

SUNNYSIDE

Neighborhood News

June 2011

Sunnyside News

By Reuben Deumling, SNA President

Last month we held our annual elections and elected three new board members, Tony Jordan, Josh Palmer, and Karen Hery. We are delighted to once again have a full board and look forward to accomplishing even more this coming year. They introduce themselves briefly on page two. We'd also like to thank the three outgoing board members, Chuck Lawrence, Michele Gila, and Jane Pullman, each of whom worked very hard to keep this neighborhood one of the most active and engaged in all of Portland. I'll highlight just a few of their many contributions. Michele was instrumental in our effort to fight Clearwire's attempt to site a 94' tall wireless tower on Sunnyside's residential streets; Jane organized many events, including the

farmer's market produce stands staffed by children from SES at the last two Belmont Street Fairs, and Chuck has led the charge against graffiti in the neighborhood for longer than I've been alive.

And we have another fight on our hands. As you read here last month, Walgreen's is determined to site a drive-through pharmacy near SE 40th and Yamhill St. Neighbors are organized in opposition. For details, see the article below.

In other news, two meetings were held in May to discuss the future of the Sunflower intersection at SE 33rd and Yamhill (aka Sunnyside Piazza). The sunflower will be repainted, check the listserv for date and time. Suzanne Tom is leading that effort. By the time

you read this, City Repair's big spring project, the Village Building Convergence, will also be underway. Because so much is going on, you'll have to read the rest of it in our electronic media—Facebook page, website, and listserv.

Walgreens Drive-Through Update

By Holly Cook and Vincent Dawans

On Tuesday, May 11, a group of neighbors and community members met with Walgreen's Senior Real Estate Manager Brian Hunter and architect Eric Koch. Neighbors raised concerns and suggested how to make the design more appropriate for our community. Of particular concern was pollution from idling cars, increased traffic in an already congested area, pedestrian and bike safety at the Belmont Library/SE Yamhill/Walgreens intersection, light and noise pollution from the drive-thru, the over-sized parking lot, and site improvements. Many of us were hopeful about

the opportunity to collaborate with the Walgreens design/development team to create something special at this site--a project that addresses Walgreens' bottom line and customer relations while enhancing the pedestrian/bike/transit friendliness of our neighborhood. Neighbors also wanted to know why Walgreens chose this site and why they were proposing a drive-through at all.

Brian was able to confirm that the proposed gas station at the corner of Cesar Chavez and Belmont is off the table and will not be part of this development proposal. We also learned that Walgreens does not expect any increase in revenue from this project, *cont'd on page two...*

UPCOMING EVENTS | JUNE

- 9th - Sunnyside Employment Self Help Group Potluck, noon
- 9th-26th - Pedalpalooza
- 13th - Walgreens at SNA Land Use Meeting
- 26th - North Portland Sunday Parkways
- July 5th - Mt. Tabor Concerts in the Park Series Begins

Details can be found on our website under 'What's Happening in Sunnyside?'

MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings at Southeast Uplift unless noted

General Meeting
Thursday, June 9, 7 p.m.

Crime Prevention Committee
Thursday, June 9, 6:30 p.m.

Sustainability Committee
Monday, June 13, 6:00 p.m.

Land Use & Transportation Committee
Monday, June 13, 7:30 p.m.

Graffiti Clean-up
2nd & 4th Saturdays, weather permitting. Call 503-235-5047

SUNNYSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Hotline: 503-295-1699 • www.SunnysideNeighborhood.com



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...cont'd from page one

Walgreens

and that they had not looked specifically at this store's demographics for appropriateness of the project from a social or economic standpoint. Neither Brian nor Eric were able to address any of our specific concerns as they were not authorized to stray from the current design.

After the meeting, Holly received an email from Brian stating that he had spoken to headquarters regarding our concerns and that he hoped to increase the project's budget to address some of those concerns though he did not mention specifics. He said he would get back to me by the end of the week (5/20). In the mean time, we learned that Walgreens has submitted an application for an adjustment to the Planning Code to the City of Portland. So it seems Walgreens is attempting to placate us while pushing forward with their original design.

