period and] pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to [expunge] their former systems of government.

—Thomas Jefferson, 1776. Excerpt from "Jefferson's Original Draft of the Declaration," pp. 200-201, *This Is America My Country*. Edited by Donald H. Sheehan, PhD. [c] 1952.

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