

### Civic Life –Final Narrative Report

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| Grant Agreement        | 32001238                                       |
| Grantee                | Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc.                  |
| Project Title          | District Coalition Office                      |
| Fiscal Year            | July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020             |
| Overall Project Status | 6-month report- January 2020 through June 2020 |
| Submitted by           | SWNI Executive Director Sylvia Bogert          |

#### Grant Purposes

The purpose of this Agreement is to advance the City's goal of supporting the creation of "a framework by which the people of the City of Portland may effectively participate in civic affairs and work to improve the livability and character of their Neighborhoods and the City." (City Code 3.96.010)

**Project Summary:** This project is the operation of the Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. Coalition, which supports 17 of the 94 neighborhood associations recognized by the City of Portland. Civic Life Grant funds cover the equivalent of 4 FTE staff positions. We are tasked providing the following:

- Support community and neighborhood impact on public decisions.
- Increase the number and diversity of people who are involved and volunteer in their communities and neighborhoods.
- Build and sustain neighborhood and community capacity.
- Provide tools and resources to improve neighborhood and community livability and safety.
- Provide accurate information and responsive and effective services to community members and organizations.
- Be guided by the city Goal X, Goal Y and Goal Z as outlined in the agreement.

#### Summary of Partnerships and Success Stories from January to June 2020:

SWNI has successfully partnered with local communities, neighborhood businesses and other nonprofit organizations as well as city, county, and regional government partners to address our mission of empowering civic action to maintain and improve the livability of Southwest neighborhoods.

**SWNI's newspaper the SW News also allows many local community-based organizations extended reach** for promoting their activities (free monthly distribution to 9,000 households). The Neighborhood House Senior Center uses the paper to advertise affordable, accessible trips and activities that are crucial for seniors seeking to maintain their independence and avoid social isolation. We also help with promotion for Neighborhood House's spring food drive and programs for vulnerable youth and families. The Multnomah County library advertises programs for families, youth and seniors. City bureaus, Multnomah County, Multnomah Arts Center and Head Start all rely on SW News to promote their monthly offerings. SWNI partnered

with the League of Women Voters to promote its free Civic Education programs in SW News, inviting the public to learn about juvenile justice, immigration justice, women's rights and climate justice.

### **Successes featured for the last 6-months include:**

#### **January 2020**

**SW Capitol Highway Open House** – SWNI partnered with the City of Portland's Transportation, Environmental Services, and Water Bureaus to host an open house focused on construction of the SW Capitol Highway: Multnomah Village – West Portland project. The city's contractor, J. W. Fowler, Inc., was present alongside city staff to provide an understanding of the proposed construction schedule, sequencing, and traffic detours. A copy of the 95% engineering plans and right-of-way maps were available and affected residents and other neighbors were encouraged to attend to learn how construction of this project will affect their daily routines for the next year and a half. The project will provide sidewalks, bike lanes, stormwater facilities, and water system upgrades along SW Capitol Highway between Garden Home and Taylors Ferry Road and some adjacent streets. Funding for the project comes from the 'Fixing Our Streets' city gas tax, Transportation System Development Charges, the Oregon Lottery, the Bureau of Environmental Services, and Water Bureau.

**Residential Infill Project (RIP)** – SWNI's Land Use Committee (LUC) continues to focus on tracking and developing community advocacy related to BPS's Residential Infill Project and State of Oregon bills HB2001, HB2003, and SB534. SWNI uses SW News to publicize every step of this project for public information and community advocacy during each stage of the design process. Two public hearings were held on the draft in January, followed by council deliberations, amendments and a decision.

**Civic Life Code Hearing** – In January, SWNI again publicized the status of the Civic Life Code 3.96 revision process. A hearing was scheduled for November 14<sup>th</sup> so the public could be updated on the proposed code changes but because of overwhelming community interest, there wasn't enough time to hear from everyone who signed up to deliver public testimony and another meeting was held in January to hear the rest of the testimony. SWNI submitted formal comments and testified, as did many of our member neighborhood associations and partners.

**Metro Council Hearing** – Metro Council got help from SWNI to publicize a special hearing dedicated to the testimony on the potential funding measure called, 'Get Moving'. The Metro Council wanted to hear directly from the public about transportation investments that could be a part of a 2020 transportation funding ballot measure. Metro staff and local transportation planners were on hand at the hearing to answer questions about projects and programs that could be included in a funding measure. The Transportation Funding Task Force appointed by the Metro Council President has met regularly to advise the Council on a possible 2020 funding measure addressing traffic and safety on some of the region's most dangerous and congested corridors. At each meeting, the Transportation Funding Task Force heard public testimony from community members.

**SW Corridor Light Rail Project** – SWNI promoted TriMet meetings to update the public on the status of the SW Corridor Light Rail Project. Beginning in early 2020, project partners hosted a series of open houses to share preliminary design plans in conjunction with the release of the Conceptual Design Report, which illustrated the project’s preliminary designs and document opportunities. The report also identified challenges to be addressed in the next phase of design. Community members were invited to participate online or in person to explore project designs and provide valuable feedback. SWNI has several people participating on the Community Advisory Committee and the Steering Committee. Updates are given at all SWNI Transportation Committee meetings as well as Board Meetings. The Southwest Corridor Light Rail Project will bring high-capacity transit to one of the most congested travel corridors in our region. Running from downtown Portland to Bridgeport Village in Lake Oswego, this light rail project will include 13 stations, park-and-ride access, connection to Marquam Hill and access to fast-growing job centers in Washington County.

