

Rockwood General Meeting

June 17, 2019

Rockwood Building, 124 NE 181st Ave., 7 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 7:07 p.m. by President Catherine Nicewood. She introduced the other officers, Secretary Courtney Chase, and Member at large, Francisco Rodriguez.

Courtney made a motion to accept the minutes of March 18th. Francisco seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Elsie Praeger, from Mt. Hood Head Start and Early Head Start talked to us about needing more children for enrollment in East county. There are 650 openings for next school year in East Multnomah County. The Head Start is Federal, State, and City funded. There are several options for ages 3 to 5—There are three and a half hour classes, six and a half hour classes, and 8 and a half hour classes. For ages 0-5 it is a home-based care program ninety minutes a week. It is provided by a certified teacher. Social resources are provided to the family when needed. The requirements for enrollment are a letter from TNAF, be in foster care, or homeless are all automatic qualifiers. If the family is on SSI, it automatically qualifies the children to enroll. Also being under 130% of the poverty line is an automatic qualification. Forms you have to provide are a W2, tax statement, and a family income statement. The Head Start boundaries are I-205 to Troutdale, and the Columbia River to Foster in Multnomah County. Their website is www.mhcheadstart.org. There are also looking for volunteers in the classrooms. No experience is needed to be an aide. A background check is required.

Next was a discussion on what residents wanted to see in Rockwood. A number one request was more food service-restaurants, and grocery stores. The wish is for locally owned restaurants. A co-op food service model was brought up. And a need for more single-family residences with more opportunities for first generation home buyers like Habitat for Humanity homes. A community Center was also brought up possibly with the Rockwood 10, Rockwood Rising, and the Knova School working together.

The current land use developments were discussed. The Rockwood 10 Project is in appeal for the future street on the North end of the property. The Outside In Project on 162nd and Burnside was accepted by the Design Commission. The Stark Senior Living Center on 197th and Stark application is complete and construction has started. The Groundbreaking of the Rockwood Rising Project was June 12, 2019. The Gresham Food Carts is in the process of adding a covered central eating area. The old Rockwood Police Building is in process to convert it to a community use for Oregon Tradeswomen.

The Rockwood Neighborhood received a City Grant for 12 new lawn signs-six in English, and six in Spanish.

John Nelsen, Executive Director of Rockwood Preparatory Academy mentioned their test scores in Math a 247% increase, and in Language Arts a 167% increase from the previous year.

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An announcement was made for the I Love Rockwood Festival/Nadaka Festival on August 17th at Nadaka Park. Haircuts, medical/dental care for children, and free backpacks will be given out. There will be a bouncy house, free food, and a free band.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Minutes taken by Catherine Nicewood