

**Rockwood Weed and Seed Steering Committee**  
**Thursday, August 19, 2004; 5:00pm**  
**Rockwood Library**

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** IN ATTENDANCE: Kathie Minden, Mary Lou Begert, Jean DeMaster, Chris Piekarski, Cheryl Houston, Sophia Vargas, Patti Swanson, Stephen Young, Gayle Brooks, Angeline Hayes, Gene Hayes, Brenda Butler, Dina DiNucci, Gloria Wiggins, John Cabrera, Rita Jimenez, Sarah Bentley, Carla (& Kate) Piluso, Kristen West, Beth Ragel, Keith Biggs, Alicia Lopez, May Cha, Beth Faulhaber.
- II. **Approval of July Minutes:** Chris motioned, Patti seconded. Approved.
- III. **Partner Updates: (around the table)**
- **Rockwood Weed and Seed Audit Complete!** – Brenda informed the committee that the audit is officially over!! USDOJ's Office of Justice Programs chose four programs of which Multnomah County is the fiscal agent. Rockwood Weed and Seed and Albina Weed & Seed were selected. Brenda and Maura White put in the extra time and both passed with flying colors, as far as we can tell. The auditor reminded Brenda that there is a fairly large amount of unobligated funds. The auditor suggested we find out if we will be funded for next year and then request a no-cost extension.
  - **14<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of Cultures & Rockwood International Marketplace** – Brenda reminded everyone to come join the festivities at the Celebration of Cultures Festival. This weekend (8/21 & 22) the festival will be in conjunction with the Rockwood International Marketplace. The Marketplace runs from 10am to 8pm on Saturday and from 11am to 7pm on Sunday. The Celebration will begin at 12 noon on Saturday. It is only a one day event. The next weekend (and final for 2004) for the Marketplace is September 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> – celebrating Mexican Independence Day – Be there!
  - **Rockwood N'hood Health Access Center** – Brenda spoke with Laura Adania who wanted to inform everyone that the Center is going to remain open – Mondays and Thursdays, clients can walk-in or call 503.988.4585.
  - **East County Caring Community** – May wanted to remind everyone about the next ECCC meeting: Region 6 (Centennial, Reynolds, Gresham-Barlow, Corbett) September 2, 2004 3:00-5:00 p.m. Multnomah County East, Blue Lake Room 600 NE 8th, Gresham AGENDA includes: Redesign of Mental Health System of Care for Children and Families (Nancy Winters, Amy Baker, Godwin Nwerem); People for Parks; Action Teams Update.
  - **Police Activities League** – It's been a great summer at the Youth Center. Kudos! Beth Faulhaber informed us that PAL was having 'Role Model Day' and a BBQ on Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. PAL will have one more week of Youth Center being open, then will be closed until September 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Youth Gang Outreach** – Patti Swanson updated us on some changes regarding gang affected youth. These services serve the David Douglas, Corbett, Gresham/Barlow, Reynolds and Centennial. Steve Stevenson and Jennifer

Newman are new staff members at the Eastwind Community Services. They are seeing a lot of younger children and young ladies coming to the Safe Haven at Rockwood Station. They are noticing changes and seeing a need for a variety of services. Family mediation is also available. For more information contact Eastwind at 503-491-3300.

- **El Programa Hispano** – Gloria Wiggins informed us of some great programs going on with El Programa. There was a girl's leadership retreat at H.B. Lee Middle School with about 30 Latinas. Monserrat Mendoza and Rosa Shayo Dominguez were amongst the group. They have been doing a great job recruiting young community leaders. There was an article in the Gresham Outlook regarding this retreat. You can read the full article at the link below. <http://www.theoutlookonline.com/article/4151>. Gloria also told us about the successful soccer camp last week. About 100 kids showed up. On Thursday, the 18<sup>th</sup>, a group went rafting on the Deschutes River and just about gave Gloria a heart attack by not returning until 10pm. Everyone was ok and had a blast! The week of the 23<sup>rd</sup> there is a dance camp being held. They will be teaching salsa, Merengue and will perform on Saturday at the Salsa en la Calle event at the East Esplanade on Hawthorne Boulevard. Lastly, Gloria held a meeting with about 90 people regarding rights and INS and the rumors floating around. There will be a second meeting held August 26<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at St. Anne's. The meeting will be held to answer questions regarding the immigration process.
- **Library Updates** – Mary Lou Begert introduced Rita Jimenez as the newest Community Services Director and John Cabrera (head of Security) within the Multnomah County Library system. Mary Lou has recently been in touch with Rich Pierce and he advised library staff as to what procedures to take regarding assault incidents in the library. Mary Lou also wanted to thank Weed and Seed for helping her get involved in the community and keeping her up to date on events and concerns. Lastly, the library has new hours. It will now be open 7 DAYS A WEEK!!! Rockwood's new hours are Mon 10am-6pm; Tue-Wed noon-8pm; Thur-Sat 10am-6pm and Sun noon-5pm. For any questions call the Rockwood Library at 503-988-5396. At the time of some immigration scares, Rita worked with the county attorney's office who advised her on how to deal with folks who didn't know if the ESL classes were 'safe' to attend. There are a lot of free ESL classes available as well as a bilingual literacy night once a month through the Lifelong Learning Center. There is an overall list of all the ESL classes and activities with the times and locations available at any county library. The library is always looking for bilingual volunteers.
- **Multnomah County Health Department** – Cheryl Houston informed us that Immunizations for children are no longer free. They ask for a donation but it can be free. If you are looking for information regarding immunizations call 503-988-3816. Lead screening is also available.
- **Latino Network Community Health Workers** – Alicia informed us of neighborhood/apartment watches that are 'in the making' at two apartment complexes; Barberry Village and Rockwood Landing.
- **Human Solutions** – Jean DeMaster reminded everyone that the new Gresham office is now open along with the old office on 122<sup>nd</sup>. Please don't forget that

