

Rockwood Weed & Seed Steering Committee
Tuesday, November 21, 2006; 5:00pm
Gresham Police Rockwood Community Office

- I. Welcome & Introductions:** Brenda Allen, Roger Meyer, Kathie Minden, Marge Johnson, Cathy Sherick, Gary Tribbett, Nell Whitman, Gloria Wiggins, Mary Lou Begert, John Udseth, Rich Pierce, Carla Piluso, Virginia Warren, Darin Sanchez, Dina DiNucci, Jim Harper, Keith Biggs, Kristen West, Sarah Broderick, Natalie Mitchell, Brenda Butler.
- II.** Approval of October Meeting Minutes; Roger motioned; Rich seconded. Minutes approved.
- III.** Partner Updates
- Gloria/EPH – also have funds for the Low Income Tax Clinic for 2007. Financial Literacy Course graduates complete tomorrow, 11/22. All are invited.
 - Dina – Hopefully Park Place Coffee and Crepes will be open soon!
 - Kathie – Luminaries will be lit Friday afternoon, 12/1 by the Centennial Learning Center volunteers at Vance Park. Drive by after work and see us! People for Parks has 3 work study positions open through MHCC.
 - Virginia provided handouts from WorkSource Oregon Portland Metro East for two job openings – Clerical Event Staff and Electronic Assembly Technician. 503.669.7112
 - Cathy – the Greater Gresham Area Prevention Partnership will hold its first Community Strategic Planning Workshop on 12/6. Hope you can join us!
 - Nell/Human Solutions – our new Living Solutions program is being administered through this office, the Rockwood Community Office. We serve clients who are Gresham residents and interested in job training in the health and human services fields.
 - Also, it is likely that Human Solutions will be able to establish a presence at Couch and 181st to build a multi-service agency/community building.
 - Carla/GPD arrived bearing a gift for Brenda to wish her well and thank her for the commitment to the Rockwood community.
 - There will be a PAL/community send off for Brenda on December 13th at the Rockwood Community Office at 12:30pm – 2:30pm.
- IV.** Strategy Updates
- Law Enforcement/Community Policing Rich Pierce
 - Rich also presented a gift to Brenda; great thanks to Brenda for her tremendous work with Rockwood Weed & Seed. It will be exciting to have her on board with the Gresham Police Department! She will continue to be a great asset to this community.
 - Rich provided some crime stats updates related to juvenile arrests and impacts due to the curfew sweeps that were put in place. Note the number of juvenile victims has stayed consistent. That is decent with population going up. The number of arrests have doubled from 2004 to 2006 during the summer months. Any contact with a juvenile, due to the curfew sweeps were considered an “arrest.” Copy of report can be made available upon request.
 - Prevention/Intervention/Treatment Gloria Wiggins
 - Gang prevention programs continue
 - Back to School Fair attendance numbers were huge!
 - Financial Literacy - 5 weeks of class with 30 people each, 25 were required to graduate by not missing any classes
 - PSN Safety Promoters will host training workshops for leaders in the communities to go out in the community and get programs and projects started.

-Human Solutions and PSN Safety Promoters will be putting on a seminar about Domestic Violence. Gloria will send out a flyer.

-There was recently an 8 hour workshop for families with children with disabilities.

- Neighborhood Restoration

- M.A.D.

Natalie Mitchell

- 1st objective: build cohesion with small businesses in West Gresham. Thanks to Dina and others, we have a mission statement...it is good timing with the Rockwood “branding” project. Business Coalition will meet December 6th.

- 2nd objective: joint efforts tie in with Rockwood Urban Renewal. 3 new storefront grants: a) 800 building on 181st; b) Rico Taco c) Dutch Brothers coffee opening up end of December. Branding will be wrapped up by January.

- 3rd objective: reduce the number of meth labs and drug houses and beautifying the community. We have been able to coordinate some projects with the “Busy Bees” from Dexter McCarty Middle School. They have done some garbage clean up throughout the triangle and some graffiti cleanup.

