

County commissioner discusses homelessness at Multnomah neighborhood meeting

By Erik Vidstrand
The Southwest Portland Post

Multnomah County Commissioner Sharon Meieran, who represents the west side, was the featured speaker at the Jan. 9 Multnomah neighborhood meeting. The commissioner updated the group on the priorities she has been working on. Meieran, an emergency room physician who still practices, discussed homeless people and their difficulty in navigating health services. “Another challenge at the county,” she said, “is mental health care. It would be worthwhile to provide health and mental services and in supportive housing. “Many of the people living on the

street cycle through jails, the ER, and then back on the street.” Meieran said that an assessment is taking place involving interviews with administrators, people living on the street, and care providers. “We don’t want to recreate the wheel,” Meieran said, “but we’re looking at what solutions have been done before as well as investigating additional funding streams.” Meieran said the assessment would be ready by April. The Joint Office of Homeless Services is coordinated by the city of Portland, which provides housing facilities, and Multnomah County, which is responsible for mental health services. The commissioner mentioned that the county budget is going to be cut.



Multnomah neighborhood chair Martie Sucec (right) welcomed Multnomah County Commissioner Sharon Meieran at the January meeting. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

Some neighbors seemed perplexed since they feel their taxes keep going up. Some asked about where the marijuana taxes are going. Meieran said she’ll look into it and perhaps ask for a piece of the pie. According to the rules on distributing marijuana taxes, 40 percent of the funds go for education, 20 percent may be used for mental health, alcoholism, and drug services, and 15 percent for state law enforcement. Five percent is for alcohol and drug abuse prevention, early intervention, and treatment services. Neighborhood chair Martie Sucec thanked the commissioner and invited her back once the homeless analysis is complete.

Neighbor expresses concern about plans for new apartment building

At the end of the evening, Alison Meenhen, who lives next to the newest proposed four-story mixed-use building, “Multnomah Station,” read a letter she wrote to the architects.

“I’m not opposed to development,” Meenhen said, “but maybe some changes need to be made. Just displaying the gas pump in the lobby doesn’t cut it and just throws a bone to the city. “What we need is a building designed like it’s always been here,” she said. “There is no parking, the height should be reduced to two or three floors, and they should put in a grocery store for neighbors.” Meenhen said that these large projects erode the character of the village, will bring more cars and pedestrians, and that she is not sure what to expect once the completed apartment building opens. Leslie Hammond, former vice-chair, said she called the architect regarding lack of parking. “I’m not done with this,” Hammond said. Sucec thanked community members for donating over \$2,700 to support legal appeals with regards to the Portland Comprehensive Plan changes in zoning and height limits in Multnomah. The Multnomah Neighborhood Association meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. in Room 30 at the Multnomah Arts Center.

Grier R. Ingebretsen (1942 – 2017)

Longtime Multnomah resident Grier Ingebretsen died in December at the age of 75. Grier was born in Seattle, Nov. 27, 1942 and passed away Dec. 25, 2017 in Portland. A memorial service was held Dec. 29, 2017. Grier was the son of Evelyn Taylor and Shirley B. Ingebretsen. He was a 1961 graduate of Oregon City High School and joined the Navy but was called home due to this father’s illness. Grier worked in the Oregon City paper mill before moving into the floor covering industry. He was a long time active member of Bergfreunde Ski Club and has many friends and experiences from those amazing days on the mountains. Grier is survived by his wife of 27 years, Patti; sister, Carinda Ingebretsen; son, Erik Ingebretsen; stepsons, Steve and Tim Waitman; and three grandchildren, Caleb Ingebretsen, Amy and Megan Waitman. Donations may be made to Grier’s beloved Revolutionary War Memorial Project, Sons of the American



Revolution at www.ORWM.org. For this complete obituary, please visit www.riverviewcemeteryfuneralhome.com/obituary.

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