**Community Meeting to Keep the SW Corridor Affordable** – SWNI publicized a meeting hosted by partners to encourage neighbors to meet, share housing needs with elected officials and learn about land banking and how it can help affordable housing and small businesses. The Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, United of Oregon, the City of Tigard and Proud Ground hosted the meeting, which was held at the Muslim Educational Trust.

**2020 Census** - SWNI partnered with the United States Census to publicize their search for employees to work in local communities. Census statistics are used by all levels of government to allot funds appropriately for schools, roads, hospitals and more. The data is also used by government, private enterprise and non-profits to plan their services. Census data determines the number of representatives each state has in the U.S House of Representatives. Additionally, anyone seeking statistical information within a geographic area can make use of census data that is updated every ten years. SWNI also helped the U.S Census Bureau publicize its announcement that, due to COVID-19, Congress approved 120-day extension to deliver final apportionment counts.

**Hayhurst Neighborhood Winter “Back to School” Safety Vigil**. In January, Hayhurst NA, SWNI’s Public Safety Committee, and the Portland Police Bureau teamed up to hold a “Back to School” Safety Vigil at the corner of SW 45th & Vermont. They conducted the vigil early on a rainy morning when there was a lot of commuter traffic coming through the intersection. Officer Jacobson, with the Portland Police Bureau, was present for the vigil and stopped six drivers to issue warnings about speeding through the intersection, driving without headlights and other infractions. SWNI and PBOT provided safety vests, ‘Please Drive Slowly’ signs and traffic cones.

**CPR and AED certification training** - Markham Neighborhood Association and Markham NET co-sponsored a FREE American Heart Association CPR and AED certification training for adult, child and infant victims at the Multnomah Arts Center in December 2019. SWNI supported the event by paying the auditorium rental fee to Portland Parks. The free training, which normally costs \$70 or more, was offered to individuals on Markham Neighborhood’s Constant Contact email distribution list normally used for meeting announcements and other neighborhood business.

Sixty people attended, practiced saving a victim in full cardiac arrest and received the certification.

**SWNI partnered with Bureau of Planning and Sustainability** to promote the many projects they are working on in the neighborhoods of southwest Portland. For example, PBOT and BPS are refining land use, circulation and urban design along SW Naito and around the Ross Island Bridgehead in South Portland; they are developing an updated vision and implementing maps, code and action items for the southern part of the Willamette River as well as natural resources and scenic resources protection plans; and for the West Portland Town Center Plan, they are creating a vision and identifying actions to transition the area into a healthy, inclusive and complete community. PBOT and BPS are also correcting the location of environmental overlay zones to better align with rivers, streams, wetlands, floodplains, forests, steep slopes and wildlife habitat along with other projects.

**Support to Neighborhood Emergency Teams (NETs)** – In the January and February issues of SW News, SWNI published an emergency section with tips for preparedness and a list of each NET team in SW Portland along with their meeting times and contact information to help promote NETs and recruit members to be trained. There are 16 NET teams in SW Portland neighborhoods. Neighborhood Emergency Teams are neighbors trained by the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management. They are preparing for the Cascadia earthquake, but deploy during virus pandemics, floods, fires, water main breaks, ice-storms, etc. They volunteer during disasters to do search and rescue as well as hazard and crowd control. Meetings are open to all.

**PBOT and South Portland Neighborhood Association team up** – To reduce traffic on narrow streets designed for local traffic, the South Portland neighborhood association worked with PBOT on a traffic improvement plan for the Lair Hill area south of downtown. The Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) started a nine-month pilot project designed to reduce cut-through traffic in the area, keeping regional car traffic on safer routes as it heads east on the Ross Island Bridge. PBOT maintenance crews have installed barricades and warning signs in the area as they prepared to gather data on traffic and speeding for project evaluation.

**SW Capitol Highway Construction Open House** – SWNI helped publicize a late January Open House sponsored by the City of Portland's Transportation, Environmental Services, and Water Bureaus partners. The open house focused on construction of the SW Capitol Highway and highlighted an understanding of the proposed construction schedule, sequencing, and traffic detours.

## **February 2020**

**Barbur Crossroads Safety Project Open House** – SWNI helped promote the ODOT project to make safety improvements to the Barbur crossroads area. The project is expected to improve safety for people walking, rolling, biking and driving through the area. Reducing crashes is also a key priority of the project as there has been more than 160 crashes in the intersection since 2007, at least 16% of which are related to northbound traffic on SW Capitol Hwy turning left onto SW Barbur Blvd or the I-5 southbound freeway onramp.

### **Community Conversation: 'Beyond Invitation: How Do We Create Inclusive Communities'** –

The SWNI Equity & Inclusion Committee hosted a program in February sponsored by Oregon Humanities to explore how organizations and communities can work toward being “inclusive.” Discussions included how policies, environment, and culture can support inclusivity, how they fail to support it and how we can know if a space is inclusive and accessible for all? The free conversation on February 20, 2020 took place at the Multnomah Arts Center. Approximately 23 people attended.

### **TriMet Open House about Southwest Corridor Light Rail Project Station Design** - SWNI

partnered with TriMet to publicize an open house hosted in February about Southwest Corridor Light Rail Project station design. The Southwest Corridor Light Rail Project will connect Downtown Portland and Tualatin with a 30-minute travel time and bring high capacity transit to one of the region’s most congested corridors. The project is in the early design phase and will use public feedback to inform ongoing design efforts.