- VITA/Tax Aide Center

Sarah Broderick

- It is now officially set up so go take a look! John Udseth (from Salt Lake City) has been traveling to VITA centers throughout the US. Possible post-tax season services: basic computer training, especially seniors. Sarah is the VITA/Tax Aide Center Coordinator (30hours/week) and has been involved in community outreach for a long time and is really looking forward to getting the VITA center up and running. (There are also community computers available at the Habitat for Humanity site.) VITA is a volunteer-run center and we still need volunteers!!! You can contact Sarah via Brenda’s phone (503.816.1530) or taxaide@weedandseedoregon.org There are about 15 tax aide sites in the Gresham area. Most are by appointment only. If you want to be a volunteer, VITA sponsors a “link and learn” program that is self paced and prepares you to do your own taxes as well as helping others. We also need greeters etc. We are a low-income tax site so we work in coordination with IRS to help take care of these issues. The goal is to reach 100 returns each year for at least the next two years. We are seeking donations such as pens, paper, water, staplers, cookies, etc.

V. Mark Your Calendars; there’s Work to Be Done and Fun to Be Had!

- December 1 (FRI) - Luminarias at Vance Park
- December 6 (WED) – Rockwood Business Coalition Meeting
- December 6 (WED) – Greater Gresham Area Prevention Partnership (GGAPP); be sure to register by December 1st; only 50 spots available.
- December 7 (THURS) – RWS Executive Committee
- December 8 (FRI) – Youth Gang Prevention Conference – all day event for the metro area – contact Brenda for more info
- December 13 (WED) – gathering for Brenda; 12:30-2:30pm at Gresham Community Office. Dessert will be provided.
- December 14 (THURS) – East County Caring Community – 3-5pm
- December 15 (FRI) – PAL’s Holiday Gala @ the Pittock
- December 18, 19, 20 (MON-WED) – Las Posadas (El Programa Hispano) Contact Gloria for more info
- January 2007 – 3 RWS Subcommittees meet

Law Enforcement/Community Policing: January 11th, 3pm at Gresham Police Department ????????

Prevention/Intervention/Treatment: January 17th, 11am at Rockwood Library

Neighborhood Restoration: January 19th, 10am at Park Place Coffee

- January 2007 – RWS Executive Committee -- which date? 4th? 5th? 11th? 12th?
- January 16, 2007 (TUES) – GGAPP –they meet every other month on the 3rd Tuesday. This is subject to change.
- February 1, 2007 (THURS) – Grand Opening of VITA/Tax Aide Center? – if you want to get your taxes done on that day, come on down!
- February 1, 2007 (THURS) – RWS Executive Committee
- February 14, 2007 (WED) – CADCA National Leadership Forum – a RWS representative has been invited to speak on a Sustainability Panel at this conference in Washington DC; all expenses paid. Rich motions that Brenda goes to this convention. Gloria seconds. Motion approved. Brenda will discuss with the GPD.
- February 20, 2007 (TUES) – RWS Steering Committee

VI. Subcommittee Reunification

-Transition of Brenda moving positions as well as transition of Weed and Seed in the community -- how we can continue our presence in the community while funding decreases and then goes away?

We need these Subcommittees to shepherd us along!

-If anyone knows local residents that would like to be a part of the Steering Committee or subcommittees, please bring them to the meetings to get them involved. We need to focus on strengthening our outside relationships.

-We are all going to have to work a little harder to make this transition as smooth as possible. We will no longer have Brenda as a “coordinator” so we will all need to pitch in a little bit more to continue the work of Rockwood Weed and Seed.

-Compassion Rockwood last year was an effort to meet some needs between health providers and some local churches. It will happen again in 2007. They would like to get the social service groups together and anyone else who would like to be involved. Now they are thinking of making this event bigger and making it a community activity day. If you would like to be a part of Compassion Rockwood there will be an initial leadership meeting on November 30th from 7pm – 9pm in the Rockwood Community Room. Gary Tribbett is the contact for Compassion Rockwood.

VII. Tour of the VITA/Tax Aide Center

Meeting Schedule

2007 Steering Committee: 3rd Tuesday in FEB, APR, JUNE, AUGUST

2007 Subcommittees meet in JAN, MAR, MAY, JULY