

Rockwood Weed & Seed Steering Committee
Thursday, July 15, 2004; 5:00pm
Rockwood Library

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** IN ATTENDANCE: Kathy Minden, Ivan Cortes, Rich Pierce, Mary Lou Begert, Helen Estrada, Chris Piekarski, Laura Adania, Virginia Warren, Cindy Hagen, Patti (& Amanda) Story, Becky Coleman, Cheryl Houston, Brian Renauer, Stephen Young, Angeline Hayes, Joan Pasco, Brenda Butler, Zulma Arreola, Monserrat Mendoza, Rosa Shayo Dominguez, Patti Swanson, Maura White-Cioeta, Maria Smith, Charles Becker, Dina DiNucci.

- II. **Approval of June Minutes** – Chris Piekarski motioned, Rich Pierce seconded. Approved.

- III. **UPDATES and REMINDERS**
 - **Rockwood N’hood Health Access Center** – Laura Adania gave a brief update of the changes at the Center due to budget cuts. There have been three partners utilizing the site. Naturopathic College Students serve adults and have relocated to another site in East County. Wallace Medical Concern will continue to serve adults on Monday and Wednesday evenings at the Center. Multnomah County Health Department wasn’t sure at the time of the meeting what the budget will allow. **(Since 7/15, it has been decided that the Center will keep approximately two staff to continue to provide the preventative health care services approximately two days/week.)** They will continue to provide Information and Resource Referral, WIC services and take clients on a walk-in basis as well as by word of mouth. Any repeal of the I-tax money is also sure to affect services at the Center.
 - **My Sister’s House** – Becky Coleman introduced a new ministry available to the East County area. Property of the Trinity Lutheran Church (on NW Ava, Eastman/Powell) is being leased to house 5-6 single women and their children. My Sister's House is a non-profit ministry and a home that will provide shelter, education opportunities and assisted childcare for women and children in transition. The mission of My Sister's House is to be the stepping-stone into a new life for women and children who need stable, secure and safe housing. My Sister's House will provide opportunity for growth in knowledge, wisdom, and discernment. They will have a grand opening in September. It’s being funded currently by Trinity Lutheran, private donations and grants. 503.961.4099; www.mysistershouse.net
 - **Rockwood International Marketplace** – Joan Pasco reminds us that there are/were three weekends remaining and there’s SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE! July 17-18, August 21-22, September 18-19. Thus far, foot traffic has been low; heavier hours have been 2-6pm. Residents come out of their apartments to listen to music (but don’t necessarily ‘cross the tracks’). MAX line is a barrier. Please come and see us!
 - **Progress Report due July 30th**. Thanks in advance for your help!
 - **OR Employment Dept** – Virginia distributed the July issue of Oregon Labor Trends. The information can be found - <http://www.qualityinfo.org/olmisj/PubReader?itemid=00003748>
 - **Rockwood Library** – Mary Lou distributed tri-folds showing the new hours and other related changes for the library. This information can be found - <http://www.multcolib.org/budget-hours.html>
 - **MCDCJ** – Ivan shared information about a new project that he is facilitating this summer. It’s a work experience opportunity for five 16 year old community members who may or may not be on probation. They are assisting with renovations at the HAP facility

(Yamhill/190th) six hours/day, four days/week. It's a stipend program. (Logoworks – in Rockwood -- printed their work hats and shirts.)

IV. **Weed and Seed Youth Summer Camp 2004:** Monse Mendoza, Rosa Shayo Dominguez and Zulma Arreola shared details and photos with us of the camp that they attended in June in Snowbird, Utah. Over 100 youth (plus chaperones) attended. Workshops included topics such as: recruiting volunteers, how to implement what you learn in school in your community, statistics – where to go and what to do with them. They participated as presenters and also displayed their talent in the talent show. They also played this game about distribution of power and wealth that was mentally challenging to cope with. They had a very enjoyable trip (despite some health and altitude challenges) and were grateful for the opportunity!

V. **Evaluation** of Rockwood Weed & Seed -- OPEN DISCUSSION – ALL & Brian Renauer

- How do we measure our success?
- How do we learn from our challenges?
- What outcomes should we be measuring?

◇ Think sustainability.

◇ Consider a 'process' evaluation?

◇ Review fear of crime.

◇ Evaluate one target area w/in boundaries?

◇ Consider 'outcome' evaluation?

◇ Are we making changes in the community? Is the community changing?

Brian reminded us: Crime data is already being collected. We are monitoring whether crime is going up or down. There are other types of things that can be evaluated. We should document tasks and projects and their successes. We could consider focusing on a smaller geographic area.

Joan Pasco: There's always the concern of pushing the crime elsewhere. Are things improving or are we just displacing? Do we look at East Portland and the rest of Gresham to figure that out?

