

McClymont, Keelan

From: Maria Thi Mai <thimai.maria@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2020 11:53 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Council Testimony
Attachments: Council Testimony.pdf

Keelan,
Attached is my testimony from yesterday's council meeting. Please make copies and distribute to the commissioners.

Thank you.

--

Smiles and sunshine,

Maria Thi Mai
503.539.4966
thimai.maria@gmail.com

"We love because it's the only true adventure." Nikki Giovanni







Good morning! My name is Maria Thi Mai and I'm here on behalf of the Multnomah Neighborhood Association. I am currently serving my second term as chair after a 15-year sabbatical as a community rabble rouser. I initially became involved in the community in the mid-1990's when then Mayor Vera Katz had the idea of letting neighborhoods develop their own individual neighborhood plans. These were then folded into the SW Community Plan and 2000 Portland Comprehensive Plan.

Let me pause here for a moment to share my heartfelt condolences for our loss of Commissioner Fish. He exemplified what it means to be a public servant. I first met Nick when the choice was beer or fish and the voters chose Sam Adams and I became Sam's Senior Policy Director. This was 2005. Nick became commissioner in 2008. He was scheduled to be one of Multnomah Neighborhood's special guest.

Hosting various commissioners and bureau directors have been a meaningful experience for Multnomah's residences to learn more about how the city operates and for city officials to learn about the neighborhood's needs. For this we say thank you.

Plucking from the plethora of issues that concern the Multnomah Neighborhood, I'm going to focus my time on the tree preservation, stormwater management and integrated planning.

I understand that last week Council reviewed the tree code and we applaud you in recognizing the value of trees and in particular big trees.

The Multnomah neighborhood's tree canopy is one of the main reasons that people love living in the neighborhood. However, the ever-accelerating push to increase density is threatening the tree canopy. Trees being harvested for housing diminishes the quality of life in the neighborhood.

Although the City has been promoting street trees in right-of-ways, this is a far cry from acknowledging and protecting the cultural and environmental benefits provided by large

trees on single-family lots. Despite numerous and often unsuccessful attempts to save large landmark trees, one of which was over 6-ft in diameter, the Multnomah Neighborhood Association remains committed to advocating for the protection of the large trees threatened by ongoing development.

In 2017, residents led by Emma Dugan, the Multnomah Tree Team undertook a heroic effort to nominate trees for Heritage status with the City. More than 30 trees were nominated, but Council only accepted two for this protective status. This brings the total number of Heritage trees in the Multnomah Neighborhood to four. What's surprising is Multnomah leads the city with the four heritage trees.

Clearly, more work needs to be done to strengthen the City tree code so that it provides real protection for trees. Consider all the things that big trees do.

Our ask is this:

- Strengthen tree code title 11
- Create incentive to preserving trees
- Increase fines and mitigation

Next item: stormwater management. In Multnomah we're noticing downcutting in creeks that run into Gabriel, Markham, Fanno parks which create additional management costs to the Parks Bureau which already has a multi-million-dollar backlog of deferred maintenance. Various infill projects show stormwater being transferred from one watershed to another and being dumped into Vermont, Fanno, and other creeks that drain into several southwest parks, namely, Gabriel, Markham and Fanno Creek parks.

Several transportation projects will affect stormwater and groundwater management. For example, projects on Capitol Highway and Multnomah Boulevard propose constructing a series of regional retention ponds which will discharge into tributaries of Woods, Spring, Tryon, and Vermont Creeks. We're curious about the hydrological analysis that supports the capacity of the area to percolate the volume of runoff.

Infill and stormwater are not working together. There are plans for individual projects but not coordinated as a whole. The cumulative effect of these projects and issues need to be taken into account.

We'd like to see a more robust coordinated effort between infill development and stormwater management by watershed. Consider where projects overlap jurisdictions and account for the cumulative effects.

Our third issue ties it all together. Integrated Planning. Given that Parks, PBOT, Water, Housing, and BES all have planning departments on top of the Planning Bureau, there's no reason not to have a coordinated effort that considers the cumulative effect of individual project plans. For example, in the Multnomah Neighborhood, we have the SW Capitol Highway Plan intersecting the SW Corridor Plan, SW in Motion (SWIM), Equitable Housing Strategy, Fanno Creek Watershed Plan, SW Stormwater Plan, and the list goes on. It's understood that while BDS sits down with various bureau reps to discuss impacts on individual projects, the cumulative effect of how these projects and issues intersect with other plans and adjacent projects needs to be taken into account. We'd like to see an integrated and coordinated effort in the area rather than exclusively project by project.

Protecting trees supports livability and the economy. Managing stormwater is about reducing landslides and spending dollars wisely. Integrating planning efforts just makes sense. We believe in working with nature we can build a better world for generations to come. This is the place where Portland can be on the frontlines of climate change.

Thank you. Now, let me ask what questions do you have?

Maria Thi Mai, Multnomah Neighborhood Association Chair

MNACChair@gmail.com

503.539.4966

From: [Multnomah Neighborhood](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Re: Please add me to list to testify at upcoming Council Meeting
Date: Friday, November 1, 2019 1:25:47 PM

Keelan,

Please add me to the January 15 council meeting. Name and contact info is listed below. I would like to talk about the economics of neighborhoods.

Thanks

Maria Thi Mai

Chair - Maria Thi Mai

Vice-Chair: Tad Davis

Secretary: Caralynn West

Treasurer: Sim Hyde

email: MNAChair@gmail.com

thimai.maria@gmail.com

Tele: 503.539.4966

Click [HERE](#) for what's happening

Click [HERE](#) for maps, bylaws and background

On Fri, Nov 1, 2019 at 1:04 PM Council Clerk – Testimony
<CCTestimony@portlandoregon.gov> wrote:

Maria,

There are available Communication spots on January 15, January 22 and January 29. Currently, there are no absences scheduled for these dates. Please provide your name, contact information, preferred Council Meeting date, and a brief description of what you will present to Council.

Thanks,

Keelan McClymont

Assistant Council Clerk | City of Portland

(503) 823-4085

she/her pronouns

From: Multnomah Neighborhood <mnachair@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 1, 2019 12:15 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony <CCTestimony@portlandoregon.gov>
Subject: Please add me to list to testify at upcoming Council Meeting

On behalf of the Multnomah neighborhood, I'd like to testify at an upcoming council meeting. Please schedule. Thanks.

Chair - Maria Thi Mai

Vice-Chair: Tad Davis

Secretary: Caralynn West

Treasurer: Sim Hyde

email: MNAChair@gmail.com

thimai.maria@gmail.com

Tele: 503.539.4966

Click [HERE](#) for what's happening


Click [HERE](#) for maps, bylaws and background

Request of Maria Thi Mai to address Council regarding the economics of neighborhoods (Communication)

JAN 15 2020

PLACED ON FILE

Filed JAN 07 2020
MARY HULL CABALLERO
Auditor of the City of Portland

By 
Deputy

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Vacant		
3. Hardesty		
4. Eudaly		
Wheeler		