

Continue Funding PDC Main Street Program

Robert E. Hamilton

**Co-Chair with Sheila Greenlaw-Fink
Hillsdale Neighborhood Association**

April 27, 2011

Remarks before City of Portland Mayor and Commissioners

My name is Robert Hamilton and I am, along with Sheila Greenlaw-Fink, Co-Chair of the Hillsdale Neighborhood Association. Today I ask that you continue the funding of the Main Street program. I am also a member of the Hillsdale Main Street Economic Restructuring Committee, one of five committees benefiting from the leadership of Megan Braunsten, executive director, and the work of more than 75 Hillsdale resident volunteers.

I recommend that the Main Street program continue to receive your administrative and financial support for three reasons.

One, Hillsdale was quick to respond to the application opportunity, successfully solicited its matching share of funds, as required; recruited an extraordinary battalion of new talent to serve on five Main Street committees—including one we added on “Sustainability”; and eagerly welcomed the excellent training workshops offered by the PDC. The working relationship with PDC and other city agencies has been very beneficial to Hillsdale and has resulted already in new measures to enhance the Town Center.

Two, the excitement created by the work of the Hillsdale Main Street board and Megan Braunsten has had a very positive impact on other organizations within Hillsdale: the Neighborhood Association, Hillsdale Alliance, Hillsdale Foundation, and the Business & Professional Association among others. Attendance has increased at monthly neighborhood association meetings and our HNA committees have new members who are actively pursuing projects and matters which are making Hillsdale a more appealing place to live. One need only read the Hillsdale News, the Southwest Community Connection, and other publications and blogs to see that the wheels of progress in Hillsdale have increased in number and velocity since the advent of Main Street. The “positive impact” includes not only the increased attention we are paying to the need for mutual support among our associations, schools, the library, and other components of our community, but insight into how we may be able to make them more efficient. Indeed, we may see structural changes within our existing organizations to make better use of the time given to community matters by our resident volunteers.

Three, while Hillsdale is one of the three neighborhoods selected to receive the most-recent grants, Main Street really benefits a much larger number of neighborhoods within the SWNI coalition. That is true not only because the residents of our 17-member coalition visit one another’s retail shops, trails, schools, and cultural activities, but

because the Main Street executive director, board, and committee members are actively looking for ways to link the enhancement of our Town Center to enhancement activities in Multnomah Village, Raleigh Hills, and other communities. “Synergy” may be an over-used and sometimes even abused word, but in this case it is appropriate in describing the increased coordination of improvement projects among the neighborhoods of the Southwest.

By funding Main Street previously, Mr. Mayor and Commissioners, you have made it possible for these linked benefits of Main Street to begin. Continue to fund Main Street and watch the multiplier effect at work.

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Robert Hamilton [robert@phww.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 2:35 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla
Subject: Request to appear on behalf of Main Street

Ms. Moore-Love:

I am Co-Chair of the Hillsdale Neighborhood Association and am writing to request an opportunity on Wednesday, April 27, to speak for three minutes on behalf of continued funding for the Main Street program. I understand that City Council meeting that day will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Robert

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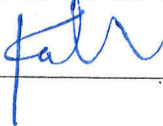
Request of Robert Hamilton to address Council regarding continued funding for
the Main Street program (Communication)

APR 27 2011

PLACED ON FILE

Filed APR 22 2011

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		