

Rockwood Weed & Seed Steering Committee
Tuesday, October 18, 2005; 5:00pm
Alder Elementary School

I. Welcome

II. Introductions

IN ATTENDANCE: Nathan Teske, Maura White, Erika Silver, Kathy Minden, Chris Piekarski, Chris McCormack, Rich Pierce, Brenda Brady, Gloria Wiggins, Brenda Butler, Keith Biggs, Cheryl Houston, Angie Strange, Michele Johnson, Tricia Harding, Steve Olsen, Jim Buck, Marc Wolters, Robert Mattice, Michael McDaniel, Stephen Young.

III. Approval of September 2005 Minutes

Find copy of minutes on our webpage:

http://www.weedandseedoregon.org/rockwood/minutes_r.htm

IV. Reynolds Learning Academy

Angie Strange of RLA, spoke with the Steering Committee about the Academy located at 20234 NE Halsey. (She used to work in the school district's office and also for the Reynolds School Foundation.) RLA encourages hands-on learning, internships, helps students develop their resumes, provides job readiness training, job shadow opportunities and leadership classes – for which the students must participate in volunteer activities and they organize an annual rummage sale – to try and raise money for their graduation. They had 56 graduates earlier this year; their biggest class yet.

RLA is the 2nd high school in the Reynolds School District and is known as the 'alternative school'. They have a capacity for 200 students; there are 28 staff persons. RLA gives a greater opportunity for one-on-one contact; more genuine and deeper relationships are possible. Our current students have previously had behavior challenges and former educators of those students realize they may need more specialized care which they can get at RLA.

If RWS Steering Committee Members want to know how they can help, RWS can provide speaking opportunities, volunteer or internship opportunities to RLA students.

A special program at RLA is the Multnomah Youth Cooperative, which focuses on environmental studies – students can help with landscaping, wetland restoration, trail maintenance, etc.

RLA also has a partnership with MHCC Head Start to create the Youth Mentoring Project. RWS actually provides some Tri-Met passes to some of the mentors on a regular basis.

15 RLA students also participate in MHCC's Project YES program. This program helps to create a smoother transition for students going to college; provides for job shadow opportunities and students can take MHCC classes.

RLA also provides a drug and alcohol support group for its students. This is available to all teens in East County. They realized the need because AA and NA is only provided for adults. The group currently meets on Thursdays at 3:30; there are 30-40 kids participating/week. Marty Larson is the counselor at RLA that oversees this.

V. Brief Partner Announcements

5:50

Stephen Young of the Gresham Community Court program announced that judges will now be placed on a 6 month rotation through the GCC; this allows for better consistency. It is being discussed to develop a mental health court, a subprogram of Community Court. The Information Center at GCC, provided by RWS (and monitored by Stephen), continues to be helpful to all court visitors, not just those from GCC. Stephen has been the Mental Health Consultant/Social Services Case Manager for 1.5 years; we are grateful for his dedication, which also helps with consistency.

The Portland Guardian Angels representatives, Marc, Robert and Michael, recently rode the MAX out to Gresham and encountered some problems at one of the Rockwood area stops. They are getting some calls from folks interested in joining their efforts. They can provide self defense training, free martial arts, first aid and cpr classes. Young people that need to complete community service hours can become JR Angels. For more information on the Angels, call 503.313.1210 or visit www.guardianangels.org.

Jim Buck, Chair of the East County Caring Community, came to join us in our discussion about “How we can continue to be effective?”.

Gloria Wiggins of El Programa Hispano reported that it may be necessary to talk to Commissioner Roberts soon about the aligning of gang services. There is currently a lot of attention on the City of Portland with some of the shootings and we may need to convey/remind folks that gang violence does not just happen within the African American community.

Under the umbrella of **Project Safe Neighborhoods**, she announced the Safety Promoters Program. They will train 40 Latino community members on safety issues, such as: using 911 and the non-emergency number(s), communicating with law enforcement and encouraging to call law enforcement.

Erika Silver from Human Solutions distributed copies of the newspaper article about poverty found in the Oregonian on Sunday, October 16th, entitled “Low-income Oregon workers fall behind in getting ahead”.

We will hold their annual Leadership Luncheon on Tuesday, 11/8/2005. They served 50,000 people last year, across the 245 square miles of service area.

We hope to serve about 300-400 people with the Adopt-A-Family program this year for the holidays. They have also recently opened, in partnership with SnowCAP and Salvation Army, the Helping Hands Community Store on 27th and Powell (the old St. Vincent DePaul Thrift Store).

Keith Biggs from Reynolds School District stated that RSD held a five week summer school in which 800 students attended. They are currently offering 27 ESL Classes. And they are partnering with El Programa Hispano to get better connected with Latino parents.

Steve Olsen from Harry’s Mother/Janus Youth Programs spoke about the short term shelter that they provide for males and females, ages 9 to 17. They’ve been open since 1976; 30% of their clients are from east of 168th. Most youth do not stay for more than 72 hours; we encourage reunification with the family. The shelter is a voluntary program and a client must have permission from the family before he/she can stay there. Steve also represents East County Family

Services which provides gang outreach and other services. RWS has been contracting with ECFS (and El Programa) to provide the instructors for the Talking It Out classes.

