

## Overlook Neighborhood Association General Meeting Notes

1/18/11 – Steve Lanigan, meeting chair and notetaker

### Portland Police Officer's Report – Officer Eric Zajac (ezajac@portlandpolice.org)

- Lots of burglaries citywide, but they are down in North Precinct
- Car prowls are up in Overlook
  - Motion detection lighting on buildings is a good deterrent
  - Car alarms – not always effective because we've become "numb" to the sound
  - "The Club" works as a deterrent, but there is no foolproof prevention method if someone is motivated to break into your car or steal it,
- Drug houses – report these on Portland Police Bureau website, Drug and Vice Division (<http://www.portlandonline.com/police/index.cfm?c=30560>) – this establishes a log for officers) or e-mail Mark Wells (Crime Prevention Coordinator, [mark.wells@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:mark.wells@portlandoregon.gov)) or Officer Eric Zajac (ezajac@portlandpolice.org)

**Public safety report** – prepared by Mark Wells, Crime Prevention Coordinator,  
[mark.wells@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:mark.wells@portlandoregon.gov)

#### 1) Going St. Pedestrian Bridge:

Metro was out and cleaned up the trash; however, there are a few new blankets but at least the bulk of the trash is gone. My program is identifying locations around the City on a new project that are chronic spots for crime/trespass and this is on the list. We need to come up with some way (on the cheap) to deter future camping/activity here or this cycle will only continue.

2) Car prowls are continuing around Beach Elementary...I've heard of multiple cars getting hit on Blandena just west of the water tower. Same story, different day, but please remind folks to keep their cars locked and items of value out of the interior and file those police reports. Michelle, you can fill folks in on the stolen trailer on N. Skidmore area.

3) The Beach Foot Patrol continues to grow and they are fielding several walks a month at different times. This is a great Foot Patrol that is making a difference for not only Beach Elementary but the surrounding neighborhood. They are always looking for more volunteers and need Overlook's support!! Contact Suzanne Clarke [suzanneclarke@gmail.com](mailto:suzanneclarke@gmail.com) if you'd like more info or would like to volunteer (each volunteer foot patrol group goes out one a month).

As far as the camper style vehicle by Interstate/Prescott...if it is legally parked (moving every 24hrs or so) and is not a road hazard and has current tags etc., there is very little the City can do. It will need to be in violation of City parking code or qualify as an "abandoned vehicle" in order to move forward. Always a good idea for surrounding neighbors to keep an eye on and let me and tell them to call me know if they observe any criminal behavior association with this car.

The January PSAC meeting will be 7pm Wednesday, January 26 at a special location, Life Fellowship Church, 3935 North Lombard Street. All residents and business owners are encouraged to take advantage of this time to **meet one on one with Chief Reese**. This should be a much more positive and constructive PSAC than a year ago, with some genuine conversations and community input.

PBOT is aware that the Skidmore/Concord intersection where the bike blvd is not working too well, and they have engineers working on it.

**Overlook Park and “Mocks Crest Park” updates** - Sue Glenn, Portland Parks and Recreation North Zone Manager, [sue.glenn@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:sue.glenn@portlandoregon.gov)

### **Overlook Park**

- Sewer line repair is starting (gravel and fencing are on site)
  - Dog off-leash area is in NW corner of park during repair (new signs are up indicating this)
- Wading pool
  - Has been closed for 2 years now
  - Goal is to convert wading pools to splash pools
  - Splash pools are using lots of water, sometimes more than wading pools. Options being considered:
    - Continue operating them as is
    - Create a holding tank or re-use water – new state legislation about disposal of gray water will make this more difficult
    - Install a filtration system and reuse the water (expensive)
  - St Johns is high priority for a splash pool
  - Could a thermostat controlled “turn-off” be used? – Park Dept is considering this.
  - What should splash pools hours be, e.g., should they be open at night when it’s hot?
- Master plan – send Sue your ideas for a master plan at the park
- Neighborhood feedback on dog area
  - Located in area with terrible drainage
  - Lots of transients/homeless camp in this area, so there is a safety concern
  - Lots of children in area because of nearby playground
  - Would prefer the NW corner of the park be the dog off-leash area
    - Would also be deterrent to illegal activities occurring on bluff nearby

