

Ashcreek-Crestwood Neighborhood Association
Membership Meeting Notes Monday May 12, 2025 meeting via Zoom

President Marianne Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm using our new Zoom account.

Introductions and welcome.

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

Guests: Kim Kosmas, Senior Public Education Officer, Portland Fire & Rescue (PF&R)

The agenda was approved unanimously.

Portland Wildfire Preparedness Program: Kim Kosmas, Portland Fire & Rescue, talked about many ways residents can create defensible spaces and harden their homes against wildfire embers to reduce the risk and save homes. PFR can develop specific recommendations for property owners who live in wildfire risk zones, and ways we can become Firewise communities. Some plants burn readily (arbor vitae, juniper, bamboo) and residents should clear around the base of their foundation for a fire brak, and use 1/8-inch screens to help keep embers out. PF&R partners with organizations such as PGE and the Forest Park Conservancy to prevent fires in densely wooded areas, and with Portland Parks and Recreation, Portland Bureau of Transportation and Bureau of Environmental Services to encourage removing fuels from their properties that could contribute to wildfires. Kim suggested a few resources that are posted on our website:

<https://www.portland.gov/fire/your-safety/reducing-risk-wildfire>

<https://www.portland.gov/fire/your-safety/firewise-community-program>

Ashcreek-Crestwood Summer Picnic Planning: Ben met with Eden and developed a spreadsheet of tasks and expenses for the summer picnic. They estimated they need about a \$1500 budget and developed a fundraising plan by talking to potential business sponsors in the neighborhood. We especially need A-frame signs to advertise the event, and tents and tables during the event. Next steps include designing the new language for A-frames since it's a new neighborhood event, and signing up volunteers who might loan us tents and tables. Marianne asked for an email that she could forward to elected officials and others to invite them to the picnic. Marianne moved, and Bruce seconded, authorizing a budget of \$1500 for the 2025 picnic out of the Ashcreek-Crestwood General and Community Events funds, and it was approved unanimously.

Ashcreek-Crestwood Committee Reports: Dave gave an update on trails and parks. They had a work party in Dickinson Park and used a sod cutter to widen the trail before adding gravel. Marianne didn't attend the last District 4 Transportation and Land Use Committee but they are

still getting organized. Bruce is interested in attending the upcoming District 4 Public Safety Committee.

Neighborhood Updates: Marianne talked about the West Portland Town Center walks that were led by the Bureau of Environmental Services (May 3) and herself (May 6, with two city council members and others). She noted that the Mayor's proposed budget includes some cuts for neighborhoods and district coalitions but no more hearings are scheduled.

Ashcreek-Crestwood NA Secretary Report: The minutes of the March 10, 2025 meeting were approved with Bruce and Ben abstaining. The minutes of the April 14, 2025 meeting were approved with a few corrections: other attendees included Marlene Howell and Mark Dustan, and Bruce requested that the minutes note who wrote them.

Ashcreek-Crestwood NA Treasurers Report, 04/30/2025 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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Fitzgerald with help from the Zoom Artificial Intelligence (AI) summary

Next Steps (from AI):

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- Marianne: Send formal invitations to city counselors, mayor, county commissioner, and state legislators for the July 14th picnic before June 9th
- Ben: Plan for approximately 250 hot dogs and 250 chicken legs for the picnic based on expected attendance
- Committee: Plan and organize June meeting with focus on picnic logistics
- Ben: Contact local businesses for picnic fundraising and potential sponsorships
- Marianne: Email Kim with Krista von Baron's contact information and CC Krista regarding "No Smoking/No Fireworks" signs for natural areas
- Ben: Contact Kim about having Portland Fire & Rescue representation at the July 14th neighborhood picnic
- Ben: Reach out to neighborhood residents starting June 1st to collect 10x10 tent contributions for the picnic
- Dave: Work with Parks department to complete graveling of the Dickinson trail

- Kim: Drop off wildfire preparedness postcards to Bruce and Marianne's addresses for neighborhood distribution
- Dave: Send Zoom meeting credentials to Garrett and Eden as backup hosts for next month's meeting
- Marianne: Draft and send a communication to Dave and Margo about the new mailing list announcement, including the picnic save-the-date
- Ben: Update and print new placards for neighborhood signage, removing outdated QR codes and website information
- Ben: Source affordable A-frames for neighborhood event signage
- Leslie: Follow up with Jenny and Josh about bringing their snow cone machine to the picnic
- Ben: Keep all picnic expenses on one credit card for easier reimbursement
- Dave: Check the shared OneDrive folder link sent to Ben and Eden to confirm access works
- Marianne: Add compiler/author information to the April meeting minutes
- Marianne: Follow up with Kim and Ben about equipment for the picnic