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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)

Spring General Membership Meeting

**In-Person May 23rd from 7:00-9:00 pm at the
German American Society located at 5626 NE Alameda St.**

You'll want to attend this meeting! We begin with our annual election of a Board of Directors for the Rose City Park Neighborhood Association. The only qualifications for Board membership is to be of legal voting age and to reside, own property or operate a business, government agency or non-profit organization within the boundaries of the Rose City Park neighborhood. The term is for one-year with no term limits.



Senator Dembrow

We will also hear from Oregon State Senator Michael Dembrow and Oregon State Legislative Representative Thuy Tran. They will give a short update on projects of interest, then open up the floor for you, their constituents, to ask specific questions about the legislative session. Similar to a brief town hall meeting, this is a way for you to have access to your legislators.



Representative Tran



Also joining the RCPNA General Membership meeting is Sergeant Ken Huntinghouse with the Portland Police Bureau. We have heard from neighbors that they are concerned about safety and crime and would like to know more about what role the police are playing, how they are prioritizing their resources, and what their capacity is. Sergeant Huntinghouse will give a brief update then open it up for your Q&A.

The Meeting Agenda appears on the last page.



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CHAIR'S CORNER

BY ZACHARY LAURITZEN, RCPNA VICE CHAIR



Dear Neighbors,

At our previous General Meeting, we discussed many ways the Neighborhood Association can contribute to making the community a better place. The brainstorming session was inspiring! Some highlights:

- Host gatherings for those new to the neighborhood
- Improve the dog park with more water and waste bags and bins
- Plan neighborhood cleanup events
- Create a block party kit that anyone in the neighborhood could use
- Host movies in the park or at Rose City Park Elementary
- Communicate and coordinate community events like parades, walks, concerts, gatherings, etc.

Many also talked about simply meeting more neighbors and sharing phone numbers. You never know when you will need an egg for a recipe or a specific tool a neighbor may have to share. The value of taking care of one another in small ways is meaningful and builds community.

These are but some of the many good ideas. To put them into action, though, the Association needs **you!** The next Board of Directors will be elected at the May General Meeting to serve July 2023 through June 2024. Please reach out to us at info@rcpna.org if you want to be part of the team.

Speaking of stepping up, I'd like to recognize the efforts of Joe Saraceno, Rachel Gitner, and Ben Dudley. They recognized a need for improving the play structure at Rose City Park, so they formed the Rose City Park Playground Project and stewarded the project to fruition. Thanks to their efforts (and others!), soon we will be celebrating this new asset in our neighborhood.

Enjoy the Spring sun (I promise, it's coming) and see you around the neighborhood! Be well!

Zachary Lauritzen



ABOUT RCPNA

Officers:

Vacant, Chair
Zachary Lauritzen, Vice Chair
Ian Davie, Secretary
Richard Crockett, Treasurer

Board Members:

Richard Crockett	Zachary Lauritzen
Ian Davie	Don Levine
Kelly Davis	Terry Parker
Andrew Duchon	Nick Putnam
Beth Faris	Marina Samaltanos
Hollie Hemenway	Sanjeev Sekar

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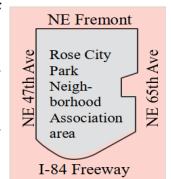
Michele Heile, website@rcpna.org.



SCAN ME

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.



ROSE CITY PARK! YOU HAVE A NEW PLAYGROUND!

PROVIDED BY JOE SARACENO, FORMER RCPNA BOARD MEMBER

Ever wonder how many of the world's problems could be solved by sharing a beer with a friend? Ben Dudley and Joe Saraceno met at the Barley Pod in the Fall of 2018 to discuss what they thought they could do to bring the community together. The playground in Rose City Park was looking a little rundown and dated, so they thought, "Let's put in a new playground and try and revitalize the park!" And, so, the Rose City Park Playground Project (RCPPP) came to be.



Little did co-founders Dudley and Saraceno know the Sisyphean effort that lay before them. After four years of building community support, gathering a volunteer squad, lobbying, fundraising, and hosting events, (not to mention a small hurdle involving a global pandemic), RCPNP reached out to the Portland Parks Foundation (PPF) who worked with City Commissioner Carmen Rubio and Portland Parks & Recreation to develop a 50/50 split of the \$260,000 price tag. The seed money was raised by the RCPNP, the RCP Neighborhood Association, and local residents, in addition to a major gift from the Walker Family Foundation.

"We were elated to partner with the wonderful--and tenacious--RCPNP," says Randy Gragg, executive director of PPF. "This is a great example of the Foundation's motto, 'We help people help parks.'"

