

**Trail Liability**

*(Continued from Page 1)*

letter to this effect to the City Council. At press time in mid-July Bertelsen said she had just received the letter and could not specifically comment on it at this time; in any event, an official response would have to come from Mayor Sam Adams, who oversees the Portland Bureau of Transportation, she said.

However, the City has resisted taking on this responsibility in the past. Bertelsen noted that budget cuts have forced her bureau to reduce its routine maintenance of improved local streets.

"There was discussion during this year's budget process of whether we can even maintain what we already have responsibility for," Bertelsen said. She added, "I am sympathetic to the Southwest volunteers; I understand what an investment they've made in the trail network and what a freeze this can put on things."

The City's response so far has been to make trails exempt from liability. In the last legislative session, HB2003 made cities exempt for civil claims for injuries suffered by people tending community gardens. Portland lobbyists tried to amend the bill to make it apply to trails. The bill's sponsors, fearing this could endanger their chances of passage, refused to accept the amendment.

Bertelsen said that City officials feel a second try during a special session next year would be "the most elegant, robust solution." If successful, would it make trail neighbors happy? For some

it would solve the problem; others simply don't want trails going by their property.

Sloan is somewhere in the middle. He noted that neighboring children regularly use the trail to catch the school bus, and that it is far more direct and safe than negotiating the street system.

"This is a lot different from having people handing out trail maps," said Sloan, and the "circus" he feared that would bring. Trail advocates say that since the trail system is a public resource, it makes sense to let the public know about it. However, his main concern is liability. "I'm not a bad guy," he said. "I just don't want process servers coming to my house."

**Southwest Volunteers**

*(Continued from Page 3)*

Council understand that in these hard times citizen involvement support is not something you cut," she said.

Regarding her own election as a Voter-Owned Candidate, by which Fritz's campaign received \$150,000 in City funds after collecting a thousand \$5 contributions, she said, "All I had to do was know a lot of hard-working people who could help me knock on doors. I didn't have to know people who could write me big checks."

Regarding her time on the Portland City Council she said, "Being on the other side of the door, I learned things I never imagined, some of them great." She praised her fellow city commissioners including Dan Saltzman for being "very upfront about how he makes decisions," and Nick Fish as being "really good-hearted."

**Letters to the Editor**



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**Multnomah Village Farmers' Market canceled for season**

With great regret, the last market session for Multnomah Village Farmers Market was held on July 9, 2009. Simply put, sales were not high enough for the farmers and food vendors to cover their expenses. We were also unable to attract vegetable farmers, limiting the variety of produce available for customers.

Below is a list of the vendors who attended. You can find them at other Portland-area farmers markets including Hillsdale and OHSU here in Southwest. Draper Girls Farm, Graceful Blades, Greenville Farms, Herr Family Farm, Unger Farm, Missionary Chocolates, Wandering Aengus Ciderworks, Savory et Sweet, Nature's Choice, The Honey Pot, and Red Dragon Nursery.

Once the summer market season is over, we will talk to farmers and determine whether or not a market in Multnomah Village might work for them. We will be asking if different days or different times or both will be more beneficial. Thank you to all the customers who did come to the market.

*Eamon Molloy  
Manager, Hillsdale and  
Multnomah Village farmers markets*





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