It's time to fight back. We are not just opposed to the drive-through, but also to the top-down corporate model that ignores the individuality of our community.

Because Walgreens needs an adjustment to the Planning Code, the City of Portland will issue a public notice by the end of May. Concerned residents will have 21 days to comment to the city. As soon as it is available, we will post the public notice at www.sunnysidewalgreens.com. We invite all concerned residents to reply to the notice. This is our chance to remind the City of Portland that Sunnyside residents are deeply involved in neighborhood matters.

Additionally, it's time to start the PR, yard sign, and press campaign. More info will be posted at the website above. Additional steps in response to this project will be considered at the Sunnyside Land-Use meeting, June 13. Please come share your thoughts and ideas.

New Board Member Biographies:

Tony Jordan

I have lived in inner Southeast Portland since moving to the city in 2002 and have been a Sunnyside resident for about two years. I've always been an avid reader of my neighborhood newsletter and the Southeast Examiner, but it was only after my wife and I decided to purchase a home that I felt I would be in one place long enough to get more involved. I have been attending the Land Use & Transportation Committee meetings and delivering the newsletter since shortly after moving to the neighborhood.

I am the proud parent of two small children (ages 4.5 years and 8 months) and very grateful to live in a place where we can survive without owning a car (going on 3 years). I don't come to the board with any particular agenda, but I am interested in pedestrian and bicyclist safety, disaster preparedness, and transportation issues.

I am currently employed as a Software Engineer in downtown Portland, but prior to that I worked for several years as a union organizer. I feel I can use skills from both professions in this position.

I look forward to serving the neighborhood and meeting more of my neighbors.

Josh Palmer

My name is Josh Palmer and I've lived in Sunnyside for nine years. I come from a Seattle family where community involvement was simply part of growing up. Our house was a temporary shelter for battered women escaping domestic abuse as well as a storage space for library books when the library was in danger of being closed. I graduated from Evergreen State College in Olympia with a degree in art history and learned to support myself by cooking. My cooking passion has taken me to Atlanta and San Francisco, where I met my wife at a non-profit serving meals to people who are HIV positive. We decided to join our friends and family and move to Portland in 2001 to settle down and raise a family. For six years I stepped back from my career as a chef and became the stay-at-home Dad for my two boys. I now work for New Seasons Market and am proud to be part of a local company that has a strong emphasis on community.

Last year I was the volunteer coordinator for the Belmont Street Fair and I look forward to that again in 2011. Please contact me at joshpalmer@yahoo.com if you are interested in volunteering.

Karen Hery

I am the facilitator of the Sunnyside Swap Shop Co-op and parent of two students at Sunnyside Environmental School.

I came to Portland from Northern California in 2006 with the goal of starting a swap shop, where families

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could gather while swapping books, toys and clothing. I was drawn to Sunnyside because the environmental school reminded me of my own childhood growing up in Southern California in the '70s and also the Montessori schools my daughters, now 10 and 13, attended for preschool. I didn't expect to get so involved in the renovations and revitalization of a 100-year old church building, but when Sunnyside Centenary United Methodist Church looked like the best space to start the Sunnyside Swap Shop Co-op and Roost after school program for middle schoolers, I took on a role as SUMC's facility development coordinator. I've drawn on the skills I learned as a communications major at UCSD in the '80s, as a volunteer with at-risk youth, my years working in alternative and top 40 radio in San Diego and in sales in Silicon Valley to help groups and families work together well. As both a renter and homeowner and as a person often connecting with businesses and special interest groups, I am sensitive to a whole variety of important issues to be considered in the decisions we make as a neighborhood.

Harvesting the Rain at Sunnyside Environmental School.

Heidi McNamee, SES PTSA President

Thank you to all who voted to support SES in the recent Build Your Block Challenge at Umpqua Bank! We hope to install the drip line and 2,500-gallon cistern before the end of June and plan to hold a neighborhood rain barrel building party in September.