"We rallied a diverse range of people and organizations to contribute to the project, some in cash, but others like MOD Pizza with food donations for our events, Soccer Shots for providing activities for kids, and other services generously donated by local businesses," said Saraceno. "I hope the new playground will be enjoyed by kids from



throughout RCP and the surrounding neighborhoods for many years to come."

RCPNP, PPF, and PPR are hosting a celebration of the new playground with lots of fun activities for kids and all are welcome!

Event Details:

When: **June 17th from 10AM-1PM**

Where: Rose City Park Playground (NE 62nd and Thompson St)

What: There will be fun activities for kids and adults, live music, and food

Who: All are welcome!



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 May 18 and June 15. These are open public meetings and all are invited to attend.

Our Lady of LaVang - SE Asian Vicariate

The sale of the property at 55th and Alameda has not gone through as of yet. A developer who proposed to the city in October 2022 (with 286 apartments and 165 parking spaces) has still not obtained financing. We contact the Parish Priest monthly for an update but things have not changed in the last few months. We will keep on top of further developments and bring you updates.

Hollywood HUB

TriMet and Bridge Housing will be presenting an update on the design of the new apartment buildings at the Hollywood Transit Station at our April 20, 2023 LU&TC meeting. The last time we reviewed the project in July 2021, it had 234 units, 40 parking spaces and a central courtyard.

Portland Parks and Recreation (PPR)

We are organizing a speaker from PPR to address several issues in the neighborhood including:

- Sidewalk infrastructure around the parks
- RCP Tennis Courts
- RCP Play Structure completion and opening event
- RCP Golf Trail – planning, funding and schedule

Once we have a commitment from PPR, we will inform neighbors of the meeting schedule.

Traffic Changes at Sandy/Alameda/NE 57th

With the traffic changes in place and speed bumps being added, we continue to provide feedback to PBOT on traffic and pedestrian issues in this area. We understand that PBOT will officially survey this intersection and other intersections in the area after six months and a year of the original installation. If neighbors have further input on this project before the changes become permanent, please come to a LU&TC meeting or send an email to info@rcpna.org.

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ROSE CITY BUSINESS PROFILE: NICO'S ICE CREAM

BY BETH FARIS, RCPNA BOARD MEMBER AND CONTRIBUTOR

"Honestly, I'm not a 'sweets person,' but when I came across New Zealand-style ice cream, I knew I needed to find a way to share it with the masses," states Nico Vergara, founder and CEO of Nico's Ice Cream.

Nico's Ice Cream is a real fruit ice cream company known otherwise as New Zealand-style ice cream. Started as a single push cart on Mississippi Blvd. in Portland during the summer of 2021, Nico had the goal to create the most unique, fun, and versatile ice cream company around. After a successful first summer, Nico's Ice Cream has since grown to two brick and mortar shops in Portland.

So, what is New Zealand-style ice cream? More commonly known as real fruit ice cream, it is a popular concept in New Zealand with the invention of a machine that takes premium hard packed ice cream with real frozen fruit and blends it together into a delicious, creamy soft serve-like treat.



Nico's imported their machinery directly from New Zealand to blend their Oregon-made vanilla ice cream with your choice of four locally sourced berries from the Willamette Valley – Blueberry, Marionberry, Raspberry and Strawberry. The final product has produced many satisfied customers. "My Grandpa said it was the best ice cream he'd had in 85 years!" - Grant J. "The ice cream was so fresh and light. It is made with real fruit and I could taste pieces of fruit when eating the ice cream." - Njeri P. "Nico's ice cream is such a treat! The ice cream is delicious and so different from the standard Portland ice cream offerings. We tried the raspberry and the strawberry and they were both amazing." - Korrin W.

If you would like to sample Nico's ice cream yourself, visit one of their two Portland locations at 5713 NE Fremont Street and 1617 NE Killingsworth Street. You can also rent their push cart for events and parties, and enjoy half pints available at select restaurants and grocery stores around the Portland area.

Visit Nico's Ice Cream today and discover your new favorite ice cream near the Rose City Park neighborhood and Portland! Learn more at www.nicosicecream.com.



Thank You To Our Editor!

With this issue, our erstwhile editor, Linda Hoskin will be leaving the position of Editor of our newsletter, the *Rose City Park Review*. She signed on for this task in late 2020 and is ready to move on to other ventures. Rest assured that Linda will be ready and willing to support the next volunteer and show them the ropes to get an informative and newsworthy issue out to the Rose City Park neighbors. From all the Board members of the Rose City Park Neighborhood Association, a hearty "Thank You" to Linda. - Richard Crockett

If you are interested in the Editor position, please contact editor@rcpna.org.