### **Multnomah Arts Center nominated for National Register of Historic Places** –

One of SWNI’s neighborhood associations, the Multnomah NA, worked to nominate the Multnomah School for a place on the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination was unanimously endorsed by both the Portland Historic Landmarks Commission and by the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation. The nomination is based on the historical importance of the school’s educational program and its intact Spanish Colonial Revival architecture that was designed by Portland architect C.L. Goodrich. It is expected that the National Parks Service will adopt the listing in the spring of 2020. An article about the effort was included in the February issue of SW News.

### **Partnering with Bureau of Planning and Sustainability** –

SWNI partnered with the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability to promote the many projects they are working on in the neighborhoods of southwest Portland: The Residential Infill Project, Better Housing By Design, River Plan / South Reach, SW Naito Parkway Main Street Project.

## **March 2020**

### **West Portland Town Center Update** –

SWNI promoted a West Portland Town Center open house in early March sponsored by partners including the Community Alliance of Tenants, HAKI, Unite Oregon, and CPAH. Project staff and partners continue to develop ideas for a safer, more inclusive and healthier town center. The open house aimed to hear community input on three draft growth scenarios for the town center. Later in the spring/early summer there will be another open house for the Discussion Draft of the plan and more opportunities to comment.

### **Community Conversation about Homelessness** -

In February and March, Mayor Ted Wheeler offered a series of four conversations across the City of Portland in regard to our current homeless crisis. SWNI partnered with the City to host and promote the final conversation at the

Multnomah Arts Center on March 7th so community members could learn about how the City is addressing homelessness. The event also provided an opportunity for the City to listen to residents' priorities and ideas for improving our homeless situation as they go about shaping policies on how Portland can best alleviate the hardships of our neighbors experiencing homelessness in a compassionate way. We had 112 people sign-in, but the head-count was 140 people

**Emergency Preparedness Fair** - On Sunday, March 8th, the SWNI Public Safety Committee offered an event to help the public prepare for emergency situations. Approximately 250 people learned valuable skills to help prepare for the unexpected. The event offered experts, supplies and many useful door prizes to help inspire preparation for disasters and emergencies. Neighborhood Emergency Teams, the Portland Water Bureau, NW Natural Gas, American Red Cross, Andy and Bax Outdoor Store, NW Seismic and others were in attendance. Free grilled cheese samples from Franz Bakery were available as well as emergency-related seminars throughout the afternoon. George Noble, gave a presentation on Ham radios and how they can be used in emergencies. William Burgel discussed 'Neighborhood Geology and Earthquake Risk' and Tim Collins, senior engineer at the Portland Water Bureau, discussed Portland's present water supply system and decreasing its vulnerability to a seismic event.

**2020 Small Grants Announced.** In partnership with the Office of Community and Civic Life, SWNI coordinated the Community and Civic Engagement Small Grant program to build livable, equitable and sustainable neighborhoods and communities. SWNI received 9 proposals totaling \$18,923 in grant requests from neighborhood and community groups but only had \$9,443 to give. Grants were given for these five projects:

1. **Tackling Racism in our Backyard & in Our Schools**, South Burlingame NA- \$1,995: Community partners will launch and support a black student union affinity club in Robert Gray, provide mentorship, follow-up support & coaching along with free equity & inclusion training for parents over the course of 2020. This project is designed to continue the never-ending work of normalizing racial dialogue in our communities and schools with the goal of ensuring the health, safety, and wellbeing of our students of color.
2. **Eena Festival**, SWNI Equity & Inclusion Committee- \$1,545: Community Partners will work with the Equity & Inclusion Committee Chair Laura Campos to put on an Eena (Chinook Wawa for beaver) Festival in SW Portland. This educational event will focus on learning from the beaver and creating awareness of their benefits to our ecosystem, culminating in an event featuring an educational speaker, Native plantings, storytelling, Native American crafts, and onsite visit to a beaver dam are planned.
3. **English Classes for English Language Learners**, Impact NW (on behalf of Jackson SUN-Schools Uniting Neighborhoods)- \$1,903: Impact NW (INW) will offer two series of English classes for English learners taking place twice weekly, for 10 weeks at Jackson Middle School (JMS), over two terms. These classes are designed for recently immigrated parents of JMS students, as well as for others from the community. These are culturally responsive language skill-building opportunities designed to promote self-



confidence in a safe, fun, culturally responsive environment. The classes will inspire meaningful connections with each other, the school, and the larger community.

4. **Health & Wellness Programs for Immigrant Seniors**, Neighborhood House- \$2,000: This grant will fund women-only yoga classes for Muslim seniors. The weekly sessions go for two hours, the first dedicated to yoga/ fitness/mindfulness and the second focused on health education. The latter hour was added last year in response to participants' request for more information about health and nutrition.
5. **Code Squad Initiative**, SWNI Schools Committee- \$2,000: "Code Squad," is a 10-week program introducing computer science principles by teaching basic coding to students. Using Google Scratch, students learn in a facilitated, self-paced, fun yet challenging environment. Currently only offered fall quarter at JMS, this project expands to offer Code Squad spring & fall quarters 2020 at both Jackson MS and Robert Grey MS.

