


VACATE A PORTION OF SW 46TH AVE AND A PORTION OF SW FLORIDA ST

IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, PRINT YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

NAME (print)	ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE	Email
✓ Terry Kenny	335 Cevantes Lake Oswego, OR 97035	kennterr@comcast.net
✓ Maripat Hensel	2911 SW. Orchard Hill Place Lake Oswego, OR 97035	henselm@comcast.net
DELANCE M. DUNCAN	2712 NE 123 AV PORTLAND 97230	
✓ Dow Bank	6495 SW BG Ave PL	
✓ Matt Schweitzer	2497 Munger Dr.	Matt@northsimplx.com

Testimony of Terry Kenny regarding St. Luke Lutheran Church Street Vacation Request, 2/22/2012

Mr. Mayor and ~~members of the City Council~~^{Commissioners}, thank you for the opportunity to speak this morning. My name is Terry Kenny. I was born in Portland, grew up on Mt. Tabor, and I now live in the Mt. Park neighborhood. I am a member of St. Luke Lutheran Church and the president of the Church Council this year. I'd like to speak in favor of the street vacation request, and tell you how St. Luke members and ~~St. Luke~~^{St. Luke} facilities ~~are~~^{are} ~~serving~~^{serve} our community. You might wonder whether a street vacation request by a church has benefit to anyone other than church members. And, you might be concerned about vacating public right-of-way to a church, since property used for religious purposes is exempt from property taxes. I'd like to address both of those concerns.

As you've already heard from Pastor Knapp, St. Luke's mission is to connect with and serve our neighbors. The street vacation we request will make it possible for us to expand our facilities with a contiguous building that serves the community and the congregation.

On the last Saturday of every month, St. Luke members serve a Community Table meal and provide food boxes to families who can't always stretch their food budgets to the end of the month. Last month we served over 300 meals and distributed food boxes to over 100 families. We need to expand the kitchen and fellowship hall we've outgrown, and add refrigeration and pantry space for the food box program. Vacating the street will allow a new building to connect to the existing one and prevent families from having to cross a city street when they come to take part in the meals and pick up food supplies.

Each August, St. Luke hosts the Grauer Back to School Project, which provides a backpack full of school supplies, a new coat, shoes, socks and underwear for about 650 kids from low-income families. A larger facility connected to our existing building will make it possible to store the supplies that St. Luke and other SW churches collect all year for this project, and to organize the distribution so that it is safe and easy for families to be served.

St. Luke hosts 15-20 community meetings each month—more than 200 a year-- including bagpipe band rehearsals; Girl Scout meetings; AA, Al-Anon, and Ala-Teen groups; piano recitals; the Orchid Society; and the SW Trails Committee, to name a few. The additional classrooms and meeting spaces we envision will provide even more opportunity and convenience for community groups.

Churches don't pay property taxes, but St. Luke supports many community services through its benevolence programs. In 2011 St. Luke members provided grants totaling over \$100,000, and donated hundreds of volunteer hours to numerous projects that benefit the community, greater Portland, the country, and the world. Just a few of the groups supported include: Neighborhood House, SW Community Health Center, Transition Projects, the West Women's and Children's Shelter, the NE Emergency Food Program, the Veterans Bridge Fund, Habitat for Humanity, and Bread for the World. This social concerns work is a St. Luke tradition that stretches back more than 40 years. We set aside at least the first 20% of the congregation's offerings each year for this work.

St. Luke's facilities are used extensively for church projects that benefit our neighbors, as well being used by many community groups. Our ability to expand those facilities efficiently and safely will be made possible by the street vacation. Again, I ask for your support and I thank you for your time.

February 22 2012 Baack SWTrails PDX testimony to PDX City Council

My name is Don Baack, I live in SW Portland in Hillsdale. I am an avid walker. I am the founder of SWTrails, and current president of SWTrails PDX, an organization now independent of SWNI.

The Maplewood NA is totally blocked from access to SW 45th and Gabriel Park from Vermont to Maplewood & Multnomah. A terrible state of affairs. Large church properties are the biggest culprits. St John Fisher has blocked informal pedestrian access across their property from time to time because of safety concerns.

At one time I had the tentative agreement of the pastors of St Luke and St John Fisher for an easement across both properties to make the connection from 45th to SW 49th via SW Florida, but the idea got hung up with the city on liability issues which should now be solved with the signing of the trail liability bill by the State of Oregon.

