

Ashcreek-Crestwood Neighborhood Association

Draft Membership Meeting Notes Monday April 14, 2025 meeting via Zoom

FINAL with edits approved May 12, 2025

Vice President Garrett Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm using our new Zoom account.

Introductions and welcome.

Ashcreek-Crestwood NA Board of Directors present (quorum determined): Garrett Thompson, Marianne Fitzgerald (by phone), Dave Manville, Leslie Baird, Bruce Koester, Eden Rodriguez, Ben Donora

Members and Guests: Marguex Gala, Christy Splitt, Joe Denali, Marlene Howell and Mark Dustan.

The agenda was approved unanimously.

Portland Public Schools Update

Christy Splitt, a new School Board member, introduced herself and discussed enrollment projections, the district's bond, and the logic behind it. Marianne had provided her with several questions in advance, that she went through:

1. Enrollment projections specific to Ida B Wells High School enrollment areas?
High School (Ida B Wells)
Middle (Jackson)
Elementary (Markham, Maplewood, Capitol Hill, Rieke)

Response: there's a link on the PPS website that had a school-by-school list of enrollment projections. Currently, Wells High School has more students than projections; PSU's population research center projects a decline over 10 years but it seems to be rebounding. PPS prefers to protect neighborhood schools and some schools are bursting while others are not.

2. What are the current plans to renovate/replace Cleveland and Ida B Wells HS? Was the original plan to replace the buildings? Is the current plan scaled back to renovations?

Response: PPS wants to invest in Portland's future and have every student attend a modernized school. PPS is not scaling back its remodel but trying to decrease costs and right-size high schools.

3. Why is Jefferson High School being discussed as a cost item in this budget? How is PPS accountable to the taxpayers for cost overruns in previous bond improvements?

Response: Jefferson expenditures were not due to cost over-runs, but instead due to an effort to remodel the school while the kids are still attending school there, rather than sending students to a swing school. Wells students will be able to stay on-site during the reconstruction. The public swimming pool will stay although the locker rooms will change.

4. Why is “upgrade/expand the Jackson Middle School Athletic Field” in this bond? Note that Crestwood Neighborhood Association is opposed to the use of synthetic turf on our school athletic fields.

Response: The athletic fields at Wells are needed for a construction staging area so the athletic fields at Jackson are critical for athletic needs.

5. How were the 2024 repairs at Markham paid for? What work was done? Are there any health and safety improvements planned for westside schools (i.e. Markham, Maplewood, Jackson) under this bond?

Response: Markham repairs were extensive, much more extensive than the repairs done to Gray Middle School. The complete list of projects has not been determined yet.

6. How are the President’s Executive Orders and federal grant constraints affecting Portland Public Schools' budget? How is PPS responding to the threats to federal funding?

Response: PPS is following Governor Kotek’s directive regarding DEI and federal funding, but a lot is yet to be determined.

7. Does PPS plan to change enrollment boundaries for any schools in the near future?

Response: Probably yes, but less likely to affect schools in SW Portland.

8. What are PPS’s plans for the future of the Smith School facility (8935 SW 52nd)? Can the neighbors count on the building remaining in public ownership? Will PPS continue to lease the athletic fields to Portland Parks and Recreation?

Response: Nothing will change at Smith School in the near future. There is a possibility PPS will look at its vacant properties in the future but there are no plans to do so at this time.

Elections for Board of Directors Marguex Gala is willing to join the A-CNA Board of Directors. Marianne nominated her, Garrett seconded, and Marguex was elected unanimously. Thanks Marguex!

Ashcreek-Crestwood Summer Picnic Planning

Ben provides an update on the summer picnic planning. Verde Cocina’s owner has committed to supplying and cooking chicken. Mojo Holler will provide music for \$250. Ben suggests notifying the three District 4 Portland City Council members about the event in advance. He plans to reach out to local businesses for sponsorships and will recognize them at the event. Ben will organize a Zoom meeting in late May to assign responsibilities. Marianne points out that the organization is no longer tax-exempt, so donations won't be tax-deductible. Ben and Eden will work on a budget. The group discusses vegetarian food options, with Dave noting that the potluck table typically includes many vegetable dishes. They consider adding veggie burgers or dogs and reminding attendees that they can bring their own vegetarian items to the event.

Neighborhood Updates

Marianne shared updates about the neighborhood, including a groundbreaking event at the new Neighborhood House location and a personal legislative update from Dacia Graber.

Marianne mentioned a recent email from Representative Grayber about and the board members discussed sending flowers to Dacia Grayber as a gesture of sympathy. Bruce volunteered to handle this task. Marianne proposed a motion for the neighborhood budget to pay for the flowers, which was seconded by Garrett. The board agreed to proceed with this action which would cost around \$70. The team also discussed the recent city budget meetings and the need for more efficient city meetings. Marianne also mentioned an upcoming event with Councilor Clark on April 28th.

Neighborhood Association Updates (website, email lists)

The Ashcreekcrestwoodna.org website is up and running. Dave is ready to start up the new email lists. Marguex noted that the “join” form is up and tested but Marianne noted it needed slight edits to differentiate between joining the “friends” email list, which anyone can do, and consenting to be a “member” of the neighborhood association, which is restricted to residents and businesses within the neighborhood association boundary. Marguex agreed to dig into the code to fix this. For now, we will keep the google lists and give people a chance to opt out of the new SimpleList email groups. For the website, we will add more community events, and Ben will update the narrative about the summer picnic.

Ashcreek-Crestwood Secretary Report

Several people did not receive or review the minutes that were emailed on 4/7. We agreed to table the minutes until next month.

Ashcreek-Crestwood NA Treasurers Report, 03/31/2025 OnPoint Business Accounts:

- a) Checking (for General and Community Events): \$4,288.51
 - Deposited \$500 from an Ashcreek NA Communications Stipend from District 4 Coalition
 - Withdrew \$159.90 for Zoom account for 1-year subscription
- b) Savings (for Dickinson Park and Ash Creek Natural Area restricted accounts): \$12,087.13
 - a) CNA Dickinson Park: \$ 7,377.37 (no change)
 - b) CNA Ash Creek Natural Area: \$ 4,700.00 (no change)
 - c) March Interest \$1.03
 - d) YTD interest \$2.99

Prepared by Marianne Fitzgerald with action items from Zoom AI

Action Items:

- Bruce to send condolence flowers and card to Representative Dacia Graybar and family.
- Ben and Eden to meet and create a budget for the summer picnic.
- Margo to update the neighborhood association sign-up form to include membership consent.
- Leslie to add events from Marianne's list to the website.
- Ben to review and potentially update the picnic information on the website.
- Marianne to add "standing committees" discussion to the May agenda.