

Neal named to head up history project; home demolition discussed

MAPLEWOOD NOTEBOOK

By Lee Braymen-Cleary
The Southwest Portland Post

On July 9, members of the Maplewood Neighborhood Association convened at April Hill Park for their monthly meeting.

Board Members: Anna Bell Neal has been appointed secretary effective September 1, and Jen Seamens will soon join the board as member at large. Still, no chairperson exists, and any residents wanting to apply for the position should contact Clair Carder via email at Maplewood@swni.org. One primary chairperson's task involves organizing monthly meetings and presiding over them.

Garden Tour: The 2014 garden tour, held on July 21, was a success. Approximately 70 Maplewood residents gathered at Maplewood Coffee & Tea, paid \$10 for walking maps and toured nearly a dozen local gardens. The treasurer announced that revenue gleaned has raised the Association's bank account to \$2,621.07.

Local Tennis Courts: Jill Gaddis reported that while Nike has generously donated new surfaces for local tennis courts, there is now a serious problem. Residents have used those courts when setting off fire works, and the surfaces are now ruined.

Parks Bond Measure: Local parks are in need of \$68 million for urgent repairs, safety concerns, restrooms and ADA accommodations. Possibly a bond measure addressing these needs will appear on the November ballot.

If approved, these monies would replace the expiring 1994 funds. Portland Parks and Recreation is seeking citizen comments on the bond issue.

For more information check out www.ParksReplacementBond.org. If you would like to comment on the proposed bond, please email City Commissioner Amanda Fritz at Amanda@portlandoregon.gov.

April Hill Park/City Agreement: Jill Gaddis has received and signed all paperwork related to City funds granted for the development of April Hill Park's wetlands area.

Two bridges and walkways that will protect the delicate ecosystem there are planned. Ground breaking will not take place until next summer, but that distant date will allow for gathering of all necessary permits and for engineers to draw up plans.

Home Demolition: Jill Gaddis recently attended one of the home demolition meetings being held around the city. DEQ has serious concerns about how demolition is approached, especially because the number of houses being destroyed each year is mounting.

Environmental concerns include asbestos pollution. Another concern is that 75 percent of torn down buildings now go to into landfills. But if demolition is done carefully, and windows are removed, that can drop to as low as 20 percent.

Editor's Note: This is an important issue for our community, from an urban planning perspective, as developers in search of buildable land tear down existing structures to build new homes. Even historic homes are vulnerable. Often what replace them (on standard lots) are large homes that far
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