

Bureau of Planning and Sustainability - River Plan / South Reach

Summary Notes from Southwest Neighborhoods Stakeholder Meeting - 3/2/18 @ SWNI

Attendees: Laura Campos Gleason, Vice- Chair, SWNI Equity and Inclusion Committee and South Portland neighbor, Paul Gleason, Caryanne Conner and Len Michon, South Portland Neighborhood Association, Sylvia Bogert, Executive Director, SWNI, and Joan Frederiksen, SW District Liaison, BPS (by phone), Debbie Bischoff, BPS South Reach project staff

Debbie provided an overview of the River Plan / South Reach planning effort and timeline, referring to the one-page project handout. She explained the purpose of this meeting – to gain initial input from key stakeholders to help inform existing conditions work and help frame the project. Today’s meeting is focusing on SW neighborhoods. Project staff are meeting with other groups, e.g. environmental stakeholders.

Meeting attendees then spent the rest of the meeting providing input to staff with an occasional question about the project area or a topic. The following is a list of comments received at this meeting:

1. A group of Native Americans are interested in locating a canoe installation along the Willamette River that educates the public on Native American culture and history.
2. There is an earthquake fault line that runs through South Waterfront and parallels the west side of the river. We need to understand the area’s geology.
3. Topography of west side is important to consider in planning. There are more constraints.
4. Like idea for streetcar and better transit through South Portland. Transportation is an issue. There is too much traffic congestion (especially around SW Boundary St.) and poor transit service along SW Macadam.
5. The Macadam to river area near Boundary used to be industrial and was then planned for low rise office. Then the switch came to residential development.
6. Favor greenway trails on land not (cantilevered) over the river.
7. Trail usage and safety an issue.
8. Trolley tracks to Lake Oswego, a future trail? Streetcar line extension?
9. Add “cultural” to recreational goal of the Willamette Greenway Plan, want the plan to reflect Native American values.
10. Equity issue – Parks dock fees in Superfund area of Cathedral Park dock, fees (need to be) waived for Native Americans, Willamette Park has cleaner water.
11. SWNI can help with public engagement – can notify folks and promote our project/events.
12. Like broader watershed and systematic approach to South Reach.
13. Last summer, trees were cut down for a trail to river in Cottonwood Bay (a concern).

14. With redevelopment, more people and developments want access to the river, a problem.
15. SWNI is developing a transient boater FAQ, will share with BPS staff when done.
16. Transient campers/boaters create limited public access opportunities for other. This restriction is a concern.
17. Riverview Cemetery mentioned (attempts at redevelopment within the property).
18. Ross Island needs to be natural area with very limited public access. How to make that happen soon.
19. Len mentioned he is a dragon boater (has boated around Ross Island and seen lots of wildlife).