**SWNI partnered with the United States Census** to promote the census goal of counting every person living in the U.S. The data collected has an impact: REPRESENTATION: Determines the number of seats each state receives in the U.S. House of Representatives. FUNDING: Informs how billions of dollars are distributed for public services including roads, schools, and hospitals. April 1, 2020 is national Census Day. By that date, every home received an invitation to participate.

**SWNI partnered with BES** to promote their campaign against garlic mustard in the Portland area. We provided space for a 4-page insert in SW News with detailed information about the challenges of garlic mustard. Each year we designate 4 pages to inform the public about this aggressive invasive plant.

**SWNI helps 14<sup>th</sup> annual SW Hope food campaign from March-April** - SWNI partnered with Neighborhood House's SW Hope campaign to promote one of the largest communitywide collaborations in SW Portland. This 5-week campaign fought hunger in our community by bringing together a wide array of faith communities, businesses, and individual community members to raise nearly two million pounds of food for the Neighborhood House Food Pantry. SW HOPE aimed to surpass the two million-pound mark this year, making a huge impact in the Food Pantry and for those who rely on it. Unfortunately, cancellations due to COVID-19 only allowed them to raise 147,012 pounds of food, but thanks to a virtual "Welcome Home Hour of Hope," event, which SWNI promoted, Neighborhood House was able raise a resounding \$137,689! More than 300 registered guests and supporters made this unprecedented number possible. Every dollar raised goes towards feeding, housing, educating, supporting, and building community for our neighbors of all ages and backgrounds.

**Partnering with Bureau of Planning and Sustainability** – SWNI partnered with the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability to promote the many projects they are working on in the neighborhoods of southwest Portland: The Residential Infill Project, HB2001, SB534, and the West Portland Town Center Plan Open House.

## April 2020

**COVID-19 Response at the SWNI Office** - With the COVID-19 pandemic taking center stage, SWNI's focus pivoted towards providing the community with access to crucial safety information. Though the SWNI office had to close per City, County and State directives, all staff are working from home and can be reached via email or telephone. The SWNI online calendar is updated daily with cancellations or revised meeting notices. Many neighborhood associations and community partners are holding virtual meetings in April using various video tools. Tutorials on the various communication tools available are on the SWNI website. To ensure that vulnerable community members can access information about how to stay safe, slow the spread of the virus, and find reliable information, SWNI published an informative poster designed by the City of Portland Bureau of Emergency Management and the Multnomah County Health Department. We also posted the information on our website.

**COVID-19 Information Goes Out to the Community** – In mid-April, Portlanders across the metro area opened their mailboxes to find the COVID-19 Resource Guide, a bilingual publication put out jointly by Portland's neighborhood coalitions. Representing a combined effort among the nonprofit organizations, the Resource Guide is a wide-ranging collection of vital information to help Portlanders navigate the fallout of the COVID-19 outbreak. The guide includes: existing community resources, instructions on staying safe and healthy during this crisis, a map of food pantries around Portland, instructions on how to postpone your rent payment, listings of social service agencies, and answers to simple questions about what is and isn't allowed during the Governor's stay-at-home order. Our goal was to reach and impact as many households as possible, so the guide is bilingual in English and Spanish and includes links to other information portals in twelve different languages online at [swni.org](http://swni.org). SWNI printed and mailed 34,000 of the COVID-19 Resource Guide. BPS allowed the remaining funds from our unused "Cleanup/Collection" grant (\$3,200) to go towards some of the printing costs for the COVID-19 Resource Guide. The Guide is available on our website at [swni.org](http://swni.org)



**Bond Funded Improvements at Multnomah Arts Center** – SWNI helped promote the success of partner, Portland Parks & Recreation, by highlighting in the SW News the completion of accessibility improvements at the Multnomah Arts Center. All six cottages received smooth, newly paved ramps, handrails, and two additional reserved ADA parking spots. These improvements will better serve community members attending classes and other programs at MAC by ensuring access for all. The 2014 Park Replacement Bond also funded seismic improvements at MAC's main building in 2019.



**City Candidates Forum** - With the primary election coming up in May, SWNI worked diligently to plan a City Candidates Forum which was to take place on April 23rd, 2020. There are four contested seats on the five-member city council and all candidates from the city council races were invited to the Forum – 54 candidates by the time the filing deadline came about! A committee of volunteers worked with the SWNI Event Planner on all aspects of the large event and put out a survey for the community to communicate what topics they would like covered at the Forum. The Forum was to be hosted by SW Neighborhoods, Inc. (SWNI) and Neighbors West-Northwest (NWNW). Childcare reimbursement was set up through [www.politisit.org](http://www.politisit.org). **This event was postponed due to COVID-19.**

After the SWNI event was cancelled, the League of Women Voters posted 8-10-minute videos of 66 of the candidates running in the May 18<sup>th</sup> Primary Election. SWNI promoted this effort by posting links to the LWV videos on the SWNI website, Facebook page and NextDoor.

**BES Open House/Westside Watershed Projects** - SWNI published a 4-page insert for Bureau of Environmental Services to provide community updates multiple BES projects throughout the westside of Portland (westside watershed/stormwater planning projects, SW Capitol Highway Project, sewer repairs, bridge construction, watershed restoration, SW Corridor Light Rail Project, etc.). Additional project partners: Portland Water Bureau, Portland Bureau of Transportation, TriMet.

