

Written testimony from:
Mark White, December 8, 2010

I had originally come to say thank you for the expansion of Raymond Park. However, upon thinking about it, I felt it was better to extend a public thank you to each of you for your efforts in Powellhurst-Gilbert.

Commissioner Fish

I will begin as originally intended with Commissioner Fish. Within a week of our letter of support, Portland Parks and Recreation had already managed to initiate negotiations for the acquisition of property to expand Raymond Park to SE 118th to include a west side public access point. As it now stands, residents who may literally live a stone's throw from the boundary of the park, must travel up to 1/2 a mile to get to an entrance, which are all located on the west side of the park. Raymond Park is relatively small, but it is not uncommon for there to be 200 to 300, or more, residents enjoying the park on a fair weather day. Considering the near complete lack of sidewalks around the park and the huge numbers of children and families in the Neighborhood who utilize the park as well as the disproportionate amount of older citizens and residents with wheelchairs and walkers, the west side entrance to the park is a definite reason to celebrate.

Commissioner Saltzman

Commissioner Saltzman's leadership on the Children's Levy has, without even being asked, helped to get us within just a few percentage points of population equity with funding. Recent reports show that 38.8% of funding for the recent Children's Levy was spent in East Portland. Powellhurst-Gilbert has 6,000 to 7,000 school age children who live in or go to school in the Neighborhood, so the Children's Levy is especially important to us. It was recently brought to my attention that the SUN schools that are within the boundaries of the Powellhurst-Gilbert Neighborhood now serve a meal to many children before they leave school because we know they will not be getting a meal that evening at home. I have no doubt this is a direct result of the Children's Levy and the attention it brings to our Neighborhood and I thank you very much for that.

Commissioner Fritz

Commissioner Fritz helped initiate communication among several groups that resulted in the long overdue installation of swales and sidewalks to one of the most detested developments in all of Powellhurst-Gilbert — something that would not have happened without her intervention. This particular development is seen by many as the poster child for bad development. Prior to the installation of the swales and sidewalks, it was not uncommon during a heavy rain event for it to flood across the street into the parking lot and two residential properties. I have personally seen the water knee deep in the area, which was especially concerning since 1,000 or more students from Alice Ott Middle School and Gilbert Park Primary need to pass this location every day during the school year on foot, bike, or bus. I have been by after several recent rain events, and there has been no standing water to be seen at all.

Commissioner Leonard

Commissioner Leonard has helped to include a north/south trail for consideration in the plans for the redevelopment of the reservoir on Kelly Butte. This will not only provide a pathway for all residents on both sides of the Butte, but will also allow for more public eyes on Kelly Butte. This should help reduce vandalism as well as the illegal camping that was most likely the reason *behind the fire that occurred on the Butte in 2009*. It may also very well be the first step of finally connecting the public parcels on Kelly Butte to help create another incredible nature area for all Portlanders. One that I hope will include a natural amphitheatre that overlooks Mt. Hood and be a favorite destination for the Bike the Buttes event that is now just beginning to germinate.

Mayor Adams

Mayor Adams. Your direct assistance in helping to have the first East Portland Sunday Parkways in conjunction with the East Portland Exposition was invaluable. It helped to ensure the success of the event and allow it to become what I always knew it could be — an event with an unparalleled multicultural experience. Not just where for a few hours or most of a day you could be exposed to a culture or two, but two days of immersion into numerous cultures. And not only was it an opportunity for Portlanders from around the City to experience other cultures, but for the several cultures there to make friends and build bridges to each other. I'm very hopeful that we will be able to share the same weekend again in 2011 and continue to cultivate this very important community development opportunity that is deeply rooted in one of Portland's most core values — equity.

Which brings us back to Portland Parks and Recreation. Because while some would have us believe that government is some monstrous ship that takes forever to change course or take action, it can and does work. And when the pieces line up, it can actually turn on a dime. Or, as in the case of Raymond Park, turn before the dime hits the ground.

Sincerely,



Mark White
President, Powellhurst-Gilbert Neighborhood Association

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Mark White [markpdx@spiritone.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 30, 2010 2:45 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla
Cc: Mark White
Subject: Testimony

Karla,

When is the next opening for testimony at the beginning of Council when all Council members are currently expected to be there? I would like to get one of the slots to publicly thank Parks and Recreation for land acquisition at one of our parks.

Thanks.

Mark White
President, Powellhurst-Gilbert Neighborhood Association www.pgpride.org
503-761-0222

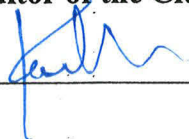
Request of Mark White to address Council to thank Parks and Recreation for land acquisition (Communication)

DEC 08 2010

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Filed DEC 03 2010

LaVonne Griffin-Valade
Auditor of the City of Portland

By 

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Leonard		
Adams		