

Ashcreek-Crestwood Neighborhood Association

Draft Membership Meeting Notes, Monday September 14, 2026 meeting via Zoom

President Marianne Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm via Zoom.

Introductions and welcome (about 34 participants on Zoom)

Ashcreek-Crestwood NA Board of Directors present: Marianne Fitzgerald, Dave Manville, Ben Donora, Bruce Koester, John Graeter, Marguex Gala (quorum)

Attendees (members): Scott & Coal, Ryan, Roxy Quinn, Taylor Von Ahlefeld, Jade Rogren, Peter Carew, Jack Klinker, Evan Poirson, Rich, Will Rensmith, Representative Dacia Grayber, Will Rensmith, Jen Kelly, Roger & Ginny Kuhl, Mark Baugher, Ethan Derner, Amber S, Dominic, Melissa, Noah Levinson, Will Ramsmith, Suzanne Lietz, Rich Meeboer

Just listening in: Katherine Watry, Nico Stevenson (District 4 Coalition staff), Adam & Doria Stonewalker, Dominique Lucia, Kim Slavin

Others joined during the meeting

Marianne and Ben opened the meeting acknowledging the August 25, 2026 fatal cyclist crash in our neighborhood. Ben noted we've had near misses, too, and reminded people to keep their eyes on the road and look out for others as you are traveling throughout the neighborhood and elsewhere.

Neighborhood Picnic Debrief (Ben Donora). Ben thanked the many volunteers that helped out. We had a lot of first timers, several informational tables, and key City of Portland officials attended including City Administrator Raymond Lee, City Councilors Olivia Clark and Eric Zimmerman, and their staff. The picnic expenses were \$949.77 and raised \$966 in donations and grant reimbursement. There were a few operational challenges accessing the site that we need to plan for next year. We hope people bring more potluck food to future picnics since we ran out of food for the 3rd year in a row.

Smith School Survey Results (John Graeter). John reported that the more than 200 survey responses showed a lot of passion for the Smith School property and it's a priority issue for the neighborhood. He thanked Ben for adding the survey QR code to the A-frame signs. People wanted to keep it in public or community hands and not developed by private developers. 89% wanted to keep it open green space and keep access the fields. Most people wanted public benefits including a community center such as Multnomah Arts Center or a community garden, with a theme of recreation and greenspace. Maintenance and access are important. More than 100 people provided thoughtful open-ended comments about the property. He's honored to chair the new committee and wants to present survey results to Portland Public Schools, Portland Parks and Recreation and City Council leaders, and set up working groups to dig into the results with an operational lens.

Consider Establishing an ad-hoc Smith School Committee in accordance with Bylaws Article VII (see below)

Consider Filling Vacancies on the Board of Directors: Vice President, Treasurer, up to 3 at-large members, in accordance with Bylaws Section V. Motion to Fill Vacancies on the Board of Directors

Marianne invited Jen Kelly, Evan Poirson and Noah Levinson to introduce themselves and why they volunteered to join the Board of Directors. Marianne presented the slate of Jen as Vice President and Evan and Noah as Directors at Large, with Noah for a 2 year term to fill the even-year position. The vote unanimously elected them to the Board.

Ashcreek-Crestwood Committee and Partner Reports

Parks and Trails (Dave Manville). There was a request from neighbors to discuss the Smith School Access Trail from SW 55th near 9030 SW 55th and SW Orchid. Dave described the history of the trail around the Smith School property with this extension constructed at the time with the permission of the property owner at that time. The new neighbor fenced off access. Taylor said he's willing to have the trail on his property but the neighbors with the fence still don't want it. Mark Baugher suggested a motion to post a sign that the neighborhood association is working to rebuild the trail. Mark and Taylor want the neighborhood association to support rebuilding access to Smith School and take the trail project on. Rich Meeborg is a neighbor across the street from the trail and has been documenting trash and maintenance issues on the neighbor's property. The path is important to him. Marianne noted that we need to investigate liability insurance and legal stuff before moving further with this. There was further discussion and Mark amended his motion to set up a committee to come up with an informed recommendation to the neighborhood. Dave Manville noted we already have a Parks and Trails Committee to do this and they will come back with something for the next meeting.

Transportation and Land Use (Marianne). The Portland Bureau of Transportation is updating its Transportation System Plan 2045 project list and will be updating the draft after applying priority criteria to each project. She also mentioned that PBOT is moving forward with speed cushions on SW 45th/SW 48th. She'll invite Corrine to the next meeting.

District 4 Coalition (Marianne). D4C has hired new staff and is beginning to offer trainings for neighborhoods. D4C is updating its mission/vision statement. The City of Portland is making a presentation to City Council on September 29 regarding the future of the neighborhood system.

Legislature Update (State Representative Dacia Grayber). Biggest issue in the Oregon Legislature are the impacts of the federal HR1 and loss of health care coverage for many Oregonians. She serves on the Labor and Workforce Development committee and will be preparing a package of bills for workforce development for the full session next year.

Ashcreek-Crestwood NA Treasurers Report September 2026:

June 30, July 31 and August 31, 2026 OnPoint business account funds report

- Checking (for General and Community Events): \$3,638.40
- Savings (for temporarily restricted accounts): \$14,107.02
 - CNA Dickinson Park: \$ 7,377.37 (no change)
 - CNA Ash Creek Natural Area: \$ 4,700.00 (no change)

- Donation for Community Engagement \$2000.00 (no change)
- June interest \$1.16
- July interest \$1.20
- August Interest \$1.20
- Fiscal YTD interest (July 2025-June 2026) \$12.45 + \$7.00 = \$19.45
- Fiscal YTD interest (July 2026-June 2027) \$2.40

Summary of Activity since June 2026 Treasurers Report:

- Received District 4 Coalition reimbursement for corporate reporting expenses (\$50)
- Received District 4 Coalition micro-grant to cover July 13, 2026 Neighborhood Picnic and Smith School Survey expenses. D4C reimbursed \$571.50 for expenses that were purchased by June 30 and submitted for reimbursement from D4C by June 30, 2026.
- District 4 Coalition Board of Directors authorized \$241 payment to each D4C neighborhood to spend down the D4C FY 2025-2026 grant before June 30, 2026. D4C check is in the mail and will be deposited in September.

Board of Directors Action on Motions

Ashcreek-Crestwood NA Secretary Report: Bruce moved, Ben seconded, approval of draft 06/08/2026 minutes. They were approved unanimously. Ben and Dave abstained.

Motion to Establish a standing Smith School Committee . Ben moved, Dave seconded, setting up this new Committee. It was approved unanimously. John Grater is Chair.

Motion to direct the Parks and Trails committee to investigate the trail and come back with a recommendation for access to Smith School. There was discussion about whether this is a neighborhood motion. Discussion indicated a desire for the Parks and Trails committee to gather information about issues such as liability insurance, permits, etc. Questions about this effort should be directed to Dave Manville. John and Jen abstained.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Fitzgerald