



# our happy block

..... coalition ...

## 'Our Safe & Happy Livability Initiative'

June 30, 2010

Dear Neighbor,

Let me introduce myself... my name is Terah Beth and I am your neighbor. I live at 8048 SE Martins Street. You've probably seen me out in the front yard slowly doing yard work. Today I am writing you to let you know about exciting news that will **positively** effect us all!

Ok! First, let me tell you about *Our Happy Block Coalition!* The *Coalition* was born from the Neighborhood Watch Group that met about one month ago. We've identified problems and are trying to make positive livability changes for our Neighborhood! YAY! To quote Oprah Winfrey "*Great and miraculous things happen when people come together with an intention to create hope and opportunity.*"

On behalf of our Neighborhood the *Our Happy Block Coalition*, along with the Calvary Lutheran Church, are applying for the **PDC Community Livability Grant** which will make our neighborhood safer, more beautiful, quieter and much more vibrant! The application is due July 12th!

We determined that the Calvary Lutheran Church's parking lot is a major problem with attracting the wrong kind of 'action.' Especially now that we have more kids on the block (in the new condos) we need to make this area more safe and quiet. The following is what we hope to do if we are awarded the grant. (see site plan for you visual pleasure:) **'Our Safe & Happy Livability Initiative'** will:

1. Cut off the Martins Street entrances/exits into the Church's parking lot. This will create a beautiful landscape strip filled with trees and plants, more parking for the condos, and prevent speeding traffic from using the parking lot as a short-cut street. This will also help with deterring criminal activity in the parking lot, since there will no longer be so many points of entry and escape.
2. Plant trees along both Woodstock & Martins St. to beautify our streets, cut down on traffic noise and improve air quality.
3. Add Lighting in the parking lot to deter criminal activity. We will go for soft lighting, versus harsh security lighting.
4. Put a basketball hoop and net on the old goal post.
5. Resurface all asphalt in parking lot
6. Add a Landscape strip down the center of the parking lot.
7. Add Infiltration Basins to treat all parking lot stormwater run-off. Currently the parking lot has 17,000 square feet of impenetrable asphalt that sheds all stormwater onto Woodstock & Martins street. This will be great for the environment and our city's sewer.
8. Landscape along the East side of the parking lot, along McCollum Auto's property. Also, add wood fencing along the McCollum Auto's property so the Auto Shop's tires & cars aren't visible. (this will cut down on theft and will block views into the lot.)
9. A community mural on the big blank wall of McCollum's East Wall (we are applying for a separate grant for the mural, due in August.)

If you can write a letter-of-support for this Community Livability Project know as 'Our Safe & Happy Livability Initiative', it could really help us show that we have a lot of community support! (p.s....It doesn't have to be well written, just a note conveying the need for this project.) Please see attached sheet concerning the the letter-of-support. We would love to have your letter-of-support by **July 10th.**

Thanks so much for reading and I cannot wait to hear from you!  
Your Neighbor,



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## *Letter-of-Support Help Sheet*

Please email or drop-off your letter of support before **July 10th**. You can put it in my mailbox at 8048 SE Martins Street or email it to [our.happy.block@gmail.com](mailto:our.happy.block@gmail.com). It can be a couple of sentences or a lengthy letter, hand-written or typed. Like I said before, it **doesn't have to be well written**...it just needs to show that you are excited and support this project. If you are a business or organization, a letterhead would be great! THANKS!

*It can look something like this:*

Date

Name, Title (neighbor, organization, business...etc)

Address of residence or business

*Dear Portland Development Commission Staff and Grant Evaluation Committee:*

*The body of the letter should explain why you enthusiastically support this project. Something like:*

I am writing this letter in support of the community livability project known as **'Our Safe & Happy Livability Initiative,'** located at 8040 SE Woodstock within the Lents Urban Renewal Area.

here are examples of what I believe this project will do for our neighborhood...what about you?  
*create recreational opportunities for youth (basketball goal,) beautify our neighborhood, make me feel safer (a nicer parking lot doesn't attract criminal activity and cars won't use the parking lot to short-cut anymore), great for the environment, improve air quality, make the streets less noisy (trees block traffic noise,) promote environmental 'stewardship', support housing and job resources (much better view from your front door, adds to parking, certain businesses use the parking lot to park /eat lunch during business hours,) and it will prove that when people from within a community come together BEAUTIFUL things can happen!*

..... i could go on and on...but I'll spare you.

