

**Minutes of Maplewood Neighborhood Association Meeting
February 11, 2008**

15 people in attendance

7:14 - Meeting called to order and Introductions – Micki Carrier

7:15 - Minutes from January's meeting will be approved with one change and that is the addition of a note that Micki Carrier will write a letter regarding MNA support for a SW Police Precinct. NOTE: The postcard announcing our Annual Meeting on March 10, has been mailed. It is a very attractive mail piece.

7:16 - Treasurer's Report – Joan Frazer for Chris Byrne. The balance is the Maplewood Neighborhood Association is \$1,028.57. We have paid our rent for the meeting room of \$250.00 through 6/20/08, and paid for our website in the amount of \$95.40. April Hill Parks' account has a balance of \$651.05.

7:18 - SWNI Report – Anne-Marie Fischer
Anne-Marie mentioned the SW Hope Feed the Hungry program has been kicked off. It is a very comprehensive campaign and includes collection barrels and informational tables at local businesses, community centers, and churches. Restaurants participating in Dine Out and Donate promotions raise money for the campaign via special dining days, coupons, and discounts. The February issue of SW News has a list of some of these venues.

There is also an article in the SW News on Vermont Creek and giant hogweed, which is not native and a noxious weed which can produce a lot of seed. This weed can be stopped before it gains momentum with the help of SWNI and concerned neighbors. Keeping the area free of an invasive species will protect landscapes, the watershed and the overall livability of Vermont Creek. The SW News tells what to do if you find this giant hogweed.

The SW Community Center partnered to tutor students. Terri Davis started this program. The Parks committee sent a letter to Dan Saltzman, and Commission members in regard to holding their meetings in Council centers. It was suggested that Mr. Saltzman and the Commission take Tri-Met to get to these meetings.

The Portland Police Bureau is considering changes to their current patrol districts, which will have an impact on our neighborhood. There will be a meeting for Southwest Portland on February 19th at 5:30pm in the Multnomah Center Capital Room. It would be good for as many of us to attend as possible. These meetings are Chief Rosie Sizer's chance to hear our concerns. It is our opportunity to: view proposed boundary changes; learn about redistricting recommendations; and provide feedback. Information on this meeting can be obtained by calling: 503-823-0097.

7:20 – April Hill Park – Jill Gaddis – there was a work party on January 26th ...pulled out a lot of invasive plants. Chris Mays pulled out a lot of trash from the forested areas. A lot metal as well as blackberry vines and English Ivy were removed.

On February 23 there will be a party to plant some native plants where the non-native species formerly was. BES will provide the plants.

The Grant was turned in for April Hill Park. Parks Department is calculating the cost of a boardwalk. The Porta-Potty is now a renewed interest. New people in the department have shown more interest. An automatic locking system for the Porta-Potty after a certain hour might be an option. Another item discussed was a 'composting' Porta-Potty.

Jill is speaking to Mike Denham about a sign and an information area. Mike may build it. Talk was of how to add doggy bags to the kiosk.

Anne-Marie mentioned a flier that was passed out that shows the Office of Neighborhood Involvement has funds for child care, language translation, bus passes and other items to encourage people to get involved in their neighborhood meetings.

7:35 - Maplewood Summer Picnic – Bill Rector. Bill said there was a great turnout for the recent picnic planning meeting. Bill needs to let people know what is needed. One item is that it is felt we need a marching band. Gary Swanson-Davies offered to provide Bill with a CD of a band he knows about. The next picnic planning meeting will be in mid-March. Mike suggested the Multnomah Center has a wide variety of musicians. There are also several accomplished musicians from Friend's Church. The next meeting will be March 13 at the Multnomah Center at 7pm.

7:40 – Election procedures – Gary Swanson-Davies. Gary passed out a paper delineating the procedure for our 2008 elections. A signup sheet was passed out and people encouraged to sign up for whichever post they were interested in. Gary encouraged several people to sign for each position, as it would add excitement to the election process. Anne-Marie asked if a person could hold more than one office. Gary said yes, but they would only have one vote.

7:45 – Land Use – Chris Mays – Chris passed out a summary of the current land use reviews. A discussion was held about the PODS issue. The City of Portland Transportation Department has a regulation that if they are on a street there are time limits and certain distance requirements must be met. There are no time limits on private property. Whether parked on the property or street, a permit is required, and costs vary.

Another note is that the single family house purchased by St. Luke's has been converted for business use for classrooms, offices, and storage.

Jill asked if the water problem on 5108 SW Vermont has been resolved. Chris Mays said that it had been.

Mike Denham asked how often the Portland Maps are updated, and Chris said quite often.

7:48 – Parks – Bill Rector - not too much to report..there will be a Gabriel Park skateboard park meeting on 2/29 at 6pm.

Anne-Marie asked if there is any chance that SW Community Center can provide a skateboard demo at our picnic.

7:50 – Safety (position open)

Micki Carrier mentioned that three cars were broken into and one stolen..and strongly suggested that valuables not be left in cars; that car doors are locked. This happened in February on SW 62nd. Micki suggested that women attend the local self-defense classes.

7:55 - Technology – Gary Swanson-Davies – nothing to report. Waiting to connect with the web person Alexander Ben-Israel had recommended.

8:00 - Transportation – Vern Krist – Vern had put together a great visual on the wall which showed Vermont Street, and proposed improvements. We need to ask ourselves where we want to be in regard to sidewalks and bike paths. The map that Vern posted on the wall showed a one-sided sidewalk and bike lane. A survey is scheduled to go out to the neighborhood explaining the projects in question and asking for neighborhood input. After that some preliminary money numbers will be available. It was brought up that the City owns a small portion of the land in question. Several homes on the sidewalk will be asked to either donate several feet of their land, or will be paid a small amount for it. Two neighbors on Vermont have donated their part of the land. There is also a possibility of money from the Safe Path to School fund. One item brought up is that there should be several, not just one or two Zebra crossing crosswalks on Vermont. If sidewalks are built they will have to be ADA accessible.

Jill Gaddis brought up the fact that if we ask for nothing, we will get nothing. Anne-Marie Fischer asked what comes next. Vern said that the consultants will present the options based on the survey which will go out in February. A rough cost estimate will be presented in March. The survey is to gauge interests in this project.

8:20 – Schools – Alexander Ben-Israel, our school liaison was not present at this meeting.

New Business:

Greg Coodley from the Fanno Creek Clinic presented information on a proposed Children's Health Care Initiative. This initiative would cost \$30 per (currently uninsured) child per month. There might be \$33 Million surplus from the City that can back more students in public schools. Greg was asking for people to help as volunteers to get signatures for this health care program for kids. Greg passed out a sheet with some information, including:

- a portion of the children attending public schools in Portland lack health insurance
- poor health results in decreased academic achievement
- all children attending school deserve health insurance
- health coverage for all students in the public school district results in the district receiving \$6000-7000 more dollars from the State of Oregon, which would be over ten times the cost of annual insurance for that child
- the program would be largely self financing after an initial setup period
- no additional taxes would be needed to implement this program
- the estimated cost would be \$4.05 million dollars for annual coverage for approximately 9,000 uninsured children. This cost would drop if more children receive insurance through other State or Federal programs
- the City of Portland expects a \$30 million plus surplus in 2008-2009, enough to pay for the start of this program

Greg was asking for involvement...Money is needed to hire a signature gathering firm for this initiative, and also for our help in collecting signatures. Several people signed the signature sheet Greg passed around.

This issue will be put on the Agenda for the next meeting

8:40 – Meeting Adjourned