# MULTNOMAH NOTEBOOK

#### By Maria Cahill

# Hillsdale Terrace update from Home Forward (formerly Housing Authority of Portland)

Home Forward is trying to help people find housing and stabilize their lives. Background on the project was presented. The proposed new name for the re-development is "Stephens Creek Crossing."

They are still looking for Section 8 landlords to help families with kids in school and others stay in this neighborhood. The California Street neighbors are working with Home Forward to determine pedestrian connections passing through the site and to what extent California Street should be developed.

Most agree that Texas Street was somewhat overbuilt. The current proposal for California Street is 20' right-ofway with curbs and sidewalks. Home Forward is proposing a "woonerf."

[Note: woonerfs are the Dutch term what we might call a "shared street" or "universal street.]

Only five houses are using California Street and a comment from Rachel Dvorsky, one of those neighbors, was that the road is currently in such poor shape that the five neighbors use another route to get to their houses now anyway and would continue to do so. She also said that a narrower road would be better.

Home Forward invited Kay Durtschi, Multnomah's transportation chair, to the next citizen advisory committee meeting because right now Hillsdale's voice is dominating the conversation.

A discussion ensued regarding who should be commenting on what and why. For information: California Street is in the Multnomah neighborhood, but Hillsdale Terrace/Stephens Creek Crossing is in Hillsdale.

#### Fire Station #18 Update

Fire Station #18, located at 8720 SW 30th Ave, is undergoing a seismic upgrade. The station is temporarily located at 9155 SW Barbur Blvd. A discussion of buying additional property ensued. There will be multiple contractors on site, working early and some on the weekends. Electricity and water upgrades are in progress and expansion at the current site is occurring. Project completion is expected in January and there will be an open house.

A motion of support was made that the Multnomah Neighborhood Association stand behind the adjoining neighbors' direction of a narrow street width or pedestrian friendly solution for the California Street development. Motion seconded. Discussion ensued. 19 in favor, none against, one abstention.

## Capitol Highway/Sidewalk Infill

Randy Bonella reported that the Capitol Highway Project (between Taylors Ferry Road and Multnomah Boulevard) has been shelved. The \$5.6 million is being reallocated. Open house attendees advocated using it for sidewalk infill.

Rob Gardner reported that he agrees with Randy's characterization. The Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. coalition is considering 5 different projects for reallocation.

PBOT (Portland Bureau of Transportation) is compiling a list of actual, physically "improvable" projects and looking at ways to reduce the City's liability redeveloping them with Southwest topographical appropriate standards.

The impression from a meeting of members and SWNI President Marianne Fitzgerald and the mayor was that the Bureau of Environmental Services may or may not follow suit in trying to help with redevelopment standards appropriate to our neighborhood.

### Garden Home Traffic Calming

Traffic calming (currently speed tables as indicated by the word BUMP painted on the road along this stretch of Garden Home) from Capitol Highway to 45th Avenue is proposed. This crosses neighborhood associations. MNA was invited to join the Ash Creek working group discussions,





even though decisions on what the City should do would be up to individual neighborhoods.

Randy talked to all the homeowners along there. He hasn't talked to apartment dwellers and still needs to get clarification on whether we need to talk to homeowners or renters. There's a 12-unit condo building and another complex with 23 additional units or so.

Randy visited 14 homes. Six said ves, they were in favor of moving the discussion forward. Three were on the fence but didn't seem to care; one said no, and four he hasn't been able to talk to.

A neighbor who lives on the curve on Garden Home and has witnessed many accidents made an argument that we need traffic calming along this stretch of road in our neighborhood; caution chevrons at beginning of curve seem to have reduced accidents, but additional traffic calming is needed.

Speed bumps need to be spaced carefully; a flashing speed limit sign might be good, too. Randy said average speed was 38 mph, peak speed was 55 mph. Becca Jones commented that she lives and walks on that stretch of Garden Home and it feels dangerous everyday.

A motion was made that the MNA request the City do a study for traffic calming on our segment of Garden Home Road. Motion seconded. 11 in favor, four against, three abstentions. Motion passed.

Discussion ensued. We're not taking a position on the means of traffic calming such as speed tables, flashing signlights, etc. Speed tables in other parts of the neighborhood have been used a launching pads for young drivers and causing damage to neighbor's yards and endangering people.

Sarah White reminded us that in a previous meeting we presented that the MNA would have the opportunity to respond to PBOT's proposed solution if we initiate the study process and contact with the people along that stretch of road.

An opposing view was presented that considering budget cuts this year and next for PBOT, we need to be a careful what we advocate money to be spent on.

Money was allocated out of HB 2001 funds, identified specifically for traffic calming, but certainly, as evidenced by the \$5.6M that was just reallocated to Capitol Highway; the money could possibly be reallocated for other projects.

Moses Ross will relay to the Ash Creek NA that he has heard some concerns that speed tables have drawbacks and that some people would like to explore other options.

Maria Cahill is secretary of the

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Hillsdale

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#### Restaurants/Pubs

HILLSDALE FARMERS MARKET

Down to Earth Cafe Sasquatch Brewing Co. The Village Hut Grand Central Baking Co. Three Square Grill Otto & Anitas's Schnitzel Haus Verde Cocina Salvador Molly's

supposed to regulate. Economists were the ones who told former President Richard Nixon not

to sign the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; they said: the right to a job would hurt the economy; we can change this back to a government for the people.

Wim Laven is an adjunct professor in Conflict Resolution at Portland State University.

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# Multnomah Neighborhood Association.

# **OPEN FORUM**

**Occupy Movement** 

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for equality.

We have an oligarchy because our elected officials' campaigns are sponsored by the very industries they are