

I have been given mixed signals on the latest trails policy. Courtney Duke told our SWTrails group in late January the trails policy will not be available to discuss until April 2015 or later. Sara Schooley told me Monday a new trails policy was contained in the final report from staff for the TSP. I can only find a couple comments about making trails transportation rather than just recreation parks facilities. I find no trails policy to comment on.

Since this is the last opportunity to comment on the nonexistent trails policies, here are some essential elements that I and SWTrails have been fighting to get for over 10 years.

- 1. An overlay of the entire 40+ mile SW Urban Trails system that is a part of our planning documents so that when a house being built on a trail, the trail is protected. We have had cases in the last 10 years where our constructed trail has been destroyed by the house builder and not repaired or replaced in a reasonable manner. This provision should apply to all additional urban trail systems that may be developed across the City of Portland.**
- 2. That the entire SW Urban Trail system be classified as Neighborhood Greenways. This is needed because pedestrians need to be protected by traffic calming and 20 mph speed limits as much or more than bicyclists. In addition, that would also qualify for funding in the neighborhood greenway category! All new Urban Trails should be given the same classifications.**
- 3. I applaud the effort to emphasize the importance of low cost facilities in the comp plan. The facilities constructed by SWTrails are low cost, and have done a great deal to improve our pedestrian infrastructure in SW Portland. The SW Urban Trail System needs to be maintained. To date there has been no effort on the part of PBOT to arrange the maintenance of these key facilities. "Not my problem" is the attitude. In addition, the current city proposed "SW Trails Policy" seems to make it extremely difficult for a non profit such as ours to get permits to maintain the Urban Trails, and even harder to maintain the hundreds of little, mostly very short, cutoffs in all neighborhoods in SW as well as the rest of the City of Portland. Permits are a key provision in the 2011 State of Oregon Law which the City of Portland supported by SWTrails Personnel, got passed that provides a waiver of liability to the adjacent property owner if a non profit secures a permit to do the maintenance or construction from the City. The current city proposal will require extensive paper work to do each of these if the adjacent property owners are to be relieved of liability and a neighborhood non profit such as SWTrails takes**

over the maintenance. Rather than reduce the demand for staff time, it may radically increase it. We need to find a way to make this a very simple and easy to accomplish procedure.

Any help you can provide to make the process simple and easy to accomplish will help to improve our care and nurture of our existing and future citizen built infrastructure.

Thanks

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