Fremont Green Street Project Receives Final City Approval

On Dec. 13, the city of Portland notified Sabin Community Association’s Land Use and Transportation subcommittee that its proposed design for pedestrian crosswalks and storm-water abatement on Fremont Street next to Irving Park has been approved for permits. Construction could begin this winter and be completed by spring.

“This has been a long process for Sabin Community Association, the city and for WB Wells and Associates, our civil engineers just up the road,” explains Sabin resident Trent Thelen.

Almost five years ago, Thelen and other Sabin neighbors began working through SCA’s Land Use and Transportation subcommittee to address two problems: a lack of crosswalks on Fremont connecting the Sabin neighborhood to Irving Park, and flooding in the street after a heavy rain due to inadequate storm drainage.

The subcommittee proposed creating a Green Street project along Fremont using funding available through the city of Portland’s 1 Percent for Green grant program. The program is sponsored through the city’s Bureau of Environmental Services and is funded by system development charges, which developers pay to the city as part of their permit fees.

The Fremont Green Street project consists of building three sets of crosswalks and a series of bioswales — attractive plantings that manage rainwater runoff. Crosswalks would be connected to curb extensions of sidewalks, shortening the time pedestrians are actually in the street. Curb extensions make pedestrians who are attempting to cross a street more visible to motorists and, at the same time, slow down traffic.

According to Thelen, the first curb extensions and crosswalks will be installed at 9th Avenue and Fremont, then similar installations will be built at 8th and 10th avenues later.

“We are expecting to solicit contractors early this new year and break ground late winter to early spring,” Thelen reports. “Many have seen that once we solicit bids, these Green Street structures are installed relatively quickly.”

Sabin Community Association plans to solicit donations of supplies and plant materials from local nurseries and supply yards. The association hopes to recruit neighborhood volunteers to do the planting. Watch for further information on how your family can contribute to this cool Sabin project!

— Randy Ward
City officials discuss safety issues

City of Portland Commissioner Steve Novick and city Director of Transportation Leah Treat met with Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods’ Land Use and Transportation Committee and the general public Dec. 5 to discuss Bureau of Transportation priorities.

With safety a major LUTC concern, several members asked that the city add more stoplights where children must cross major streets, such as Fremont, to get to school.

Bike safety and equity was also addressed. Treat, who lives in Sabin, said she bikes to work each day on Williams and Vancouver, but she would not feel comfortable biking on those streets with her children. She pointed out that cities with more protected bikeways see equal numbers of men and women bicyclists. But Portland, with only a few miles of protected bikeways, has a disproportionate percentage of male riders.

Many LUTC members expressed concern about lack of parking in areas with increasingly high-density development, such as along Mississippi, Williams, Vancouver, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Alberta.

Novick, who oversees the Portland Bureau of Transportation, explained that the city is looking into a number of new funding sources for road maintenance, but declined to mention them at this time as they are premature.

Novick also noted that the city has millions of dollars worth of deferred road maintenance, as well as dozens of miles of unpaved roads in outer east Portland, which would cost millions of dollars more to improve.

— Josh Curtis

Sabin School plans annual auction

Mark your calendars for the ninth annual Sabin School Auction on April 5 at the Oregon Convention Center. This year’s theme is “The ’80s,” and organizers are hoping Sabin neighbors will lend their support by:

- **Sponsoring the event.** Local businesses interested in supporting the auction with a sponsorship, ranging from $300 to $2,500, may contact Carla Spencer at carla.spencer@gmail.com.

- **Donating a vacation rental.** The live auction needs large-ticket items such as a weekend or week’s stay at a vacation home. For details, e-mail Brooke Unwin at bitner.brooke@gmail.com.

- **Donating to the silent auction.** Organizers welcome donations of goods and services such as restaurant certificates, massages, store gift certificates or gym memberships. For more information, e-mail Deborah Pleva, deb@plevaconsulting.com.

- **Buying tickets.** Ticket holders are encouraged to wear ’80s-era clothing such as neon leggings, shoulder pads, or parachute pants. Purchase tickets at sabinauction.com.

Auction organizers hope to reach their fundraising goal of $200,000. Funds will be used to support Sabin students and their teachers with staffing, classroom supplies, technology and experiences that teach the importance of being a respectful and responsible member of a community.

— Brooke Unwin and Carla Spencer
Nine homes sold in Sabin in October with a median sales price of $443,500, and six homes sold in November with a median sales price of $533,250. The median price means half the homes sold for more and half sold for less. As of Dec. 15, there were seven Sabin homes on the market. — Information courtesy of Suzanne Clark Group

Sabin SUN School offers fitness classes

Sabin SUN School continues its free, drop-in adult and family physical fitness classes this winter at Sabin School, 4013 N.E. 18th Ave.

• Yoga classes are offered from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays in the library. This session, designed to help participants relax, stretch and breathe, runs from Jan. 15 to March 5.

• Zumba classes, featuring fast-paced Latin-inspired music, are offered from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays in the gym. Free childcare is available for these classes, which run from Jan. 16 to March 6.

• Futsal pick-up games are available from 3:15 to 4:14 p.m. on Fridays in the gym from Jan. 18 to March 8. Futsal is a version of indoor soccer that originated in Brazil.

Participants for these classes or games must fill out registration forms on their first drop-in visit. For more information, please contact Kate Gigler by e-mail at kgigler@pps.net.

