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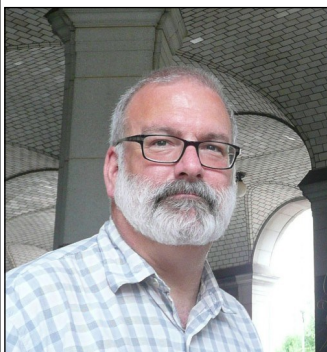
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At least 4 issues per year - The Official Newsletter of the Rose City Park Neighborhood Association
[Submissions Welcome at Communications@rcpna.org](mailto:Submissions>Welcome at Communications@rcpna.org)

Winter General Membership Meeting

**In-Person February 28th from 7:00-9:00 pm at the
German American Society located at 5626 NE Alameda St.**

Have you ever wondered why **neighborhood associations** exist? Where did they come from? What do they do? In fact, what *can* they do?



The Rose City Park Neighborhood Association's Board has been asking these questions and more and hope you, too, are curious. So we invited the foremost expert on Neighborhood Associations in Portland--**Paul Leistner**--to present at this General Meeting. For over a decade, Dr. Leistner was the city's coordinator of neighborhood associations and has the experience and expertise to answer these and other questions. Are you interested in your neighborhood and city history? Come find out more!

In addition to Dr. Leistner's presentation and Q&A, the Rose City Park Neighborhood Emergency Team (RCP NET) will have a table about emergency preparedness. Do you know what supplies you should have in preparation for a major ice storm or a big earthquake? And for how long you need to be prepared to be self-sufficient? The RCP NET members will be there to answer all your questions!

And, of course, our General Meetings are a chance to meet and spend time with your neighbors. After more than two years of virtual neighborhood association meetings, we are thankful to the German American Society for hosting us. Come grab a cookie, learn interesting information, and meet a few neighbors!



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CHAIR'S CORNER

BY ZACHARY LAURITZEN, RCPNA VICE CHAIR



Greetings friends and neighbors. Happy new year!

The new year always gets me thinking of the future. In Rose City Park that means many things. It might be a Sandy Boulevard with more trees, safer and more frequent crossings and slower moving vehicles, a protected walking-biking promenade along the Sacramento ridge, the revitalization of empty businesses, changes to Halsey Street, or the development of more housing along our transit corridors.

Change can also come in behaviors. Perhaps it is making new friends with a neighbor, volunteering in the cleanup and rejuvenation of the Rose City Bluff, leading a community event, or—dare I say it?—joining the Rose City Park Neighborhood Association!

Rose City Park has been changing since its very first years: converting farm land to neighborhoods, building street cars, tearing out street cars, building a racetrack then converting it to a golf course. The list goes on.

As we enter 2023, we know change will continue to come to our neighborhood both in physical and social ways. Consider being part of this neighborhood journey by joining our board or a committee. Whatever your passion—throwing a neighborhood party or leading a parade, discussing policy changes, helping put together the newsletter, spearheading a clean-up event, or organizing resources to support your neighbors—there is a space for you on our team.

I want to be honest: we cannot do it without you. Our neighborhood association is only as strong as the energy we collectively bring to it. If you are inspired to explore how to get more involved, email me at zlauritzen.rcpna@outlook.com. I would love to hear from each and every one of you.

Cheers to a great year!

Zachary Lauritzen



ABOUT RCPNA

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Zachary Lauritzen, Vice Chair
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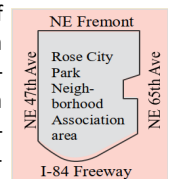
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Michele Heile, website@rcpna.org.




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 being 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 and social media. For info about partner Coalition members, check out www.cnncoalition.org.





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REFLECTIONS OF THE PAST

PROVIDED BY TERRY PARKER, RCPNA BOARD MEMBER

Tap dance class in the Rose City Park School gymnasium in 1950.



Early 20th century photo of Rose City Park School with modern transportation parked out front on NE 57th Avenue. The original part of the school was completed in 1913 and grew with more classrooms throughout the 1920's. The gymnasiums were added in 1928. Rose City Park School is an important historic resource that is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).



Continued on Page 5

Land Use and Transportation Projects

BY KELLY DAVIS, CO-CHAIR LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (LU&TC)

The LU&T Committee meets the 3rd Thursday of every month from 7-9 pm at the Owen Blank Early Head Start building at 909 NE 52nd Ave. Information on joining the meetings and proposed agendas will be posted on NextDoor and on our website at rcpna.org. The next Committee meetings are scheduled for February 16 and March 16. These are open public meetings and all are invited.