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**Annual REP Neighborhood
Garage Sale!**
Information coming soon about this
year's sale. Please check here: [https://
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A Rock 'n Roll Summer Evening in Rose City Park

BY JENNIFER SANTHOUSE, RCPNA EVENTS COMMITTEE

The RCPNA Picnic in the Park Concert on July 22, 2023 promises to be a night of foot-tapping, head-bopping fun with the talented Cluster Folk taking the stage. Composed of Dave Monroe on lead vocals and rhythm guitar, Keith Johnson on drums, Matt Gantz on guitar, and Daniel Manuziak on bass, Cluster Folk is an Americana rock n' roll band that has been playing together for four years. The band's musical influences include Jason Isbell, Tom Petty, and James McMurtry, and they embody the American rock n' roll singer-songwriter style in their music.

Cluster Folk recently recorded several new songs which are now available on Spotify, and they have been playing in various local establishments around town. But their beginnings are much humbler than that. In fact, they started by playing in Keith's front yard right here in Rose City Park, providing some much-needed relief during the last three years of social distancing. They quickly became popular with their neighbors, and their fame grew from there. Check them out on Instagram @cluster.folk, and give their music a listen on Spotify. You won't be disappointed.



The RCPNA Picnic in the Park Concert is the perfect venue for Cluster Folk's lively music, and it promises to be a great night out for the whole family. The concert is scheduled for **July 22, 2023, from 6-8 pm at Rose City Park**, and admission is free for everyone. So, pack a picnic, bring a blanket or lawn chairs, and settle in for an evening of great music. It's a night you won't want to miss! Mark your calendars!



Birding and Botanizing on the Bluff

BY SUZANNE BRIGGS, ROSE CITY BLUFF RESTORATION VOLUNTEER

Over the last five years an ever-growing group of neighbors of all ages has been working to reclaim and re-wild the Rose City Bluff, the forest corridor that runs along the north side of Rose City Golf Course, below Sacramento Street. Our goal is to protect and enhance the valuable nature preserve in our midst!

We are commemorating our fifth year by organizing educational programs that seek to reconnect us with nature. The first event, a bird walk, hosted by Trask Colby, was held on January 29th and attracted more than thirty participants. Trask is a veteran bird watcher and has logged more than 70 bird species on the Bluff in the last five years. In March, Margaret Kuhn distributed native plant seeds to volunteers in the 2nd Annual Native Seed Project. The volunteers will nurture these seeds in pots through the summer and return the mature plants to the Bluff for our Native Planting Day in November.

On **Sunday, June 4th at 9:30**, Greg Shepherd, neighborhood resident and owner of Xera Plants, will lead a Native Plant Education Walk along the trail and identify plant species, including those that we have planted. As always, we will meet at the stairs at the west end of the Bluff at NE 62nd Avenue.

Educational walks designed especially for children are being planned. Keep track of our forthcoming events by checking our website [rosecitybluff.org](https://www.rosecitybluff.org) or sign-up for our email list at rosecitybluff@gmail.com. Rose City Bluff Restoration is an informal volunteer organization working in partnership with Portland Parks and Recreation, Central NE Neighborhood Coalition and East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation. We welcome your participation!





RCPNA General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, May 23, 2023 - 7:00-9:00 pm

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

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

PROGRAM

7:00-7:05 pm	Welcome
7:05-7:15 pm	Rose City Park Neighborhood Association Board - Election Overview
7:15-7:30 pm	Legislative Updates from Senator Michael Dembrow and Representative Thuy Tran
7:30-8:00 pm	Q&A with Senator Michael Dembrow and Representative Thuy Tran
8:00-8:05 pm	Break for ballot drop
8:05-8:35 pm	Sergeant Ken Huntinghouse, Portland Police Bureau with an update and Q&A
8:35-8:50 pm	RCPNA Committee Reports and community announcements
8:50-9:00 pm	Rose City Park Neighborhood Association Board - Election Results

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.

May 18, 7-9 pm, Land Use & Transportation Committee	Jun 29, 7-8:30 pm, Communications Committee
May 23, 7-9 pm, GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING	Jul 1 - New Fiscal Year
May 25, 7-8:30 pm, Communications Committee	Jul 11 - Board of Directors
Jun 6, 7-9 pm, Board of Directors	Jul 20, 7-9 pm, Land Use & Transportation Committee
Jun 15, 7-9 pm, Land Use & Transportation Committee	Jul 27, 7-8:30 pm Communications Committee

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