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ROSE CITY PARK REVIEW

www.rcpna.org

At least 4 issues per year - *The Official Newsletter of the Rose City Park Neighborhood Association*
[Submissions Welcome at Communications@rcpna.org](mailto:Submissions>Welcome at Communications@rcpna.org)

Fall General Membership Meeting

October 26, 2021 from 7:00-9:00 pm (video access via ZOOM open at 6:45 pm)

The Rose City Park Neighborhood Association will host its Fall General Membership meeting via Zoom featuring distinguished guests, Portland City Councilor **Carmen Rubio** and Oregon's Elections Director **Deborah Scroggin** as they discuss their efforts to ensure constituents are heard and represented.



Carmen Rubio is the first Latina on the Portland City Council and is the Commissioner leading the Bureaus of Parks and Recreation, Arts and Culture, and Planning and Sustainability, as well as the Office of Community Technology. Prior to serving as a City Councilor, she served as the executive director of the Latino Network and grew that small organization to a local powerhouse of 140 talented people who spend their time lifting up youth and families to achieve their potential and define their futures. She brings this dedication to Portland's Council. Carmen works to ensure that leaders and staff go outside City Hall to authentically listen and engage with everyone in our city. Numerous projects affecting our neighborhood fall within her charge including: Rose City Park (RCP) Playground Project; the RCP Bluff Restoration; RCP Tennis

Court Reuse; and the Residential Infill Project. Commissioner Rubio leads with a commitment to make hard decisions to guarantee that Portlanders have a government that is responsive and accessible to residents.

Did you know that Oregon is a national leader in election administration? For decades at least, election officials in Oregon have quietly and efficiently introduced and improved practices such as vote-by-mail and automatic voter registration. With this experience, the Oregon election administration matters not just across the Beaver State but across the nation. Our second featured guest is Deborah Scroggin, Oregon's new Elections Director. No, she won't be driving up from Salem because she lives in Roseway! You might also have seen her on the fields of a Portland Ultimate tournament. More to the point, she holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Oregon and a master's degree in public administration from Portland State University, and eight years' experience with the Portland City Auditor's office managing City elections. Deborah will share why Oregon is a model for federal election process improvements and how Oregon ensures representation through accessibility.



In This Issue:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Page 1 - ♦ General Meeting announcement | Page 5 - ♦ Rose City Bluff Restoration |
| Page 2 - ♦ Chair's Corner; Social Media | Page 6 - ♦ Profile: Cosmic Monkey Comics |
| Page 3 - ♦ Concerts; Racial Diversity in RCP | Page 7 - ♦ RCPNA Exceeds Donation Goal |
| Page 4 - ♦ Land Use & Transportation | Page 8 - ♦ General Meeting agenda; Calendar |

CHAIR'S CORNER

By TAMARA DERIDDER, RCPNA Chair



Welcome to Fall! This is one of my favorite times of the year. Having grown up in East Tennessee, I continue to seek out the striking Fall colors offered by maples, oaks, ash, and cherry trees. The smells change with the fallen leaves, too, and at times there is a whiff of smoke that can still remind me of the final camping trips we took when I was a kid. Smoke has a different meaning now. I am glad for the reprieve from last year's fires and hate to think that this might be our new normal. But, with Climate Change becoming a daily reality, I am learning to accept the need for my increased care and vigilance for everything I hold dear. This is now expanded to include Covid-19 and its growing number of variants. For now, I keep mulching and watering my plants and hoping for rain again soon.

Life with Covid can be a haven for the introverts and a prison for us extroverts. I am forever seeking new ways to engage with others that does not include a screen. Gratefully, I have been warmly welcomed into pods of "family" activities that would never have happened without Covid-19. From regular play-dates for my pup, Abby, to being invited in by neighbors for a margarita.

I recently survived a personal challenge of paddling 26-miles with my Wasabi GRIT team in our OC1s (one-person outrigger canoes). In Summer 2020, I became OC1 certified and began increasing my distance. On August 21st at 9:00 a.m., 12 of us began a paddle trip in Oregon City and traveled on the Willamette River through four cities and two states, arriving mid-afternoon on the Columbia River at the Frenchman's Bar in Vancouver, WA. I am still learning to walk again – but, what an amazing experience with new friends!

I welcome your stories of life changes and innovations during these times to share in our RCPNA newsletter and social media. I am energized by our differences as I am amazed by our ingenuity during these changing times.