**Partnering with Bureau of Planning and Sustainability** – April SW News included Bureau of Planning and Sustainability news articles to inform community members on the Residential Infill Project, the West Portland Town Center Plan and other projects they are working on in the neighborhoods of southwest Portland.

## **May 2020**

**SW Spring Cleanup** - Hosted by SWNI and SW Community Recycling (SWCR), the Cleanup was to be held on Saturday, May 9th, in the parking lot of the Portland Christian Center. The event usually brings in 500+ cars to drop off materials for proper disposal and requires approximately 80-100 volunteers to execute the event. Neighbors are always incredibly appreciative of the Cleanup. As usual, we offered to pick up items from seniors and disabled residents who are not able to bring their items to the Cleanup. **This event was cancelled due to COVID-19.** BPS allowed the remaining funds from our grant \$3,200 to go towards printing of the COVID-19 Resource Guide.

**Additional COVID-19 Assistance** - In the May issue of SW News, SWNI again promoted the COVID-19 Resource Guide published on our website. We also highlighted our partner, local social service agency, Neighborhood House that has reorganized its workforce and operations, and mobilized its services to bring remote support directly to the unprecedented number of community members in need during this pandemic. Neighborhood House's crisis response aims to dramatically expand its service area to provide food assistance to all community members

who need it with a newly launched, no-contact food box and mask delivery service. The agency is also providing connections for seniors isolated from needed support services through food services, remote wellness checks, online exercise classes, and transportation. Neighborhood House also provides education and antipoverty programs for Portland's low-income children, families, and seniors.

**Additional COVID-19 Community Resources** – SWNI devoted space in the May issue of SW News to inform the public about coronavirus impacts and resources. Information from partners such as Portland Public Schools, TriMet, Friends of Tryon Creek, Bureau of Environmental Services, and Multnomah County included in-depth coronavirus-related information such as tips on staying safe on public transportation, ideas for dealing with anxiety during this stressful time, how to avoid sewer backups, and many others.

**SW Capitol Highway Improvements** – SWNI promoted the work of our partner, Portland Bureau of Transportation, and their project to improve SW Capitol Highway from Multnomah Village to West Portland. The project will provide sidewalks, bike lanes, stormwater management facilities and water system upgrades. In May, utility providers will begin relocation work. NW Natural, PGE, Century Link, Comcast, and Portland Water Bureau all have relocation work scheduled over the next three months, including relocating underground pipes, power and communications poles, and water meters.

**Portland Parks & Recreation Reacts to COVID-19** – SWNI publicized our partner, Portland Parks & Recreation in SW News to make the public aware of changes to their summer activities due to the coronavirus. Concerts in the Park, Movies in the Park, Washington Park Summer Festival, Portland World Soccer Tournament are cancelled this summer though they are still planning to operate the Free Lunch + Play program. Access to nutritious food has proven to be one of the highest needs in our community during this public health crisis. Working alongside community partners, Portland Public Schools, David Douglas, Reynolds, Parkrose, and Centennial School Districts, and Oregon Food Bank and Urban Gleaners, PP&R coordinates the Free Lunch + Play program to ensure that it meets the changing needs in our community.

**League of Women Voters (LWV) Election Information** – SWNI offered space in SW News to promote the work of our partner, the LWV for the upcoming 2020 Primary Election. LWV maintains the VOTE411.org website to provide nonpartisan election information for primary. They also offer online and printed English and Spanish Voter's Guides for the community. Because of coronavirus concerns, they produced a Video Voters' Guide as well – Recordings of eight to ten-minute interviews with many of the local candidates that are posted on the League of Women Voters of Portland website. The League of Women Voters of Portland is determined to carry out its mission of informing and engaging voters, even in this time of social distancing.

**Partnering with Bureau of Planning and Sustainability** – SWNI partnered with the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability to update the public on projects BPS is working on in May, such as the Central City 2035 Plan (CC2035), the Expiration Date Extension Project, which will address

several Title 33-related issues that have arisen as a result of the COVID-19 health crisis, and the Residential Infill Project.

**Multnomah Village Business Association Grant** – SWNI helped promote and publicize a grant that the Multnomah Village Business Association (MVBA) received from Venture Portland to create a social media campaign to support the village businesses through these tough times. Multnomah Village will be featuring 6 businesses per week who are currently offering online, delivery and take-out services to our community with the goal of them staying top of mind even when folks are staying in place. The village launched its SOS (Save Our Shops) Campaign in April and will run it through the month of May: 1.

**Neighborhood House Support** – SWNI always supports community partner, Neighborhood House and in **May and June**, we dedicated part of SW News towards promoting their efforts. Though the Neighborhood House Senior Center temporarily closed due to the COVID-19, they are still working remotely to offer phone support, virtual programming, limited food box delivery, grocery shopping and errands for those seniors who are staying close to home. They also still provide one-on-one transportation for essential services (doctor's visits, grocery shopping, etc.) through their Ride Connection service.

### **Virtual Elections**

Due to the COVID-19 distancing measures, neighborhood and coalition meetings were quickly and nearly seamlessly moved online in March, April, May and June. SWNI suggested three different options for hosting virtual meetings. What was much less clear was how an association would be able to conduct a Board election without being able to meet in person. After researching a few different options most neighborhood associations (that did not postpone elections) and the SWNI Board decided to use Survey Monkey as a simple and easily accessible option.