Maura White-Cioeta from the Police Activities League mentioned the Youth Center Spaghetti Dinner and Fundraiser that will (took) take place on Thursday, 10/20 at the Gresham Armory.

Nathan Teske of El Programa Hispano reminded the group of the financial literacy workshops that they are providing due to a grant from the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise and HSBC Bank. The first one was held on 10/8 and the second will be on 11/12 at the Rockwood Grange. 48 Spanish speaking adults participated in the first one. It was so successful that the funding organizers are considering asking them to offer it in December and perhaps 6 more next year.

Tricia Harding from Metropolitan Family Service mentioned a health fair that will (took) take place on Saturday, 10/29/05 – it was a kick-off to the Strong Schools, Fit Families program that will be implemented w/in the SUN schools of both Centennial and Reynolds School Districts.

Also, Sarada Boland of MFS, has moved to Glenfair SUN program. They will be hiring a new Family Involvement Coordinator at Alder/Davis.

Brenda Brady of Mt. Hood Community College mentioned that the Rockwood Summit has been put on hold; we are at a stand still in the development of that. However, partners are still talking about the Plaza Montaña concept. This facility would ideally be 60,000 square feet to co-locate Head Start services with classes/services for high school, community college and university students.

Kathie Minden mentioned that Gresham officials and community members are talking about a branding of Gresham concept, evolving into an identity of five communities. There was a homeless youth summit in Roseburg. League of Women Voters wants to bring direct action to certain efforts. **People for Parks** has received a grant from Safeco – we will purchase a laptop and presentation equipment. We are discussing holding a speakers' bureau in January.

A PFP intern will begin on 11/4 to help with a feasibility study, considering the development of a charity store and a statewide parks and recreation summit. Kathie has outgrown her home office. There was recently some vandalism done to Vance Park amenities.

Cheryl Houston of the Mult. Co. Health Department reminded us to get our flu shots!

Chris Piekarski of the Mult. Co. District Attorney's Office mentioned that the drug free zone has been put on hold for a bit while Portland looks at renewing their statutes. They may make some changes to their structure and Chief Piluso wants to put something in place that aligns the metropolitan area's issues/concept. It is likely to go to the Gresham City Council within the next 2 or 3 months.

In her absence, Brenda explained on behalf of **Leonora Ramirez of Lifeworks NW** that 12 or more staff will move to their new Rockwood area location – 17214 SE Division; 503.761.5272. They provide mental health and addiction services for a healthier community. They also have community based prevention programs and have bilingual Russian/English and Spanish/English therapists and case managers.

VI. Site Coordinator and Partner Reports

- **Rich Pierce of the Gresham Police Department** talked about the National Crime Prevention Council Conference (NCPC) and other Law Enforcement tidbits. Rich said he definitely felt energized, thanks to the NCPC Conference. He's interested in seeing how we might implement an email alert project. It would especially help apartment managers and in turn, their residents; perhaps this could be implemented city-wide.

He was reminded of an opportunity to run public transport fare missions and maybe this would help in a cut back on crime.

GPD's Minor Compliance Program could help us to consider increasing such sanctions (which are actually state laws); perhaps we should increase education through this.

Rich also attended a few sessions regarding terrorist/security issues as well as meth.

- **Make A Difference in Rockwood – 2005-2006 Special Emphasis**
 - Resumes are coming in for the p/t Outreach Coordinator position.
 - The interview panel will be Brenda, Nathan, Michele and Kathie.
 - Brenda will present the MAD project to the Gresham Redev Commission 10/27
- **Mini-grant opportunity**
 - Application due date = 10/28/2005
 - In November, the recipients will present their projects and awardees will be given their 90% checks.

VII. Sustainability for Weed & Seed

6:15 -- ALL

- Expected end of funding -- SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2007

1. What has Rockwood Weed & Seed done for the community that you'd like to see continue beyond September 2007?

Not addressed.

2. If you had to think of a zone that needed similar attention as Rockwood has, where would it be? Keep in mind that any Weed & Seed area can only share ONE boundary with our current RWS boundaries. (162nd, 202nd, Division, I-84)

Consider:

- *What the data says – income level guidelines and crime rates*
- *Fairview, Troutdale, Wood Village*
 - *Along Halsey to Kane*
 - *Gresham borders all three*
 - *Consider law enforcement agencies (WV is MCSO)*
 - *Drug dealing and trailer parks in Fairview*
- *Strategy*
- *East to Hood River County line – Cascade Locks?*
- *Gresham*

- *Pockets east of 202nd*
- *Hall, East Gresham and Hogan Cedars – schools (all SUN?)*
- *Area around DMV, Food 4 Less*
 - *Fleming, Rene, 7th, Lambert*
- *Area around Hall Elementary – 23rd, Kane, Hogan*
- *From 175th to Highway 26 along Powell Blvd, Hogan, Cleveland*

Meeting Schedule

November 15th, Tuesday. Alder Elementary

December – No meeting.

January 17th, Tuesday. Alder Elementary

2006 – 3rd Tuesday of each month; 5-7pm @ the Rockwood Grange.