ABOUT RCPNA

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Board Members:

Kelly Davis Terry Parker
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Heidi Hayward Alison Taylor
Don Levine Joe Anderson, Intern

RCP Review Staff:

Linda Hoskin, Editor, editor@rcpna.org
Jennifer Santhouse, Advertising Coordinator, advertising@rcpna.org
Helene & Roger Farnen, Delivery Coordinators, delivery@rcpna.org

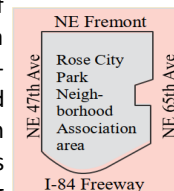
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The Rose City Park Neighborhood Association (RCPNA) is part of Portland's network of neighborhood associations, which represent their neighborhoods' interests in a wide variety of ways, including interfacing with public agencies and governing bodies. RCPNA's mission is to work to maintain and improve the livability of the neighborhood.

Membership in RCPNA is open to all persons of voting age who reside, own property or operate a business, government agency or non-profit organization within the boundaries of the neighborhood area (NE Fremont St. to I-84 and NE 47th to NE 65th Avenues). There are no dues or other requirements preventing a neighbor from becoming or remaining a member.

RCPNA is governed by a board of directors, unpaid volunteers who are elected annually at a general membership meeting, and it operates under the aegis of Central Northeast Neighbors, one of several area coalition offices that provide support to Portland's 95 neighborhood associations. Learn more at www.rcpna.org. For info about partner Coalition members, check out www.cnncoalition.org.



FOCUSING ON RCPNA SOCIAL MEDIA

By Joe Anderson, RCPNA Intern

Hello, neighbors! My name is Joe and I manage all the Rose City Park Neighborhood Association's social media accounts. I've recently been working on increasing and maintaining our digital presence and engagement across as many platforms as possible. Right now, you can follow us on Instagram and Facebook. We hope to soon add Nextdoor to that list. There are many other projects in the works we are very excited about. Be sure to follow us not to miss anything!

You can find links to **all** our social media accounts and more by visiting [RCPNA Social Media](http://linktr.ee/rcpna) (<http://linktr.ee/rcpna>).



Jamming at the 2021 Picnic in the Park Concerts

BY JENNIFER SANTHOUSE, RCPNA SECRETARY

After an extended break due to Covid-19 restrictions on gatherings, the Rose City Park and Hollywood Neighborhood Associations hosted their annual Picnic in the Park Concerts during the last two weekends in July. Norman "The Boogie Cat" Sylvester drew a crowd that filled (with proper spacing) the park slope with chairs and picnic blankets on July 24th. And when The Boogie Cat got jamming, folks sprang up to dance on the lawn, sang along and filled the air with chatter and joy. Despite the predicted heat the following weekend, neighbors flocked to hear LaRhonda Steele's classic soul, blues and rock set. Conversations between neighbors, the squeals of little ones, and pure soul music electrified the park. Neighbors reflected on the juxtaposition of LaRhonda's heart-thrumming vocals against the relaxing picnic setting. A huge thank you to Hollywood Neighborhood Association



for co-hosting this wonderful event, to PaperJam Press for the concert posters, to Tamara DeRidder our Chair and emcee, and to the joint Events Committees for bringing it all together! 🎵

RACIAL DIVERSITY IN ROSE CITY PARK

BY STEPHANIE SINGER, RCPNA BOARD MEMBER

At long last the **2020 Census** data has arrived -- not all of it, but enough to do some demographic analysis of our neighborhood. Rose City Park is 80% White. The neighborhood is more diverse than it was ten years ago (87% White). We are about 10% Asian* and 5% Black*. The other 5% are in the Census's other race categories (American Indian, Alaska Native, Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander) or identify with three or more different races. About 5% of Rose City Park's residents of all races also reported their *ethnicity* as Hispanic or Latino.

The [Board of the Rose City Park Neighborhood Association](#) is even less diverse than the neighborhood. Not only are we Whiter than the neighborhood at large, we are probably older and have fewer children in our households, though we can't be sure until the complete 2020 Census data is available. So when the Board wields its influence (publishing this newsletter, giving awards, choosing artists for concerts, challenging City leaders and writing letters to the "powers that be"), we're probably not representing the neighborhood fully, despite good intentions.

As we work toward fairer representation, we would love to hear from those who feel connected to our neighborhood, and especially to hear voices that we may not have heard before. Anyone can send us comments via info@rcpna.org or through social media using this convenient gateway: [RCPNA Social Media](#) (<http://linktr.ee/rcpna>). If you want to join the conversation (and the votes) about what the Neighborhood Association will do next, let us know! There is room on the Board for several more neighbors!

* For this article we've counted as "Asian" the people who described their race as Asian alone or Asian and one other race. Similarly for "Black".



