

Slate of Sucec, Hammond, Christensen, and Davis elected to serve neighborhood

MULTNOMAH NOTEBOOK

By Erik Vidstrand
The Southwest Portland Post

Even though it was Carol McCarthy's last meeting as chair of the Multnomah Neighborhood Association, McCarthy's resolve remained until the very end. Vice chair Martie Sucec remarked that she wanted McCarthy to serve another year but rules forbid a third term. "Her 'fire-in-the-belly' is felt everywhere," Sucec said.

According to McCarthy, "The city is keeping citizen groups, including neighborhood associations, out of the planning process."

"The fight for appealing the comprehensive plan continues. We need everyone to continue petitioning the city and attending hearings to save our neighborhood."

Land use chair Jim Peterson made three motions objecting to several comprehensive plan components: the P-45 amendment allowing middle housing, that the neighborhood "center" designation be changed to "corridor," and that citizens be included in city planning meetings. All three motions passed.

"The Community Involvement Committee advises the city on development projects," Peterson clarified. "We want a financial report [from this group] once a year. There are no open meetings and we're not sure how organizations are selected to serve."

Will Fuller said that there is an equity issue that historically minority or low-income communities are not represented by neighborhood associations.

"These associations must expand to include other groups," he said. "Additionally there is a clause that a 'citizen' is not included but you do not need to be a citizen to become involved. Legal citizenship is not a requirement."

McCarthy proposed that the Community Involvement Committee be assigned to the Portland Office of Neighborhood Involvement, not the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability.

Chris Lyons, transportation chair, provided updates on Capitol Highway.

"New design concepts were recently posted on the city website," Lyons announced. "Feedback is needed by early November. Rep. Ann Lininger is looking into finding more money from the state coffers to fully fund the project."

Lyons said he will remain on the Capitol Highway advisory committee but is transitioning from the transportation chair role. According to by-laws, all committee chairs will be appointed by the new chair and will serve as representatives at SWNI committee meetings.

Elections were then held by secret ballot. A total of 32 total votes granted all four candidates a position for the next year.

Martie Sucec, who was Multnomah chair from 1997-2001, was elected chair. According to SWNI executive director Sylvia Bogert, officers are now limited to two one-year terms.

"I served as co-chair for part of 2006 as well," Sucec said. "I was involved from the beginning to the end of the Southwest community plan."

"I was also helped with the tree code, the local improvement district



Past-chair Carol McCarthy (left) hands the gavel to newly elected Multnomah chair Martie Sucec. McCarthy served for two terms. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

process, and a component of the Capitol Highway Plan."

Sucec said she plans to keep moving issues forward on transportation, mixed-use development, and comprehensive plan issues.

Leslie Hammond was elected vice-chair. Hammond has been a member of the association for 20 years and just recently became more involved. She disclosed that she has a legal and real estate background.

"I want to assist the board and help Martie," Hammond said after answering several questions from the audience. "I don't buy the city's commitment to keep single-family homes in the area."

Katherine Christensen was elected secretary. She has been filling in for the last year as association secretary. Tad Davis was elected

treasurer. Davis mentioned that he is a Multnomah Village Business Association member.

A brief update on the Spring Garden Park had some members uneasy with Commissioner Amanda Fritz and Director Mike Abbaté making the final decision about a contentious amphitheater.

"They may even change the name of the park," said Ken Boltz, a park neighbor. "At a September park meeting, the vote was pretty even on a paved amphitheater or no amphitheater at all."

Stewart Rounds stood up at the end of the meeting to applaud McCarthy's dedication, stamina, and voice for the community for the last two years. McCarthy said she will remain involved on the board as past-chair.

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