— Susan Goracke

ALBINA LIBRARY SETS SPECIAL EVENTS

Albina Library, at 3605 N.E. 15th Ave., offers several special events in January. Call 503-988-5362. They include:

• Handmade Valentines is an arts and crafts event for teens on Saturday, Jan. 11, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the library. Artist Kathy Karbo will teach teens to create a one-of-a-kind valentine using copper wire, pipe cleaners, decorative papers and colorful beads and ornaments.

• Pop-up Cards is an arts and crafts event for adults and children on Saturday, Jan. 25, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the library. Book artist Sarah Fagan will teach participants how to handcraft their own pop-up style greeting cards.

Become a Steward at Sabin Orchard

Sabin Community Orchard organizers are gathering a team of Orchard Stewards for the upcoming season.

Orchard Stewards are volunteers who help maintain the orchard, learn about basic fruit tree care, and meet their neighbors. No experience is necessary, though gardening or orchard experience is a plus.

Orchard Stewards attend an orientation/team meeting on Monday, Feb. 3, and participate in monthly work and learn parties, held February through November on the third Sunday of each month from 2 to 4 p.m.

Applications are available by calling 503-284-6106, or by emailing michael@portlandfruit.org with “Sabin Orchard Steward Interest” in the subject line.

— Rachel Lee

President’s Message by Clay Veka

I love that the New Year offers the opportunity to start fresh, set resolutions, and try something bold. Jan. 21 is the first conceptual meeting of the Sabin-King joint sustainability committee, and I’m excited to see what actions we might identify as a local response to climate change. Please join us.

I am also hopeful that this year, we will find creative ways to partner with and support more of our neighbors. If you have ideas, contact me.

May your New Year by joyful and bright.

— Clay
The awards and accolades continue to pour in for James Beard Award-winning Chef Andy Ricker, owner of seven restaurants — three in New York City and four in Portland — including Sabin’s Pok Pok Noi at Northeast Prescott and 15th Avenue.

Anthony Bourdain, best known for his TV show “No Reservations” on the Travel Channel, calls Ricker’s version of Northern Thai food served at Ricker’s Brooklyn, NY, restaurant, “simply the best, tastiest and what I think is the most authentic.”

A February 2013 Bon Appetite magazine story rated Ricker’s Pok Pok eateries No. 8 among the 20 Most Important Restaurants in America. And in December, The New York Times’ Dining editors ranked Ricker’s just-published Thai cookbook and travelogue, “Pok Pok,” among the newspaper’s 20 best-selling food books. It’s available for sale in all of Ricker’s restaurants as well as at Powell’s Books.

But back to Pok Pok Noi, which opened in 2010 at 1469 N.E. Prescott in a long, narrow storefront next to Grain & Gristle. Ricker had heard the space was opening up when Rodney Muirhead decided to move his popular Podnah’s Pit barbecue restaurant to Northeast Killingsworth.

“I wanted to do something for this side of town, to service this neighborhood,” Ricker says. “I decided to do just a ‘greatest hits’ of Pok Pok,” he adds, referring to his first restaurant, which opened in 2005 on Southeast Division.

Among Pok Pok Noi’s more popular dishes are the Pok Pok Special, half a roasted game hen with a small green papaya salad and sticky rice and dipping sauces for $15.50. That game hen is stuffed with lemongrass, garlic, pepper and cilantro and served with spicy sweet and sour and tamarind dipping sauces.

Due to its fame, many folks can’t get enough of Ike’s Vietnamese Fish Sauce Wings ($14). These chicken wings are marinated in fish sauce and palm sugar, deep-fried, tossed in caramelized Phu Quoc fish sauce and garlic, and served with Vietnamese table salad. Food and Wine Magazine named these wings one of the 10 best restaurant dishes in America in 2007.

Ricker’s spicy-hot Southeast Asian food is not for the faint of palate, and it can be a surprise for people used to the mild food often found in U.S. Thai restaurants. Ricker’s menu consists of dishes he personally researched and perfected during his many travels throughout mostly Northern Thailand since 1987. He has spent several months there each year since 1992.

Ricker named his first restaurant Pok Pok for the sound a mortar and pestle make while grinding and combining ingredients used in many Asian dishes. Noi means “little” or “small” in Thai, and can refer to both Pok Pok Noi’s size and number of offerings, never more than 15 on the menu.

Pok Pok Noi is open for dinner Monday through Friday from 5 to 10 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Many customers order from the online menu at www.pokpoknoi.com, then pick up their dinner at the restaurant to take home. Others enjoy full service in the front dining room or on the patio, which is enclosed and includes heat lamps during colder months. For more information, go to the website or call 503-287-4149.

— Susan Goracke

Sabin Community Association

NECN seeks community volunteers for its Safety and Livability Team

The Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods’ Safety and Livability Team (SALT) invites neighbors who are passionate about public safety and livability issues facing inner-North and Northeast Portland to join this active committee.

SALT regularly meets on the third Monday of each month from 6:30 to 8 pm. at the NECN offices, 4815 N.E. 7th Ave. However, due to the Jan. 20 Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, SALT’s next meeting will be Monday, Jan. 27, at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Claire Adamsick, committees coordinator, at claire.adamsick@necoalition.org or at 503-388-9030.