LAND USE & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

BY KELLY DAVIS, CO-CHAIR LU & T COMMITTEE

The LU&T Committee meets regularly on the 3rd Thursday of every month from 7-9 p.m. During the pandemic, we are using Zoom meetings. Information on joining the meetings will be posted on NextDoor and on our website at rcpna.org. The next Committee meetings are scheduled October 21th and November 18th.

Sandy 51 Apartments at 51st Ave. and Sandy Blvd.

Sandy 51 has applied for converting the retail space on the first floor to six rental units. They are also requesting that the parking requirements be reduced from the required 17 to the current 16 spaces. The RCPNA has issued a letter recommending denial based on the current traffic/parking/safety issues which would increase and the intent of the code to provide retail space. We will keep the neighborhood informed.

Umpqua Bank Apartments at 47th Ave. and Sandy Blvd.

These 112 studios and one bedroom units are complete and beginning to lease. RCPNA will continue to monitor the associated parking and traffic issues.

SE Asian Vicariate – Our Lady of La Vang

The Archdiocese reported that the sale of the site to Columbia Capital Group (who was planning 200-300 apartments) is not moving forward. The Archdiocese indicated that they would keep the neighborhood informed of future updates.

Rose City Park Tennis Courts

The Portland Parks Bureau has indicated that the tennis courts at RCP could be removed or repurposed. RCPNA has written a letter in opposition of the removal indicating that the current use should be retained and potentially expanded to multi-sport courts.

Slow Streets

Scott Cohen from the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) will attend the November LU&T Committee meeting to discuss impacts from their Slow Streets project on intersections in our neighborhood including the possible addition of traffic calming devices or other improvements to reduce speeding.

Safe Routes to School – Intersection of 64th & Brazee

The Committee is continuing discussions with PBOT on alternate designs for this intersection including the removal of the candlesticks and installation of curbs or planters.



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If you would like to get an estimate of your home's value or just talk through your buying or selling options, I'd love to hear from you.

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ROSE CITY BLUFF RESTORATION

A volunteer community organization dedicated to the ecological restoration of the ROSE CITY BLUFF

BY SUZANNE BRIGGS, VOLUNTEER

Over the last three years an ever-growing number of volunteers have taken up the challenge to reclaim this wildlife corridor along the north edge of the Rose City Golf Course. We began by curtailing the overgrown non-native Himalayan Blackberry bushes which had nearly strangled all else. Then last year we began a modest plan of new plantings of native vegetation. In anticipation of the first autumn rains, we are preparing to plant more native species on the Rose City Bluff. We received several funding resources that will enable us to increase the number of plantings.



- Please join us to plant Oregon native species! The native plants will arrive November 7 and again November 14. We welcome volunteers to take part in our work parties. Please email an RSVP to rosecitybluff@gmail.com and we will share more work party details including what tools to bring.
- We are also holding a **Rose City Bluff Nature Walk** on October 24 at 9:30 a.m. To learn more about the Bluff's plants and ecology, meet us on the 62nd Street and NE Sacramento stairs.

The Central Northeast Neighborhood Coalition (CNN) has encouraged our efforts and agreed to be our fiscal agent. Thank you to all our volunteers, CNN, East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, and Portland Parks Bureau for your support over the last three years.

Learn more about the [Rose City Bluff Restoration](#).



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ROSE CITY BUSINESS PROFILE: COSMIC MONKEY COMICS

BY NATE RAMSEY, ROSE CITY PARK NEIGHBOR AND ONGOING CONTRIBUTOR

Comic book characters are ubiquitous in America nowadays thanks to their presence in big budget Hollywood films. Spiderman, the Avengers, Black Widow, Black Panther... the list goes on. Often lost among mainstream moviegoers is that these films originate from stories and characters first published in a classic comic book format, often many decades before. The plot twists, character evolutions, and narrative arcs are found in magazines sitting on the shelves of any local comic book shop. And it so happens that Rose City Park is home to one of the largest comic book shops in what is one of the most comic book-friendly cities in the country!

Cosmic Monkey Comics sits at 5335 NE Sandy Boulevard, sandwiched between Trek bicycle shop (formerly Bike Gallery) and Case Study Coffee. Upon entering the store, the massive volume of comics available is obvious. For good reason, it's been called the Powell's Books of comic book stores. The shop's main showing area runs approximately 100 feet deep and contains several offshoot rooms filled with more comics. Many shelves are stocked not only with the latest editions, but the five previous issues sitting just behind it (most other stores carry two). If there's a comic book that readers can't find on the shelf, it might be in one the roughly 1,000 boxes of older editions in the store's basement. More impressive, however, than the quantity of comics is the breadth of the store's collection. New and old mainstream comics and graphic novels abound. And there are sections of the store dedicated to translated European comics, Manga (a Japanese style of comic), science-fiction, biographies, cookbooks, horror, kids, science, black history, music, humor, and even cats.