Our Lady of LaVang - SE Asian Vicariate

The property at NE 55th and Alameda was submitted as an Early Assistance Package for City review in October 2022. Proposed are two, four-story buildings with 286 apartments and 165 parking spaces. Amenities include a roof deck, club room, fitness center and an outdoor swimming pool with play area. Entry to and exit of the project would be from Alameda Street on the north. It is our understanding the developer has not yet obtained financing and the sale of the property is not complete. We will keep on top of further developments and bring you updates.

Halsey Project

Some time ago PBOT proposed a project to reconfigure Halsey from NE 47th to NE 60th. That project would reduce Halsey to one lane in each direction with a center turn lane. Construction was due to begin in 2022. The schedule for the project has slipped again and construction will not begin until later this year.

One reason the project is behind schedule is due to the impact of increased costs. They are currently evaluating how much of the paving on NE Halsey they can actually afford. Other than potentially decreasing the extent of paving on Halsey, there have not been any scope changes from what was originally proposed.

In addition to upgrading the signals at Halsey and NE 47th, 53rd, 57th and 60th, the project will be adding two marked pedestrian crossings with concrete median islands, one at Normandale Park between NE 55th and NE 56th and another between NE 50th and NE 51st.

Completing Sidewalk Infrastructure


Completing sidewalks in RCP will be discussed again at our next LU&TC meeting. A letter to Adena Long, the Portland Parks Director, will be drafted addressing the lack of sidewalks around Normandale and Rose City Parks. The Parks Bureau will be encouraged to include completing that work in upcoming projects.

Funding for completing sidewalks in other locations within the neighborhood is not available without impacting neighbors.

Traffic Changes at Sandy/Alameda/NE 57th

PBOT completed the temporary traffic changes making Alameda at NE 57th and Sandy one way westbound. PBOT has committed to monitor traffic conditions after implementation at NE 51st, 54th, 56th and any other streets affected by the changes. After six months or so, changes could be made to improve traffic flow and reduce vehicular speed.

Guest Speaker – November 2022 Meeting

Daniel Soebbing, Portland City Planner with River and Environmental Planning, came to our November meeting to discuss the Environmental Overlay Map and its impacts on RCP. The map includes the Rose City Golf Course with the intention of conserving and protecting those natural resources. Also included is a Scenic Overlay protecting the view of Mt. Hood. His bureau also keeps the Portland approved plant list. More information can be found on their website <https://portland.gov/bps/planning/enviro-planning>. 

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Preserving Our Neighborhood Treasure

By Suzanne Briggs, Rose City Bluff Restoration Volunteer

We have a wildlife treasure in our midst and our aim is to enhance and preserve it!

This wildlife corridor adjoins the north edge of the Rose City Golf Course and parallels NE Sacramento Street. For the last five years an ever-growing group of neighborhood residents has worked to remove invasive plants, such as



Himalayan Blackberries, and to replace them with appropriate native plants. Our goal is to restore the area to its native ecology and provide a refuge for native plants and animals. In addition, it will also provide an easy walk for area residents to enjoy the beauty of nature.

To date we have cleared large swaths of blackberry brambles and invasive plants, spread woodchips, and planted more than 800 native plants. Many of these young plants are marked with bamboo stakes.

We have achieved this by informally gathering every Sunday morning for two hours. In 2023, in addition to this weekly work, we plan to schedule work parties on the third Sunday of each month to tackle specific projects. We also plan to sponsor

special educational events, e.g. Native Plant Education Walks, Native Planting Days, and Birding Education Walks.

Rose City Bluff Restoration is an informal volunteer organization that is working in partnership with Portland Parks and Recreation, Central NE Neighborhood Coalition, and East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation. To learn more about the Rose City Bluff Restoration activities, check out our website: rosecitybluff.org or contact us at rosecitybluff@gmail.com.



Continued from Page 3.

Southeast corner of 47th and Sandy Blvd in 1962. This small market was a forerunner to the mini-marts of today. It was replaced by Umpqua Bank a few years later. Constructed in 2021, a six story apartment building, Koz, now occupies the site.





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Amidst Change, RCPNA Offers a Forum For Advocacy

BY IAN DAVIE, RCPNA BOARD SECRETARY

It's not every day we get to influence the design of our always-changing built environment. So when opportunities arise in our community, Rose City Park Neighborhood Association is taking a closer look.

