

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Lee Perlman
The Southwest Portland Post

Pedestrian bridge nears design completion, construction

Jodi Yates of the Portland Bureau of Transportation told *The Post* that design for the proposed Gibbs Street Pedestrian Bridge linking the Corbett and South Waterfront areas is “60 percent complete.”

The bridge, which will parallel the route of the Oregon Health and Sciences University aerial tram, will be at or near ground level at its west end near Southwest Kelley Avenue. However, it will be 60 feet above Southwest Moody Avenue on its west end.

This is necessary to keep the grade of the bridge at no more than 3.5 percent and make it “ADA compliant,” Yates said. There will be stairways from the ground to the bridge, but most people will probably use two elevators, “the largest available, capable of accommodating a bicycle

with a trailer,” Yates said.

People have expressed concern about crimes occurring in the elevators, but Yates said that they will have clear glass to allow people to see inside easily, “We tried to take away hidden corners,” and that tram operators should be able to observe and report any problems below them.

The overall cost is about \$11 million, of which about \$7.1 million is for the actual construction. “We’re on target to begin construction by the summer,” Yates said.

Neighbors seek memorial soccer field

Parents and neighbors of Ainsworth School are trying to convert a black-topped part of the property into a soccer field, in honor of the late Julia Reiman. The 10-year-old Ainsworth student was killed last year when a private plane crashed into a beach house in Gearhart where she was vacationing. According to Marlis Mock of the Portland School District, the Ainsworth School PTA is seeking contributions for the project.

New Fulton Pump Station means improvements to Willamette Park

The Portland Water Bureau needs to replace the existing 1912 Fulton pump station on Southwest Nevada Street between Macadam and Virginia avenues. Thanks to some neighborly advice, not only will a new sewerage facility be built more cheaply, but there will be Willamette Park improvements as well.

The bureau considered three options: demolishing and rebuilding the station at its current location, subjecting neighbors to two years of construction disruption; acquiring and demolishing three nearby houses to create a new site, a process that would involve involuntary land condemnation since the prospective owners don’t want to sell; or relocate to Willamette Park.

In discussions with the South Portland Neighborhood Association, the bureau found that the third option was by far the most popular – with a twist.

The Water Bureau originally thought that the best park location for the new station would be at the south end of the

park, as far as possible from its main activities.

South Portland Neighborhood Association chair Ken Love, who lives in the old Miles Place colony south of the park, thought a better site would be on the north side, next to an existing, and somewhat dilapidated, restroom.

The bureau has tentatively agreed to this, and has agreed to incorporate new public restroom facilities into the structure. Not only this, but the park location relieves the Water Bureau of the need for construction-related street closures and other expenses that operating in the neighborhood would have necessitated, saving them about \$500,000.

They have agreed to donate this amount to the Park Bureau.

Commissioner Nick Fish, who oversees the Park Bureau, cited this in a recent meeting as the sort of innovative partnership the bureau needs to pursue. He quoted Commissioner Randy Leonard, who oversees the Water Bureau, as being willing to “make a substantial investment in the park.”

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