Sincerely,

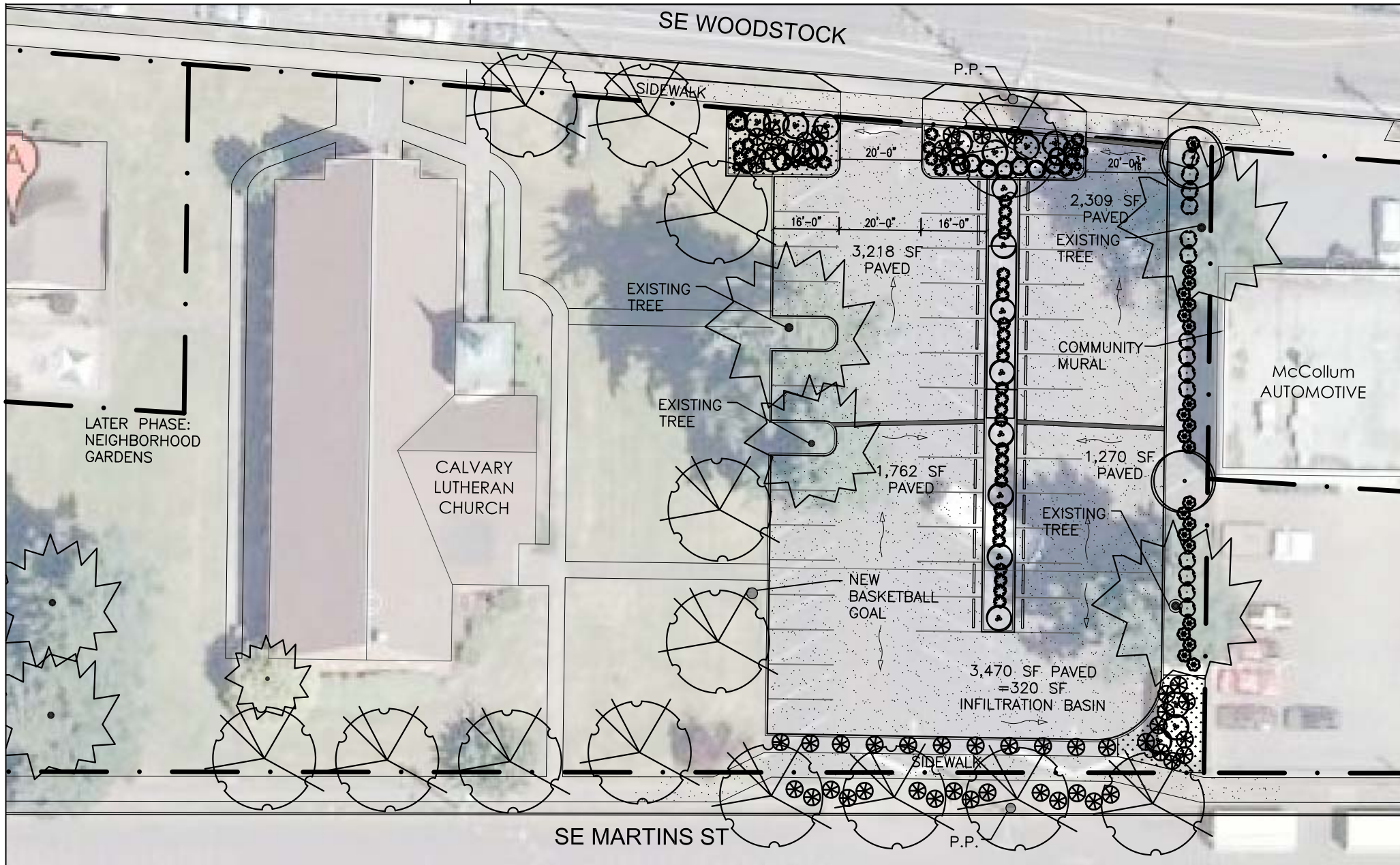
Name,[Title]

[Organization]

Thanks Everybody!

If we get this grant it will be a visible positive change  
that we will see everyDAY! \*\*fingers crossed\*\*

# OUR SAFE & HAPPY LIVABILITY INITIATIVE PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN



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LIVABILITY, SAFETY, ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP, VIBRANT ATMOSPHERE, STOPPING RUNOFF & TREATING STORMWATER, SHADE, AIR QUALITY, SOUND BARRIER VIA LANDSCAPING, SENSE OF COMMUNITY, SOCIAL EQUITY, RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH, **BEAUTIFICATION!**

CONTACT TERAH BETH AT [OUR.HAPPY.BLOCK@GMAIL.COM](mailto:OUR.HAPPY.BLOCK@GMAIL.COM) | 971.404.9864

8040 SE WOODSTOCK BLVD.  
JUNE 30, 2010