(Read more on next page)

BUSINESS PROFILE: Cosmic Monkey Comics

(continued from page 6)

Cosmic Monkey was started by Andy Johnson and a business partner in 2003. After opening the shop in an 800 square foot space in Gateway Town Center, the pair moved the business to Rose City Park in 2006, partly to provide more space for their growing inventory. Last year, Andy became sole owner of Cosmic Monkey, which he runs with 3 full-time and 2 part-time staff, including himself. The lifelong Portlander plans to own Cosmic Monkey for many years ahead. And why not? Even his biggest competitors – other local comic book shops – are supportive and friendly with one another, he says. And Portland is a known mecca for all things comic books. Alongside New York and Los Angeles, it's home to the most creators of comics in the country. Andy believes writers, artists, and publishers have taken root in the city thanks to its large population of young creatives, conducive rainy weather for indoor activities, and comparatively low cost of living.



I asked Andy whether all the attention heaped on comic book-inspired movies in recent years has been good for business. He said that for well-known comics (think Batman) most people already know the general story, so little new interest is driven by a blockbuster film. But for the lesser-known comic books that get made into Hollywood movies, like Vision Scarlet or Charlotte Witch, fans are more inclined to seek it out. "People want to see how it translates," says Andy. "They want to see the different evolutions and interpretations of those characters over decades; and how 50 years of written history gets blended into not just one 2.5-hour movie, but one whose story is connected to many other [movies] over the period of a decade."

Despite recent challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, international paper shortages, and other events, Andy is optimistic about the future of Cosmic Monkey. He appreciates the Rose City Park community's support over the last 18 months, but hasn't been surprised by it because it's also been there the previous 15 years.

RCPNA EXCEEDS GOAL FOR OREGON FOOD BANK

BY TAMARA DERIDDER, RCPNA CHAIRWOMAN

In May 2021, the RCPNA Officers opted to open a fundraising account at the Oregon Food Bank in anticipation of Executive Director Savannah Morgan speaking at our May 25th membership meeting. At the meeting Ms. Morgan shared that nearly 1 in 5 residents in Oregon have faced food insecurity in the pandemic's wake. *"Thousands of us have lost friends and loved ones. The Oregon Food Bank Network worked with nearly 1.7 million community members over the course of the past year — that's almost double what we saw in 2019."*



Thanks to you, we received **\$1,605 in donations** for the Oregon Food Bank by June 14th, exceeding RCPNA's \$1,500 goal!

Thank you for supporting this important community service!

Past issues of the Rose City Park Neighborhood Association Review newsletter are available at <https://www.rcpna.org/past-issues/>



RCPNA General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, October 26, 2021 - 7:00-9:00 pm

Virtual Public Meeting (opens at 6:45)

Conducted Remotely on Zoom

PROGRAM

- Welcome and Announcements
- Special Guest: Portland City Commissioner, Ms. Carmen Rubio
- Special Guest: Oregon Elections Director, Ms. Deborah Scroggin
- Committee Reports
- Adjournment

The latest information including details to register for the Zoom videoconference or phone access can be found on the RCPNA website (www.rcpna.org), on FaceBook (www.facebook.com/rcpna.com) and on NextDoor Events Calendar by October 20, 2021.

To view the live stream or to access the recording afterward, search YouTube for “rcpna video”.

All neighborhood meetings are, by City Neighborhood Standards, public meetings open to all.



RCPNA CALENDAR

All RCPNA meetings are open to the public. Until further notice, meetings will be held via Zoom

Oct 12, 7-8:30 pm, Diversity Committee	Nov 18, 7-9 pm, Land Use & Transportation Committee
Oct 21, 7-9 pm, Land Use & Transportation Committee	Nov 29, 7-8:30 pm, Communication Committee
Oct 25, 7-8:30 pm, Communication Committee	Dec 7, 7-9 pm, Board of Directors
Oct 26, 7-9 pm, GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING	Dec 8, 7-8:30 pm, Diversity Committee
Nov 2, 7-9 pm, Board of Directors	Dec 16, 7-9 pm, Land Use & Transportation Committee
Nov 9, 7-8:30 pm, Diversity Committee	Dec 27, 7-8:30 pm, Communication Committee

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