Patti Swanson: What are we going to do after the five years have ended? Can we 'expand'? Where's the need or where will it be?

Maria Smith: There's a need for a cultural center in Gresham. It's always necessary to engage the youth of our community in positive activities.

Joan Pasco: Last summer (2003), she said that she remembered City of Gresham staff doing a photo inventory of Rockwood/Gresham (abandoned vehicles, more?) Those photos may have some good baseline shots of what we 'were' dealing with. Possible project staffers: Tami Surplus, Richard Fong, John McMillan. Brenda will follow-up.

Kathy Minden: It's important to document increased community involvement – churches, Marketplace, so many community events.

Joan: consider tracking volunteer hours and attendance at events.

Maura White-Cioeta: consider a visual of an overlay of events over crime.

Also – tracking youth participation in Safe Haven activities at PAL is happening. Where else?

Maria: set up a 'campaign' to make youth aware of the value of volunteer hours. Partner with Oregon Partnership – they can present the benefits and responsibilities of being volunteers.

Ivan Cortes: the mural is a good symbol of community success. That and his current project are keeping youth busy, which can mean a reduction in crime.

Mary Lou Begert: Circulation is low at the library, but the residents are using the library for various reasons. We're not sure that that library 'measures' like circulation stats really reveal the contribution the library makes to W&S goals. Maura affirmed this.

In Rockwood we provide a community center--latch-key kids after school using computers; high usage by immigrant population as information resource; venue for local school district to have tutors meet with kids; site through which GPD can strengthen relationship with community (e.g. Winter Fair, Día de los Niños, the survey Rich mentioned); a place where community partners can promote literacy along with the library (e.g. MHCC, MFS, El Programa).

(Additional details since the meeting) Reynolds School District has a paid tutor program for which the district doesn't have a site. During open library hours library staff has seen a Reynolds school bus drop students off to be tutored at times. They use the library as a public place with no arrangement made with the library. Other places used when library is closed are restaurants and McDonald's.

Maura agreed that it would be great if there was some kind of 'tool' that could measure value in this and like situations.

Kathy: People for Parks – effort out of Rockwood – increase adult, youth outdoor activities. Literacy efforts are also occurring in Rockwood.

Rich Pierce: We chose some target areas for certain detail. 190/Stark/Yamhill in particular – mostly bike patrol. There were some special monthly patrols targeting that area that took place this summer.

Also, at Rock Soup, the Community Safety Specialists began to distribute surveys including 7-8 questions about perception of crime, etc. They've been distributed at community events to residents and through some apartment managers. They've decided to split the city up in 3 sections: East, Central and West. They will consider distribution through the library.

Cheryl Houston: there's been a decrease in resources to refer clients to at the Family Resource Centers at Centennial and Reynolds Schools. Is teen pregnancy data going up or down? Compare East County to statewide. Are these children born healthy? Budgets are getting cut at state and county levels.

Patti: Look at economic stability within community.

Dina DiNucci: outreach to community and keeping community informed. What is the most effective way to do so? Hotline? Internet? Newsletters? Consider language challenges.

Cindy Hagen: Under Goal 3 of Neighborhood Restoration (networking), Brenda could keep track of phone calls in a phone log and contacts made at meetings. Brenda does keep track of contacts made between her calendar and MS Outlook (as well as email).

Brian: do you want to consider a process evaluation? How has your involvement with Rockwood Weed & Seed affected you and your services/agency? Maura, Cindy, Patti and Mary Lou agreed that this is a good idea.

Maura and Kathy: comparing black and white pictures to color ones. Before and after.

Chris Piekarski: tie-in to PSN (surveys that have already been completed.). Community Court efforts (ESF, etc.) -- tracking quality of life crimes. Enforcement hours vs. cases and file numbers within the agency as a whole, in one week's time.

Rich: juvenile arrests have increased and focus of gang enforcement crimes increased (simultaneously). Third full-time officer was added to the Gang Enforcement Team. Juvenile arrests continue to go up. We aim at stopping the increase.

Angeline Hayes: perhaps we track the apartments that are cleaning up their act (land and property). Document testimonials.

Kathy: We are training leaders.

Virginia: It's important to remember the changing dynamics of employment. Which jobs do we need? The economy is picking up. We currently have 18 different employers interviewing. There is new management at the Employment Department. We are targeting youth to help in gaining employment. Businesses need to know about the tax credits in hiring young employees.

VI. **Executive Committee** will meet Wednesday, 8/11 @ 8:45am. (Maura and Ivan cannot attend.)

VII. The **AUGUST Steering Committee** Meeting
Thursday, August 19th, 5-7pm; **ROCKWOOD LIBRARY**
Agenda item: presentation from People for Parks intern