The Portland Pedestrian Advisory Committee has written an excellent letter with all the reasons this vacation should not happen. SWTrails endorses their position.

N/A. **We would add the following: The proposed pedestrian route does not meet our desired standard for child and adult safety. We prefer straight lighted routes where one can see the route ahead and be aware of what we are approaching. The proposed pathway does not meet that standard.**

We also think the discussion today should focus on the east west trail from SW 45th via SW Florida and across ST Luke property to meet the policy goals of the SW & Far SE

February 22 2012 Baack SWTrails PDX testimony to PDX City Council

Master Plan. This development should not go forward without that key connection being provided.

One additional important note. Our citizens are losing faith in the City of Portland due to many sidewalk related actions by the City. We see waivers of remonstrance being given to developers in locations that seem to us to be unreasonable. This vacation action, if approved will cause further question whether the City of Portland policies actually are going to be followed. Special interests and the politics of the moment seem to be more important than following well thought out and extensively debated adopted policies.

I believe we all want to have faith that our government is serving us well. We want the policies put into place followed unless there is a compelling reason to not follow them. This vacation proposal does not meet the compelling reason.

St Luke has looked at other alternative layouts for using the facilities. There are other ways of allowing the church to expand without granting this vacation.

**Don Baack, President
SWTrails PDX**



Portland Pedestrian Advisory Committee

1120 SW 5th Avenue Suite 800
Portland OR 97204

185174

Members

David Aulwes
Roger Averbeck
Don Baack
Carolyn Briggs
Betsy Clapp
Daniel Friedman
Marianne Fitzgerald
Rebecca Hamilton
Erin Kelley
Doug Klotz
Rod Merrick
Elizabeth Mros-O'Hara
Ellison Pearson
Marian Rhys
David Sale
Darla Sturdy

February 21, 2012

Mayor Sam Adams
1221 SW Fourth Avenue, Room 220
Portland, OR 97204

City Council
1221 SW Fourth Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

Re: St Luke's Church Proposed Right-of-Way Vacation of SW 46th and SW Florida St (R/W File #7191)

To Mayor Sam Adams and Members of City Council,

The City of Portland's Pedestrian Advisory Committee opposes the granting of street vacations for the SW 46th right-of-way from SW Vermont to SW California, and portions of the SW Florida right-of-way from SW 45th to SW 46th.

We are concerned with the apparent predilection for approving street vacation requests with only the most tenuous justification, such as in this case where both the justification is a stretch and the proposed mitigation violates important City policies to enforce connectivity standards. We object to the erroneous staff review characterization that the street right-of-way "runs through the middle of" the applicant's property when in fact the right-of-way was there before the church bought the property on both sides of the street.

The two rights-of-way in question comply with the city's street connectivity standards (530 feet for motor vehicle connections, and 330 feet for pedestrian connections). As the staff report notes, "removing SW 46th as a public right-of-way would leave a 1050 foot frontage along SW Vermont between SW 49th and 45th without any connection" except a private driveway. The proposed mitigation of a 16 foot wide pedestrian right-of-way at the eastern edge of the church property is not equivalent to the vacation, and will reduce connectivity in the neighborhood for drivers, bicyclists and walkers. The expansion of a desired network of streets will be severely limited because of these vacations.

St. Luke's Lutheran Church has been using the SW 46th right-of-way as part of their parking lot for years. They have purchased lots to the east of SW 46th. They now wish to expand their church building across the public right-of-way onto this new property. The destruction of the street grid in this area is not justified by this desire. The church could likewise expand westward onto property they also own.

We believe a new adherence to the City's Connectivity Standards should start with this case, and the city should be more aggressive in pursuing the Comprehensive Plan Goals in Policy 6.20 of an "interconnected, multimodal transportation system to serve mixed-use areas, residential neighborhoods, and other activity centers."

In the Portland Plan's "Healthy Connected Neighborhood Strategy", the concept of 20 min neighborhoods has evolved to include identification of neighborhood hubs. These hubs may have future zoning changes to allow enhanced mixed use and expansion of small commercial zones that will improve access to groceries stores and services, allowing residents closer and walkable access

to these essential needs - rather than driving a car to a larger grocery store on a major arterial several miles away.

The intersection of SW 45th & Vermont is likely to become one of these hubs, and it is one block away from the proposed vacation. SW 45th & Vermont already has several small businesses, i.e. a Plaid Pantry; several restaurants; a family health clinic; a launder mat; and the Southwest Community Center at Gabriel Park (one of the larger developed parks in SW Portland). The intersection and proposed street vacations are in close proximity to several schools; nearby apartment complexes; and a Tri Met bus line.