At our recent garden day, we met to discuss the drip line portion of the

project and were inspired. We will create a master plan for cistern irrigation that will eventually serve the whole school and this current project will be phase one.

The more we learn about cisterns, the more questions we have about moving water through space and time. Because of logistical and durability concerns, our original plan to be entirely off the grid has been changed to either powering a pump from our electrical panel or using a hybrid system. Our watering plan will be very different if we are 'off grid' and cannot provide constant water pressure at 40psi, so we will decide soon in hopes of catching the last of the spring rain!

Our first sign of work will be visible soon. Our middle school urban water cohort, led by teacher Jan Zuckerman, has begun building their rain barrels. They primed and painted them just last month. The rain barrels will be located at the West end of the portables.

To follow this project, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/harvest-the-rain>.

To help plan the neighborhood party, please contact Tiffani LeClair at tiffanileclair@hotmail.com. To help with the drip irrigation, please contact Michelle Calascibetta at ferriver@gmail.com. For general questions or other help, please contact me at heidi@earthbongo.com.

Vice Principal Takes Over Principal Post at Sunnyside Environmental School

By Gina Binole, SNA Board Member

Sunnyside Environmental School is pleased to announce that Amy Kleiner,


who has served as vice principal since 2007, has been named principal. Kleiner replaces Sarah Taylor, the founder of SES, and its predecessor the Environmental Middle School. After 18 years as principal, Taylor will retire, sort of. She is moving to Haiti in August, where she will run a midwifery clinic.

Kleiner, who served as vice principal for Sunrise Middle School in Clackamas County for three years before joining PPS, is eager to carry on the school's mission. The SES curriculum focuses on place-based education, including service learning, horticulture, cultural geography, and outdoor education. Prior to tackling administrative duties, Kleiner taught science at Churchill High School in Eugene from 1999-2004 and served as a wildlife biology field instructor for the Outdoor School. Students at SES spend a lot of time out in the community and in the Sunnyside neighborhood, and Kleiner hopes to engage neighbors to volunteer some of their time at the school, participating in events such as Garden Days and the brand new Harvest the Rainwater project, made possible through an Umpqua Bank block grant the school won this spring. Kleiner also hopes to find more ways for students to engage in neighborhood service projects through activities such as the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association's Sustainability Committee and the SNA's annual Swap & Clean Up event in the spring.

Please take a moment to stop by the office at Sunnyside, introduce yourself, and ask any questions you may have about the school and/or its partnership with the neighborhood. Amy is also reachable at akleiner@pps.k12.or.us.

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Green Streets and Stormwater Management in SE

By Rhetta Drennan, Bureau of Environmental Services

At the May SNA meeting, Bill Owen, manager of the Tabor to the River (T2R) Program, gave a presentation and answered questions about green streets.

During storms, water can cause the system to backup into area basements, and to overflow into the river. Green streets capture and treat stormwater before it can enter the storm drain and the combined sewer system.

Designs are developed based on community (schools, businesses, residents, and others) input, system

needs, and site conditions. Most facilities are located just upstream from storm drains to maximize the amount of stormwater that can be captured. Often sewer pipes are in good condition but unable to accommodate the extra flows during storms. Installing green street facilities is cheaper and more effective than installing a larger pipe.

Green street facilities are maintained by the city, but we welcome help through the Green Street Stewards Program. If you're interested please Google us and sign up.

Neighbors often raise concerns about mosquitoes, but green streets are designed to infiltrate water within 48-72 hours after it stops raining. The city also works with Vector Control to monitor facilities.

If you're interested in learning more about Green Streets, visit Environmental

Services at PortlandOnline. Contact: 503-823-6006 or rhetta.drennan@portlandoregon.gov.



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Any opinions expressed, unless specified, are not necessarily those of the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association or its board. Sunnyside residents are welcome to submit articles for consideration that concern neighborhood issues, by calling the Hotline at 503-295-1699 and leave a message for the Editor. Many wonderful volunteer Sunnyside residents distribute the Neighborhood News.

Sunnyside Neighborhood Map

Delivery help needed here

SNA Meetings @ SEUL