### **Mock’s Crest Park (at the end of Skidmore Terrace and Skidmore Court)**

Contact Kurt Nelson ([Kurt.Nelson@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:Kurt.Nelson@portlandoregon.gov), Sue Glenn ([sue.glenn@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:sue.glenn@portlandoregon.gov)) or Park Rangers (503.823.1637) if you have concerns about the park or notice patterns of illegal/unwanted activity

- This is now officially a “hybrid park”
  - Will soon post area with hours and rules
    - Standard park hours (close at midnight)
    - No open alcohol without a permit
    - No off-leash dog area
  - Bench area will be mowed more frequently
  - Trash crews will be there 2 times a week
    - Parks could put a trash barrel there and see if that helps/hurts litter problem – what do you think?
  - Vegetation control will occur 6 times a year
  - Mowing will occur at least 4 times a summer
  - Graffiti removal will occur
  - Ravine and slope area will be maintained by City Nature (plantings, invasive plant control, address erosion concerns)

- Neighborhood feedback
  - Post signs: “no fires” and “no barbeques” (without a permit)
  - Would like skateboard ramp removed
  - Most activity occurs after 5pm
  - Illegal camping should be reported to Kurt Nelson (see above) or Officer Zajac
  - Would like more frequent police patrols (Officer Zajac wasn’t sure this will automatically occur with the park designation, but officers are aware this is an location of concern)
    - Need to call police when there is a problem!
    - Having this be Park property will help police because they now have standing to enforce rules
  - Can the Park name be changed? – Yes, Sue will send Cynthia Sulaski and Steve Lanigan info on how to do this. See following link to the park naming policy: <http://www.portlandonline.com/parks/index.cfm?a=217384&c=43957>
- Neighborhood watch should be telling Kurt Nelson about unwanted activities they see
- History of ownership
  - Ravine south of Skidmore Terrace bought by Metro several years ago (now managed as a undeveloped wildlife area)
  - Private inholding off of Skidmore Terrace parking area was bought by City a few months ago
  - PBOT-owned land on bench and bluff has been transferred to Parks
- Homeless people sleeping in parks is a concern from a safety standpoint, but it’s also a social problem – what resources are available for the homeless?
  - JOIN and Portland Rescue Mission are two resources, but it continues to be a frustrating problem how to help the homeless.
  - City recently got a grant to address homelessness

#### **Solarize North Portland – Robin Cash (see [www.solarizenorth-nw.org](http://www.solarizenorth-nw.org))**

- Looking for 50 families (can live anywhere in Portland) – please sign up on e-mail list and then forward info to your neighbors
- 75% of costs are covered through federal, state, and Energy Trust subsidies/rebates – spread out over four years. (Robin thought the remaining costs will be recovered in eight years at today’s utility prices).
- Can get a low interest loan, which is tacked onto utility bill – hope is that energy savings will off-set the loan cost so you don’t see any increase)
- Advantages of installing solar at your house
  - Puts people to work
  - Contributes to delaying or eliminating the need for more utility plants
  - The more people that sign up, the lower the cost
- Can people sign up their rental properties?
  - Not sure, but believes they can
  - Small business owners are eligible
- A FREE assessment will be done to see if your house qualifies (and provide advice on proper sizing)
  - If you use \$2000 worth of electricity and generate \$2200, you will donate \$200 so you don’t want to install an oversize system

#### **Annual Tree Planting in Overlook**

- Jan 29 – meet at Kaiser Town Hall @ 0830 for light breakfast

- Bring shovel (w/your name on it)
- Lunch will be provided at Kaiser afterwards
- Holes are usually dug before planting
- People will be planting trees w/experienced crew leader
- Kid friendly event if they are aware of safety concerns

**Overlook House** – Tax-deductible contributions welcomed!

**Neighborhood Watch (for Skidmore Ct)** – signs and window decals will be going up soon (OKNA provided funds for these)

**Earth Day** – Project ideas are being solicited for the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in April (April 2) – contact Alan Cranna ([ascran3@hotmail.com](mailto:ascran3@hotmail.com))

**Community Watershed Program** – grant process is now open through April 8 (more info about the grants: <http://www.portlandonline.com/bes/index.cfm?c=43077>)

**Overlook Neighborhood website** – very easy to read and lots of current info is posted on it. <http://www.overlookneighborhood.org/>