both offices are available! If anyone is aware of homeless families or folks who need housing, please have them contact Human Solutions. There are still moneys available. East County currently has 3 shelters but they are all family shelters. There are two youth shelters downtown and 7 adult shelters. If a family comes to HS and looks as though they will be able to be self sufficient in 6 months then HS will look at housing for them. If not, HS will look at shelter options. Patti Swanson also reminds folks that Harry's Mother is a good resource for teens or kids that are having problems at home with their families. That number is 503-233-8111. Dina DiNucci brought up the question of resources or some type of outreach for these kids. Is there some way to get the message out that places like Harry's Mother exists? Patti Swanson informed the group that there was no current outreach like what Dina is asking about, but Patti wonders if the youth want these services.

#### IV. Community Partners

- **Loaves and Fishes** – Sarah Bentley would like to invite everyone to the New Senior Meal Site!!! It will be opening on August 31<sup>st</sup> and is located at the Rockwood United Methodist Church (17805 SE Stark Street). Lunch will be every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday with coffee being served at 11am, lunch at 11:30am, and great activities at 12:30-1:30am. The free meals are for seniors over the age of 60, but if younger people would like to attend they are more than welcome, but they will have to pay for their meal or volunteer. Some of the activities that will be available will be Mexican bingo, crafts, exercises and more! Kris will also be there holding educational clinics on topics such as diabetes. This whole program is based on a donation basis so if you cannot donate fiscally try to donate your time. They are anticipating about 25 guests and have hopes that it will double. The meals are balanced and delicious! -There is also a FREE health fair for seniors 60 years and older on Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup> from 10:30am – 2:30pm. This will be held at the new meal site listed above. There will be great information about health resources as well as FREE general health checks, blood pressure checks, glaucoma screening, diabetes screening and more. If you are just bringing a senior friend or family member you can still come and enjoy the live music and delicious food!!! For more information or to obtain flyers in English, Spanish, or Russian please contact Sarah Bentley at 503-869-4616.
- **People for Parks East County** – Beth Ragel is the newest community liaison for East County People for Parks. She came to share with us some of the work she has been doing regarding the effects of parks on our community. She brought with her 6 different pages of information that will be beneficial to keep in mind in decision-making regarding our parks. The flyers cover:
  - <http://www.weedandseedoregon.org/rockwood/documents/peopleforparks.pdf> (please visit this site!)
  - Economic Benefits of Parks and Recreation
  - Parks and Recreation Programs Enhance Quality of Life

- Parks and Recreation Programs Combat Obesity and Improve Health
- Environment Benefits of Parks and Green Spaces
- Recreation and After-School Programs Help At-Risk Youth & Reduce Juvenile Crime
- Community and Social Benefits of Parks and Recreation

For copies of these, you can contact Brenda. For more information regarding People for Parks contact Kathie Minden at 503-740-3541.

-There is a website under construction: [www.peopleforparks.com](http://www.peopleforparks.com)

-The playground equipment is in and the Oregon National Guard has agreed to assist in setting it up. Also all of the tiles that were painted at previous events will be going up for an artistic touch.

-Kathie Minden is going to chair a board to support this effort. She is looking for representation from the 3 school districts in our area, MHCC, the four cities, and also a citizen voice. She is working on putting that together now. The board will meet for the first time on October 21<sup>st</sup>.

## V. Back to School Fair

- Brenda needs to know if we would like to have a back to school fair this year. If we do not, should we make a donation to a school? Which one? How many? What level (elementary, middle, high school)? Brenda informed us that we do not have the same resources available to us that we were able to get last year. Last year our fair served 500+ students. We will not be equipped to support this many people. Kaiser does their own donation drive with their staff and members and they donate directly to certain schools. Also Freedom Foursquare church is having an event on September 11<sup>th</sup> and they have invited the Portland Police Department and Portland Fire Fighters to come and be honored. Human Solutions will have a drive for the 800 kids in their program.
- Patti reminded everyone that we need to remember the older kids too; it is not just little guys that need supplies. Keith also mentioned that supplies are needed all year long and not just at the first of the year. So if we didn't want to host the fair right before school, it also may be beneficial to donate supplies halfway through the year.
- So what have we decided? We are going to have a fair, but on a smaller scale. We will not be 'open' as long as we were last year. Everyone will get something, but just not as many goodies like we had last year. We will focus on all ages, not just elementary. We can do it the weekend after school is back, on September 11<sup>th</sup>. We will use the same location, provided Fred Meyer gives us permission. If anyone knows folks from various businesses that would like to donate to this cause please let Brenda

know ASAP. Some of the vendors that came up at the meeting were Office Max, Office Depot, Fred Meyer, Costco, Target, K-Mart (Big-K), Bi-Mart, Safeway, Albertsons....

**VI. Quick Message from Gresham Police Chief, Carla Piluso** – Chief Piluso stopped by to say thank you for all the help that Rockwood Weed and Seed and the other organization that make up RWS! We have had a good summer in terms of crime in our area. The chief contributes that to three factors; luck, a strong police department, and a caring community. RWS has assisted that Gresham Police Department by purchasing bikes so officers are able to have a more hands on approach to many situations. RWS has also helps fund over time employees when they are necessary. Once again thanks for all the hard work. KEEP IT UP!!!

**VII. Next Steering Committee Meeting - Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 5-7PM at Portland Lutheran School Library (740 SE 182<sup>nd</sup>)**