Maintaining and improving pedestrian and bicycle connectivity in this already constrained area is essential. Vacating these street segments ignores the potential future need and use of the streets as connections to the residential areas to the west of this neighborhood hub.

Southwest Portland is the most challenging part of the city to walk in, because of the lack of both sidewalks and connectivity. The SW & Far SE Master Street Plan, adopted into the Portland Transportation System Plan, calls for **an additional east-west pedestrian/bicycle connection through the Church property** and the adjacent property. It would connect from SW 49th Ave to SW 46th Ave at SW Florida. Alternatively, we would support it connecting to SW California St. Please refer to the attached map. **This connection would provide access to and from Gabriel Park and a quiet, low-stress alternative to walking or biking on SW Vermont.** The PAC finds this to be an important connection, and is disappointed it is not included in the proposal.

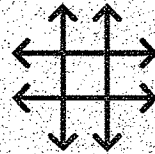
The Pedestrian Advisory Committee discussed the proposed street vacation in May of 2010. The PAC focused on the importance of maintaining pedestrian connectivity through the site using the existing roadway right of way. Hearing the arguments in favor of vacating the streets the committee found no compelling reason for the need for the vacation of SW 46th and/or the portion of SW Florida, and suggested that the church committee develop alternatives.

Sincerely,



David Aulwes
Chair, Portland Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Cc:
Stuart Gwin, Portland Bureau of Transportation
Dee Walker, Portland Bureau of Transportation
Lance Lindahl, Portland Bureau of Transportation