### **June 2020**

**City Resilience Resolution** - SWNI highlighted their partnership with the City by publishing Mayor Wheeler's announcement of a resilience resolution that was unanimously adopted by the City Council. The resolution states the Council's intent to use every public dollar to achieve long-term goals and leverage other funding and financing sources, while simultaneously centering the City's climate and equity goals. The resolution also affirms and enshrines existing community-driven values that will remain a top priority through COVID-19 response work and longer-term recovery. It is a values framework that will serve as a benchmark to guide Portland in every decision going forward.

**Residential Infill Project Updates** – SWNI publicized project rescheduling and updates that were necessary due to COVID-19 for our partner, the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability. City Council had to cancel the March public hearing on amendments to the Residential Infill Project.

Council then extended the deadline for written testimony on potential amendments until after the hearings were rescheduled in June.

We also publicized BPS updates to the: BPS Anti-Displacement Action Plan, Central City 2035 Plan (CC2035) Re-Adoption, Expiration Date Extension Project, Expiration Date Extension Project, Expanding Opportunities for Affordable Housing, Design Overlay Zone Amendments Project, Environmental Overlay Zone Map Correction Project, South Portland Area Planning, South Portland Historic District Design Guidelines, Historic Resources Code Project, Montgomery Park to Hollywood Transit and Land Use Development Strategy, and the Fossil Fuel Terminal Zoning Project.

**West Portland Town Center Plan** – SWNI published updates to the West Portland Town Center Plan in the June SW News as a continuing effort to assist our partner, the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability.

**U.S. Census** – SWNI advertised the U.S. Census Bureau efforts to hire for the 2020 Census. They are looking for people to work throughout Multnomah and Clackamas counties. By working for the Census Bureau, our community has a special opportunity to help make the 2020 Census an accurate and complete count.

**SW Capitol Highway Paving Project Update** – SWNI supported multiple partners by promoting the status of the SW Capitol Highway Paving Project. Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) partnered with ARM Property Management to do the sidewalk improvements. PBOT also partnered with the Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) on a sewer repair project. In tandem with PBOT's project, BES reconstructed the main sewer line in the project area.

**Community Recycling Options** – Although the SWNI Spring Cleanup was canceled this year due to COVID-19, we offered a few recycling options in SW News to community members looking for safe disposal options. In partnership with Free Geek, the business community held a series of contactless drive-through technology collection events across the Portland Metro region. We also promoted new Styrofoam recycling options offered by Metro and Agilyx, who teamed up to pilot a polystyrene foam collection program at the Metro South Transfer Station.

**Portland Parks Free Lunch and Play** – SWNI helped promote our partner, Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) as they are operating the Free Lunch + Play program this summer. Access to nutritious food has proven to be one of the highest needs in our community during this public health crisis. PP&R and their partners will play an important role in keeping kids healthy this summer.

**Oregon Humanities Conversations** – SWNI is helping promote our partner, Oregon Humanities, who is offering a series of online conversations during shelter in place called "Connect in Place." The aim is to create spaces every week for Oregonians to gather, connect, reflect, and talk with one another. Multiple conversations on particular topics are offered each night. Some conversations are targeted towards specific communities and some are open to all Oregonians.

**National Night Out** – Usually, SWNI offers a lot of assistance this time of year to neighborhood groups hosting National Night Out parties and gatherings in early August. This year, because of COVID-19, NNO parties have been pushed to October 6<sup>th</sup> and SWNI announced this in SW News. The decision to move National Night Out to October ensures that block parties and events can take place following the guidance of our public health and City officials. We are hoping it will still be able to take place and will announce any more updates to the schedule in SW News.

**Sharing Facts, not Spreading Fear** – SWNI is promoting a message of acceptance and tolerance from our partners, Multnomah County health officials, as well as federal and state authorities, who are working to ensure that fear and anxiety don't lead to social stigma, or discrimination against a group of people, a place, or a nation during this pandemic. Some residents have experienced acts of racism and xenophobia, while some businesses have even reported fewer customers because of the myths surrounding COVID-19. These partners are responding to the COVID-19 crisis and keeping our community healthy by sharing facts, and not spreading fear.

**Tryon Creek Watershed Council** – Tryon Creek Watershed Council has moved their series of workshops online in response to COVID-19. SWNI partners with the Watershed Council to promote their activities in SW News. Workshops include topics such as: a virtual/photographic tour of Tryon watershed, native and invasive plants, impervious & pervious surfaces, stormwater, fish passage barriers, pollinators, and more.

**All Household Mailing** – In June SWNI mailed its July 2020 newspaper edition (16 pages) to all households within coalition boundaries inviting all neighbors to become informed and involved in their neighborhood associations and community. The annual outreach effort reaches approximately 34,000 households in SW Portland, supporting a broad range of partnerships, community groups and residents.

## **Narrative from SWNI Standing Committees January – June 2020.**

### **Equity and Inclusion Committee**

Applied for and received a grant from Oregon Humanities to host 4 Community Conversations (see narrative on events above)

E&I Chair Laura Campos applied for and received a Small Grant to host an Eena Festival in the fall of 2020 (see grant award in narrative above).

The Corona Virus disproportionately affects people of color because of conditions such as:

1. Lack of access to adequate health care.
2. Lack of access to nutritious food.
3. Historical Trauma

Promoted City of Portland online workshops through Portland United Against Hate (PUAH) and "Conversations".

