

Relationship between city and school district was 'most cooperative'

Please retract the second paragraph of the Perlman article ["Collins View neighbors argue that recent school closures violate City-Schools Policy," by Lee Perlman, September 2008]. It simply is not the truth.

According to Perlman, *This little-known document was drafted in 1979 by former Portland planning director Lloyd Keefe. It was generally an attempt to create more cooperation between city government and the Portland School District, independent jurisdictions who have not always had the most cooperative relationships.*

The City Planning Commission and staff had the finest and most cooperative working relationship with the School Board and Staff and the Parks Bureau in planning for, acquisition, and building new schools in [the] 1950's and 1960's as reported in *Land for Schools*.

Southwest Portland profited immensely from that effort. Land was purchased for less than \$3,000 per acre for both school sites and combined school-park sites. More recently when School District No. 1 became financially strapped, the Park Bureau purchased

the unbuilt school sites for many, many times the original per acre price.

Our last of the three reports for the School District was April 1966, *A Plan to Alleviate School Overcrowding to 1970*. Primarily this was a shifting of attendance boundaries to gain safe routes for children walking to schools and to reduce overcrowding by utilization of unused space in adjacent schools.

At that time, a new superintendent convinced the School Board to drop the K-8 plan and convert to the Middle School system. Had that part of the Markham attendance area north of Barbur Blvd. and I-5 Freeway been transferred to [Smith Elementary School], Smith would still be open. Such should still be done.

I retired from the Planning Bureau in November 1976, but was retained to Sept. 1977 to write and secure enactment of the Downtown Sign Regulation as per the Downtown Plan.

There were no differences between the City and School District then or later that I know of.

Also, I think the last part of the Perlman article should be clarified for your readers. If it involves the required Conditional Use procedure for Uses in closed schools other than the teaching

of children, it should be known that such procedure was included in Portland's first zoning code voted by the people in 1924.

It was upheld by the State Supreme Court which ruled that the City could not deny the building of the All Saints Church and School in Laurelhurst as the nearby residents requested. Such would violate Freedom of Religion—but the Court said the City could require "conditions."

Cemeteries, golf courses, greenhouses, nursing homes, libraries, museums and several other non-residential uses are permitted Conditional Uses in Single Family Residential Zones.

*Lloyd T. Keefe, F.A.I.C.P.
Southwest Portland*

Thanks to the person who found my purse

My sincere thanks, albeit belatedly, to the wonderful person who found my purse in Multnomah Village over a year ago. At the time I was visiting my daughter, and was frantic when I lost my purse with cash, credit cards and ID.

Within an hour of contacting the Portland Police, they called to say someone had not only found my purse and turned it in to them. Everything was intact, and a vacation horror story was averted. Thanks goodness there are honest and caring people in your community!

*Lynne Marie Sullivan
Sharon, Ontario*

Letters to the Editor



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Use of free-range chicken eggs step in right direction

As a Portland resident and someone who cares about animals, I'm tremendously heartened by local businesses like Marco's Café and Espresso Bar that refuse to use eggs from caged hens.

Most egg-laying hens in this country are crammed into cages so small they can't even spread their wings. They can't walk, let alone dust bathe, perch, or scratch. Each caged hen has less space than a single sheet of paper to spend her entire life.

The egg industry should take the lead of the growing number of restaurants like Marco's—and Cup and Saucer Café, JoPa and Great Harvest Bread Company—that are moving in the right direction by switching to cage-free eggs.

Such a move will end [or] reduce an enormous amount of animal suffering while improving food safety at the same time. For more information, visit www.humanesociety.org.

Kelly Peterson, Multnomah Village

Editor's Note: Kelly Peterson is Oregon policy advisor to The Humane Society of the United States.



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