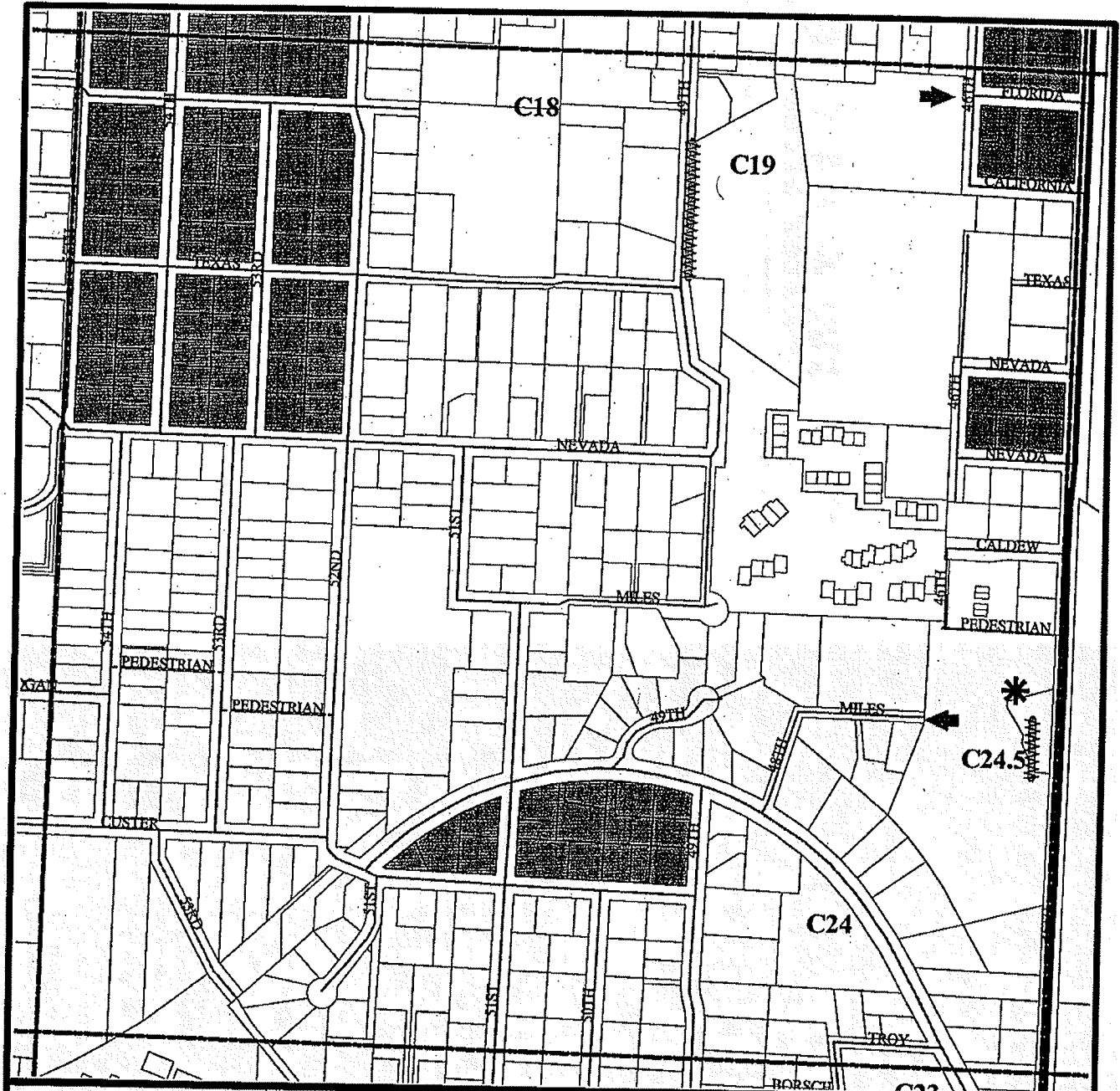


SW & FAR SE
Master Street Plan

Final Report and Recommendations

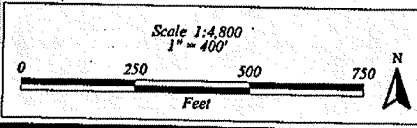
SEPTEMBER 2001
CITY OF PORTLAND
OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION

185174



Quarter-Section: **3724**

Portland Master Streets Plan
SW District



- Street connection points and alignment certain
- Pedestrian/Bicycle connection points and alignment certain
- Street connection points certain and alignment uncertain
- Pedestrian/Bicycle connection points certain and alignment uncertain
- Street connection points and alignment uncertain
- Pedestrian/Bicycle connection points and alignment uncertain
- "B9" Panel/Block indicator (see inventory)
- Parcels
- Meets street spacing standard
- Existing Roads/Freeways
- Existing Pedestrian Walkways, Trails, Offstreet Bikeways
- Quarter-Sections

* See Quarter-Section 3725 for complete recommendation.

Parsons, Susan

From: Bertelsen, April (PDOT)
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2012 10:15 PM
To: Adams, Mayor; Fritz, Amanda; Fish, Nick; Leonard, Randy; Saltzman, Dan; Moore-Love, Karla
Cc: Dillmann, Katja; Lilly, Caitlin; Walker, Dee; Gwin, Stuart; Lindahl, Lance
Subject: PAC letter opposing SW 46th Ave and SW Florida ROW Vacation Request

Attachments: PAC letter to City Council_ROW Vacation_SW 46th Ave_StLukes_2-21-12.pdf

Greetings Mayor Adams and City Commissioners,

The Portland Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) has written a letter opposing the Right-of-Way vacation proposed on SW 46th Ave and SW Florida. This is regarding Right-of-way File # 7191, which is on the City Council agenda Wednesday morning, February 22, 2012.

The PAC finalized this letter at their monthly meeting this evening. I am sending it to you on their behalf. An previous letter was written by the PAC to the Planning and Sustainability Commission on June 28, 2011. It was also opposing this vacation.

Karla-Moore Love,
Please accept this into the public record as their written testimony. Hard copies will be hand delivered in the morning.



PAC letter to
/ Council_ROV

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Best regards,

April Bertelsen
Pedestrian Coordinator
Portland Bureau of Transportation
april.bertelsen@portlandoregon.gov
Phone: 503.823.6177
Fax: 503.823.7609

Please note my new email address above.

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Portland Pedestrian Advisory Committee

1120 SW 5th Avenue Suite 800
Portland OR 97204

Members

February 21, 2012

David Aulwes

Mayor Sam Adams

Roger Averbeck

1221 SW Fourth Avenue, Room 220

Don Baack

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Carolyn Briggs

City Council

Betsy Clapp

1221 SW Fourth Avenue

Daniel
Friedman

Portland, OR 97204

Marianne
Fitzgerald

**Re: St Luke's Church Proposed Right-of-Way Vacation of SW 46th and SW Florida St
(R/W File #7191)**

Rebecca
Hamilton

To Mayor Sam Adams and Members of City Council,

Erin Kelley

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Elizabeth
Mros-O'Hara

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