Report from Native Communities Partners:

1. Great Spirit - Pastor Allen Buck is calling parishioners once a week
2. Lukas (former skipper of PANCF) killed a buffalo, butchered the meat, and is distributing it to elders by delivering it to their doorstep.
3. NAYA State Representative, Tawna Sanchez is delivering food boxes, prepared meals, and face masks.
4. Portland All Nations Canoe Family (PANCF) received a Metro grant in 2018. They are preparing online workshops.
5. Alaskan Native Brotherhood and Sisterhood (ANB and ANS) received \$25,000 to provide aid to Alaskan Natives in Portland affected by COVID 19. I donated a sewing machine, material, and elastic and they're making masks (originally it was for making ribbon skirts for the upcoming City Council meeting in May regarding Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW)).
6. No news regarding if we got the Metro grant

### **Land Use Committee (LUC)**

The Land Use Committee's primary focus has been on the tracking and developing community advocacy related to BPS's Residential Infill Project and State of Oregon bills HB2001, HB2003, SB534, and the Southwest Corridor Light Rail Project as it is entering final stages of the EIS and now that the LPA has been identified. The LUC is continuing to collaborate with the SWNI Transportation Committee and TriMet staff in tracking the SWC LRT project and developing community Land Use advocacy for proposed plans at each stage of the design process with the goal of steering increased density into corridors and arterials that have infrastructure to support increases in allowances for mixed use and high-density zoning.

#### **Presentations at Committee meetings:**

- Neighborhood Notification Process project, new BDS notification resources- BDS Staff
- Southwest Corridor Light Rail Project update- Libby Winter, TriMet
- Residential Infill Project amendment updates- Leslie Hammond, SWNI President
- RIP environmental impacts advocacy - Rob Wilcox
- HB2001 and SB534 update- Susan King, Rules Advisory Committee

**Board Motion** Re: Residential Infill Project, resubmission of previous testimony.

Requesting Portland City Council evaluate the Residential infill project until after the administrative rules for HB 2001, HB2003 and SB 534, passed in the 2019 Legislative Session, have been finalized and their impact on Portland residential zoning is known.

**Board Motion** Regarding Residential Infill Project and testimony on new amendments:

1. Support Amendment #5 which allows three or more units when lots have frontage on an improved street. Support is conditioned on the definition of improved street meaning paved with a curb. We recommend removing the allowance for increased density where the street improvement is defined as an otherwise approved alternate street standard. SW Portland has many substandard streets and a significant deficit in sidewalks. Without a clear definition of "improved street" future development may be unattainable due to the costs of utility and stormwater improvements.



2. Oppose amendment #6 called the Deep Affordability bonus.

This amendment would allow larger and taller buildings of 4-6 units on lots in all areas. 50% of the units would be required to be affordable at 60% of median family income for renters and 80% for owned units. This amendment is inconsistent with the SWNI position supporting increased density as directed by the 2035 Comprehensive Plan. The plan calls for increased density around centers and transit corridors where services and regular public transportation are available.

### **Transportation Committee (TC)**

The primary focus of the Transportation Committee has been on tracking and advocating for needs in SW related to projects in the pipeline, community identified projects needed to provide safer streets, understanding how Equity considerations impact PBOT project selection and the SW Corridor Light Rail Project. The TC continues to support NA's is addressing local problems existing within SW's transportation network.

#### **Presentations:**

- Rose Lane Project- April Bertelsen, PBOT
- SWC LRT Project Update x2- Josh Mahar & Aster Moulton, TriMet
- PBOT Equity- Irene Marion PBOT Equity Manager
- PBOT Capital Project Selection Q&A, Kristin Hull & Mark Lear
- SW 26<sup>th</sup> Ave Update – Lisa Patterson, PBOT

**Motion-** The SWNI Transportation Committee write a letter to PBOT requesting a summary of all properties to LTIC development across the city:

- LTIC properties assessed
- LTIC money paid (actual amounts)
- Waivers of remonstrance issued
- Other properties that were not assessed (i.e., properties on collectors) and whether they required developers on collectors to agree to a waiver of remonstrance

**Motion:** Send a letter to commission and PBOT re: Safe streets for a quick recovery, supporting prototypes and ongoing pilot or temporary street changes to create a network of safe space for people walking, biking, and using mobility devices to get around our neighborhoods.

### **Parks and Community Centers Committee (PCC)**

The primary focus of the Parks and Community Centers Committee has been the tracking of PP&R's future budget shortfalls and advocating for the exploration of alternative funding mechanisms to promote equity in sustaining the level of service of PP&Rs parks, natural areas and community centers. The PCC Committee was working on a Workshop 'Mental and Physical Benefits of Parks and Natural Areas' in collaboration with Home Forward SCC site, Columbia Land Trust, Portland Autobahn, Watershed Councils, and HAKI (East African DCL). However due to COVID-19 the project has shifted from a community event to the creation and distribution of park and natural area guides to promote use of these neighborhood spaces.

The PCC continues to develop partnerships with Friends groups in identifying and addressing ecological concerns within parks and natural areas in SW Portland.

## **Presentations**

- MAC funding update x2- Michael Walsh, MAC Director
- PP&R Update - Earl Straley. West Lands Maintenance Manager.
- Friends of Terwilliger Park- Marita Inglesby
- Tryon Creek Watershed Council, Terri Preeg Riggsby, Executive Director
- SW Watershed Resource Center- Eric Horngren- Manger

## **Motion** Re: PP&R Budget and need for sustainable funding models

Send letter to Portland City Council advocating for transparency and community involvement in the budget process and support of PP&R's Sustainable Funding Task force.