Recently, the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) has been busy and Rose City Park Neighborhood Association has stayed on top of their efforts. Over the past year, the RCPNA Board has offered input on the City's decision-making on Sacramento Street between NE 62nd and NE 64th. That advocacy has resulted in safety and livability enhancements — including crosswalk markings and narrower streets — intended to slow vehicle traffic.

Most recently, the RCPNA Board voted unanimously to replace the plastic wands with concrete planters at the intersection of NE 64th, Brazee, and Sacramento. While the Board hoped for a more aesthetically pleasing intersection — a goal that the RCPNA can continue to pursue — the planters will allow for some flowers and greenery in place of plastic. Members of the Land Use and Transportation Committee also worked with PBOT to recommend fewer planters with better positioning to maintain safety.

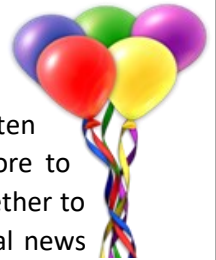
Managing change takes work, and we found that the conversations were sometimes challenging. Goals differed. Neighbors disagreed. And the Neighborhood Association offered a space to have civil and engaged discussions. We know that our neighborhood and city are always shifting. And neighborhood associations provide a space for neighbors to talk about and advocate for how that change occurs.

To learn more, please attend the next RCPNA General Meeting on February 28th from 7-9pm held at the German American Society. We'll hear about the role and history of neighborhood associations and discuss what RCPNA can and should do to advocate going forward.



Walker Award

Steve and Neen Fitzwalter are two of the best community builders we know. Each year, on multiple holidays, Steve and Neen gather with friends and neighbors to decorate their house to celebrate the season. Valentine's Day, Easter, Independence Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and sometimes other holidays. They do this with no other intention than bringing people and the community together to have fun. Steve and Neen's natural and friendly openness is a treasure to our neighborhood and model for parents and kids throughout. Their favorite holiday, Halloween, often brings 2,000-3,000 trick-or-treaters, mostly children and, depending upon the weather, many more to enjoy Elvis impersonators and look at the hearse parked nearby. They bring joy and community together to celebrate life. Their events are often featured on local TV news stations as well as articles in local news media.



In the midst of the global coronavirus pandemic, we are reminded how important normal community activities are to all of us and to our mental health. These seasonal celebrations at the Fitzwalter's house are a welcome and beloved part of our community. Our neighbors represent diversity and inclusion in all these activities and the Fitzwalters have always offered a place to find a friendly and welcome face. As a few of us were talking about the impact of the coronavirus on our neighborhood and lamenting the frequent neighborhood gatherings we've enjoyed in the past, we thought of Steve and Neen and all the excitement, fun, and community that they set in motion, not only at Halloween but throughout the year. In fact, during this pandemic, they hosted an outdoor music concert that was open to the public. We thought that a group nomination was in order and that Steve and Neen Fitzwalter surely deserve the **George and Esther Walker Community Service Award** for their exemplary service. Signed by sixteen neighbors.





RCPNA General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, February 28, 2023 - 7:00-9:00 pm

In-Person Public Meeting (opens at 6:45 pm)

Location: [German American Society, 5626 NE Alameda Street](#)

PROGRAM

7:00 pm Welcome, Announcements, Walker Award

7:15 pm Dr. Paul Leistner, Presentation and Q&A about Neighborhood Associations (NAs)

History - Who formed them? Why? When? Etc.

Scope - What do they do? What types and degree of social/political influence do they wield?

Today and in the future - How may charter change affect NAs?

7:45 pm Breakout groups: Small group discussions led by RCPNA board members

8:10 pm Return to whole group to share ideas

8:25 pm RCPNA Committee Reports

8:40 pm General Announcements, Social time

9:00 pm Adjournment

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



RCPNA CALENDAR

All RCPNA meetings are open to the public. RCP neighbors and business owners/operators are especially welcome.

Feb 16, 7-9 pm, Land Use & Transportation Committee	Mar 27, 7-8:30 pm, Communications Committee
Feb 27, 7-8:30 pm, Communications Committee	Mar 27-31, Spring Break
Feb 28, 7-9 pm, GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING	Apr 20, 7-9 pm, Land Use & Transportation Committee
Mar 7, 7-9 pm, Board of Directors	Apr 24, 7-8:30 pm, Communications Committee
Mar 16, 7-9 pm, Land Use & Transportation Committee	Apr 25, 7-9 pm GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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