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## City Council hearing scheduled for Tryon-Stephens neighborhood plan

By Erik Vidstrand and Don Snedecor  
The Southwest Portland Post

Over the past 18 months, Southwest community members have been addressing local infrastructure concerns which included types of roads, pedestrian paths, and stormwater development.

City planners have acknowledged that Southwest Portland's local street system is affected by poor connectivity and lack of safe facilities for active transportation modes (walking, bicycling, and access to transit).

Stormwater management in Southwest Portland is affected by an incomplete stormwater system and lack of treatment for runoff.

The Tryon-Stephens Neighborhood Street Plan aims to establish a more connected local street and pathway network by integrating improvements to transportation networks, access to transit, and the stormwater system within the study area.

According to Denver Igarta, city planner from the Bureau of Transportation, city staff will present a draft of the Tryon-Stephens

Headwaters Neighborhood Street Plan to the Portland City Council on Nov. 4.

"We want to have the plan adopted by resolution," said Igarta. "This means that the city council endorses the plan as a guide for street network and stormwater system completion in the plan area (Multnomah, Hillsdale and Burlingame neighborhoods)."

Section 6 of the plan outlines a variety of recommendations for next steps. It includes ongoing collaboration between the bureaus of transportation and environmental services on completion of both the street and stormwater systems.

This section outlines the tools developed in the plan for both private development and public improvements, as well as opportunities for funding and coordination.

Other recommendations establish criteria to allow non-motorized access only, close urban trail system gaps, and develop criteria for interim shoulder widening on streets without curbs.

Several streets that carry moderate levels of traffic in the area still lack sidewalks, such as Capitol Hill Road, Hume Street west of 30th Avenue, and Taylors Ferry Road.

Improvements to Capitol Highway

are part of a Bureau of Environmental Services-led project that is moving forward independent of the Tryon-Stephens Plan.

A local transportation infrastructure charge would allow developers to pay a fee rather than building required frontage improvements. Collected fees could be set aside as leverage funds for forming a local improvement district to improve an entire block.

At the Oct. 13 Multnomah Neighborhood Association meeting, there was discussion regarding key Tryon-Stephens Plan recommendations that the Ashcreek NA passed the previous night.

Ashcreek supports the recommendations



Naomi Tsurumi, BES staff, discusses the Tryon-Stephens Plan with community member Barbara O'Neil at a workshop earlier this year. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

but wants the language to be strengthened for the city's commitment to improve  
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## Nordia House in Garden Home celebrates Scandinavian heritage

By KC Cowan  
The Southwest Portland Post

Roughly 10 percent of Oregon's population can claim some ancestral link to



Greg Smith, executive director of Nordia House, poses by the Setziol hand-carved doors. (Post photo by KC Cowan)

Scandinavian countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden.

Immigrants from those countries settled here because the landscape and climate felt familiar to them, and because farming, fishing and cannery jobs gave them opportunities to succeed.

But even if you have no family heritage to Scandinavia, it's well worth a visit to Nordia House, which opened this summer.

Built by the Scandinavian Heritage Foundation (soon to be renamed Nordic NW), the center is located at 8800 SW Oleson Road in Garden Home.

According to executive director Greg Smith, Nordia House is a dream many years in the making.

"Twenty years ago the Scandinavian Heritage Foundation wanted to build a cultural center, to celebrate all things Nordic," Smith explained.

The first challenge was to find land. In 1994, Ross Fogelquist donated an initial acre to the foundation from his own property on Oleson Road.

Fogelquist owns a log cabin home there, which was built by Henry Steiner, the lead carpenter during construction of Timberline Lodge.

The Foundation board was then able to buy some land from Fogelquist's neighbor for a total of two and a half acres for the project. The serious fundraising for building began.

"Our original design was for a 25,000 square foot building, with two stories, and an archival basement," said Smith. "Quite an ambitious project with an ambitious price tag on it."

But when the recession hit, they scaled back to a more modest design. They committee fell in love with the sleek, modern design by Brian Melton of Diloreto Architects.

"With some last minute fundraising push last year, we were able to kick off the building process in August last year, and they handed us the keys the end of April of this year," said Smith.

The center features stunning carved entry doors of Alaskan yellow cedar by the late Northwest artist, Leroy Setziol. He designed them, but as his health failed, his daughter, Monica, completed the carving. The doors were put in storage until the center could be built.

"I like to say we built a three and a half million dollar building around his doors," Smith said, laughing.

The new design may be smaller, but it still provides plenty of room for Nordia House's main mission: To celebrate, educate and enhance knowledge of the Nordic culture through arts, history, spoken word, and film.

The 10,000-square-foot building has a gallery to host exhibits on Nordic culture and history from around the world.

A large ballroom with wooden floors and a wall of windows is perfect for concerts, weekly Scandinavian dance classes, lectures,

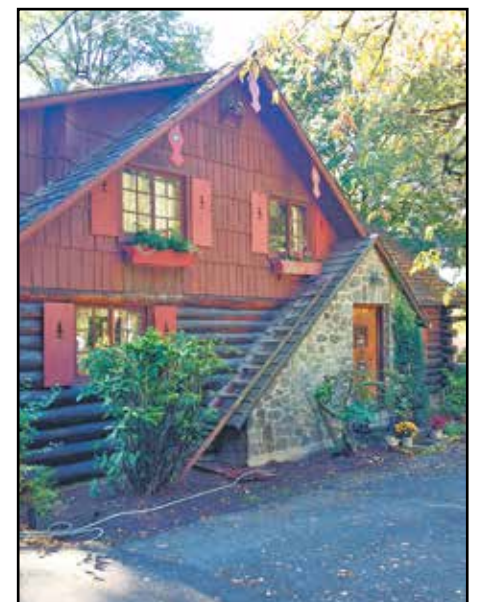
and large dinners. A smaller conference room is perfect for showing films and smaller meetings.

Already within the first month of operation, Nordia House has hosted folk music concerts, a contemporary jazz band from Iceland, as well as the Oregon Ballet Theatre.

The Portland Chamber Orchestra held its first concert this past October in its new performance space at Nordia House.

The center is open to the public, and there's a full café, Broder Söder. It offers lunch during the week and weekend brunches with Scandinavian food, such as Danish pancakes, Norwegian lefse, smoked trout hash, fritters and strong coffee to wash it all down.

Nordia House has proven enormously popular already, with membership in the Scandinavian Heritage Foundation up 50  
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Next door to Nordia House sits a log cabin built by Henry Steiner, lead carpenter during construction of Timberline Lodge. (Post photo by KC Cowan)

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