## **Motion** Re: PP&R Budget cuts 2020 and community needs

Send letter to Portland City Council:

1. Involve community members for support, emphasizing the importance of Parks and Recreation to the City, as Director Adena Long has documented. Transition to a stable funding source and reduce fees to allow greater accessibility for residents.
2. Work with the Community on innovative approaches to programming and care of our parks. Include effective training for volunteers and Friends groups. Employ innovative outreach techniques.
3. Make investments in parks infrastructure that will support jobs and ways of sustaining on-going operating costs. Include parks in creating equitable neighborhood improvements.
4. Collaborate with, and grow partnerships with philanthropic organizations and school districts to maximize resources and in reaching out to residents. Use parks for educational activities.
5. Encourage cooperation among the City Bureaus to support Parks and Recreation locations and programs.

## **Watershed Committee:**

The Watershed Committee advocates for the health of southwest Portland watersheds, monitor and comments on Portland southwest watershed policies, and support watershed projects in our area. The committee is tracking the following items:

- MS4 Permit – The committee is actively reviewing and monitoring the BES budget for relevance of expenditures to areas subject to MS4 permit to assure that adequate resources are actually expended by the City in the SWNI area for water quality
- Monitor impacts of City Stormwater regulation affecting new and redevelopment properties (Stormwater Manual, Sewage and Drainage Manual, and Erosion Manual)
- Encourage improvements to the Stormwater System that supports residents impacted by stormwater
- Continued to monitor impacts of the SW Capitol Hwy and SW Corridor Stormwater system
- Supported natural areas such as the Green Streets Stewards

## Challenges

- The major and most obvious challenge to our work in the last half of the year was the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Cancelling meetings and then rescheduling to host them virtually, prior to having clear guidelines on those requirements. Training ourselves as staff to learn how to use these services, then training board members, NAs, interested neighbors.
  - Enabling all staff to work from home meant setting up access to files on the cloud, setting up a remote server for bookkeeping, online bill-pay procedures, and software to allow for online signatures for fiscal tracking form for bill pay (both for NA restricted accounts and the Operations account)
  - Our monthly newspaper usually has five to six outside volunteer proofreaders, so we had to research a new online tool and then train volunteers to use that tool to proofread. Some volunteers could not master the new procedure and have opted out the online proofing, others find they prefer this method
  - Extra stress and uncertainty was caused by not having a draft grant agreement offered early in the year for review and collaboration on goals. The Mayor's Budget release and news that the economic forecast is very uncertain, and could mean additional cut will be made in the fall of 2020, also added uncertainty to SWNI future.

## Project Status Narrative:

- SWNI published free monthly newspapers with a distribution of over 9,000 households In order to support neighborhood associations, diverse community involvement and community engagement activities, SWNI provides the following outreach and communication tools:
  - COVID Resources newsletter developed, printed and distributed to all residences
  - Community Collection Events funds expended;
  - 2019-2020 Community & Civic Engagement Small Grants awarded February; projects are in the process of adapting programming in order to comply with COVID restrictions.
  - Pivot to online meeting structure
  - Procedures developed for online Board elections and some neighborhood association elections (others have postponed elections)
  - Committee Actions plans have been adopted for FY 20-21
  - SWNI Board Retreat has been rescheduled for Fall 2020
  - New Community Engagement Allocation funds for community-based organization projects were adopted by the Board.

## Next Steps

- Compete document production for the Office of Community and Civic Life and a forensic audit
- Work with 2020 Small Grant recipients to adjust projects to meet COVID-19 safety requirements
- Board Retreat will focus on meeting programing goals and continued funding

## **Policy Opportunities**

- With the COVID-19 emergency and the Black Lives Matter movement, SWNI will look at efforts to make programmatic structural changes to address the needs of our constituent and partner communities. These efforts have already been supported by the board's redirection of resources for Community Engagement Allocation program.

## **Project Finances**

- **SWNI's 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Finance Report was submitted on Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

## **Metrics**

### **Samples of Successful Measures: Partnerships**

- **HAKI Community Organization** – grant project for workshops to provide resources for refugee families from East Africa, to better understand and acclimate to life in America
- Hayhurst Elementary School/Neighborhood House – Grant for an intensive, academic after-school program designed to help low-income and struggling students thrive.
- RISEN – Health and Wellness Workshops to provide resources to East African immigrant and refugees
- Rivers West Village – Grant for a senior resource fair
- Neighborhood House, Inc – SW Hope Feed the Hungry
- Impact NW & Jackson SUN- Schools - English Classes for English Language Learners
- Neighborhood House Senior Center - Health & Wellness Programs for Immigrant Seniors
- Jackson Sun School and Robert Grey School - Code Squad Initiative
- Oregon Humanities – Community Conversations
- Bureau of Environmental Services – Watershed Resource Center program
- West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District – Stormwater Stars Program
- Bureau of Planning & Sustainability – West Portland Town Center, The Residential Infill Project, Better Housing By Design, River Plan / South Reach, SW Naito Parkway Main Street Project.
- Neighborhood Emergency Teams in SW Portland – Promote meetings, hold an annual Emergency Preparedness Fair featuring 11 SW NETs