

The Portland Tribune

City Hall Update: Old Town to Get Next Affordable Housing Bond Project

By Jim Redden

September 18, 2018

Plus, recent rains call attention to storm drains and Wheeler appoints police settlement oversight committee members.

The Portland Housing Bureau has announced the next affordable housing bond project will be the redevelopment of the Westwind Apartments at Northwest Sixth Avenue and Flanders Street.

The Old Town building currently provides 70 units of single-room occupancy (SRO) housing to extremely low income and vulnerable tenants. It will be demolished and replaced with a new supportive housing apartment building that will include services for its residents.

The cost of the project is estimated at \$24 million. The purchase price is \$3 million, which will be paid for out of Downtown Waterfront Urban Renewal Area funds. Subsequent redevelopment costs are estimated at \$21 million. Multnomah County has committed \$4 million to the project.

Rains call attention to storm drains

Portlanders got a reminder to be prepared for emergencies last Wednesday when a rainstorm passed over the city. Uncleared storm drains caused flooding in several neighborhoods, including Laurelhurst, where several intersections were inundated with water.

Although the storm water sewer system is maintained by the Bureau of Environmental Services, it does not have nearly enough employees to clear the drains along city streets from leaves and other debris when the rainy season approaches. Nearby residents are encouraged to clear drains they see are blocked, especially when rain starts falling.

In a related matter, the Portland Bureau of Transportation will stop charging fees for leaf collections, according to a recent report from the Portland Mercury.

Wheeler appoints oversight committee members

Mayor Ted Wheeler announced his 13 appointees to the newly created Portland Committee for Community-Engaged Policing last Tuesday. They include two high school students.

The PCCEP created the committee on Sept. 5 to replace the disbanded Community Oversight Advisory Board. Such a citizen body is required by the city's settlement with the U.S. Department of Justice over complaints of the police historically using excessive force against minorities. It will monitor progress made by the city toward reforms required by the settlement.

This is about more than the Settlement Agreement: The PCCEP represents a unique and important opportunity to improve the community's relationship with the Portland Police Bureau," Wheeler says. You can learn more at: tinyurl.com/y93hhdlr.

Fed Up with Homeless, Montavilla Says 'Enough is Enough'

*By Zane Sparling
September 17, 2018*

A band of residents in Portland's Montavilla neighborhood say there's a big difference between criminalizing homelessness and letting property and drug laws go unenforced.

Their message: "Enough is Enough."

"The police don't respond to it. The mayor doesn't respond to it. They feel like they can build themselves out of this situation," said local resident Jeff Church. "We have working-class families who are living paycheck to paycheck who are being robbed with impunity."

Church — a board member for the Montavilla Initiative — is joining with neighbors in Lents and Brentwood-Darlington to launch "Enough is Enough PDX." The city-wide campaign seeks to force decision-makers to address livability issues and quality-of-life crimes.

To start, the group created a banner decorated with drawings of tents, fires, hypodermic needles, the poop emoji and a message reading "Hey, Wheeler!" Motorists passing underneath the Glisan Street Interstate 205 overpass watched the protest unfurl from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 17.

Bounded by I-205 to the east and the curves of Interstate 84 to the north, Montavilla's 7,000 or so residents live in the shadow of Mt. Tabor but don't enjoy the same property values as their wealthier neighbors to the west and south.

Unpermitted homeless shelters are a perennial issue along the I-205 multi-use path, and Church says the 82nd Avenue MAX station gives campers easy access to Montavilla Park.

"There are a lot of people who are service-resistant, who are refusing service," said Church, a Portlander since 1993 who moved to the neighborhood three years ago and works from home. "We need to help these people realize that what they're doing is affecting people in this neighborhood horribly."

It's fair to say that the Montavilla Initiative doesn't see eye to eye with the Montavilla Neighborhood Association. The city-funded association acknowledges that trash, human waste and needles have piled up in public spaces, but the neighborhood association also asked the government to stop the sweeps of the two-square-mile district in a resolution passed on Aug. 13.

"We need to move toward a better long-term solution than public relation sweeps when enough complaints pile up in certain areas," said David Linn, the 36-year-old board chair for the association, who was born off 82nd. "That just moves the problem around."

And while both groups want to see an end to homelessness, the Montavilla Initiative members believe law and order can't wait for a solution that's still a speck on the horizon.

The Portland Business Journal

Portland Allots \$30K Grants to Minority-Owned Cannabis Businesses

*By Pete Danko
September 18, 2018*

A city-backed program is offering grants of up to \$30,000 to help minority-owned cannabis businesses make it in Portland.

The NuLeaf Project, financed through Prosper Portland with a \$150,000 slice of city cannabis tax revenue, began taking applications for the "NuFuel" program on Monday.

"The NuLeaf Project will assist between 10 and 20 businesses with services like accounting and tax advice, one-on-one business development, and training workshops," Prosper Portland Executive Director Kimberly Branam said in a statement.

The grants are open to Portland-headquartered businesses with at least 51 percent ownership by people of color, "with priority placed on African Americans, then secondary preference to Hispanic Americans and Native Americans," according to the nonprofit NuLeaf Project.

Projects are expected to "generate a measurable return-on-investment" and must be completed within six months from when the funds are awarded. Applications will be accepted until the end of the day on Oct. 19.

Separately, Portland earlier this year handed out Cannabis Tax Allocation grants to three entities.

- Green Hop LLC was awarded \$95,155 to run a cannabis industry training and apprenticeship program.
- Portland Opportunities Industrial Center + Rosemary Anderson High School was awarded \$100,000 to provide training in construction careers, focusing on "individuals disproportionately impacted by former cannabis laws."
- Metropolitan Public Defender was awarded \$131,814 to expand the "Legal Services Day" program to clear marijuana charges from residents' records.

Funding for the various programs comes from the approximately \$3 million that Portland expected in cannabis tax revenue for fiscal year 2017-18, which ended June 30. About \$1.5 million went to the city's Vision Zero street safety program, and \$910,000 went to the Portland Police Bureau.

Oregon has a 17 percent state sales tax on cannabis, and cities are allowed to enact a tax of up to 3 percent. Portland did so in 2016.

The Skanner

NuFuel Program Now Accepting Applications

By Prosper Portland

September 17, 2018

The NuLeaf Project, Prosper Portland's partner in its Cannabis Business Development Program, will accept applications starting Monday, September 17, for a grant program designed specifically to help cannabis businesses owned by people of color achieve greater success.

The NuFuel program will award annual grants to businesses in the amounts ranging from \$5,000 to \$30,000.

To qualify for the grant, applicants must be operational cannabis businesses headquartered in Portland, Oregon with at least 51 percent ownership by people of color. Grants are intended to address the capital, education, and connection hurdles that people of color face when entering the cannabis industry.

The City of Portland is the first U.S. municipality to invest tax revenue from the legalized cannabis industry into the communities most negatively impacted by cannabis criminalization. The city allocated \$150,000 to Prosper Portland to provide business technical assistance; Prosper Portland subsequently partnered with NuLeaf Project, now a member of the agency's Inclusive Business Resource Network, to deliver services to priority business owners.

Applications are due Friday, October 19. Businesses are encouraged to apply as soon as possible to fast-track their applications and receive funding early.

For complete application information, visit <http://www.nuleafproject.org/>.

Further Reading (linked below)

Portland Now Generates Electricity from Turbines Installed in City Water Pipes

* As this article wasn't linked correctly yesterday, here's the link again. Please let me know if there are problems accessing the article.