



Lents Neighborhood Association

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March 2018 Committee Reports

Transportation Committee

Committee Members:

Christo Brehm and Sabina Urdes

Contact:

christo.lents@gmail.com

Purpose and Scope: The goal of the Transportation Committee is to address transportation issues within Lents or that impact our community. Transportation includes motor vehicle facilities everything ranging from I-205 to Foster Rd to local streets. Transportation also includes sidewalks, bicycle facilities, separated multi-use paths, and public transit facilities. Committee work may involve disseminating information from ODOT or PBOT, or gathering input from the Lents community and conveying that back to the transportation agencies.

Meetings:

- No regularly scheduled meetings.

Activity Report & General Updates:

- **I-205 auxiliary lanes project:** Construction begins March/April with updates available from <http://www.i205construction.org/glennjacksontojohnsoncreek>. It's not clear what the exact schedule will be beyond what we can read on this website.
- **Foster Road construction:** PBOT has posted the Foster Road construction plans and is accepting bids from qualified contractors. The public can view the documents to better understand what the changes will look like. Construction is estimated to begin in May 2018. Foster Rd will remain open during construction with one westbound and one eastbound travel lane. <https://tinyurl.com/FosterRoad>

Earlier this month, Transportation Committee Chair Christo Brehm submitted to the East Portland Neighborhood News an article that he co-authored with Seth Gallant, Transportation Chair for Foster-Powell Neighborhood Association:

TITLE: Collaboration Opportunities for Foster Road Corridor Neighbors

AUTHORS: Christo Brehm (Lents) and Seth Gallant (Foster-Powell)

DATE: March 15, 2018

With the Foster Road Transportation and Streetscape project ready to begin construction this spring, the Creston-Kenilworth, Foster-Powell, Mount Scott-Arleta, and Lents neighborhoods have the opportunity to think broadly about the corridor, identify issues that transcend neighborhood boundaries, and find new ways to collaborate. The project will add bicycle lanes, on-street parking, a center turn lane, and wider sidewalks by reducing vehicles lanes to one in each direction. But what are the broad challenges that affect these neighborhoods?

Inner Foster (SE 50th to SE 82nd) is growing with increased interest in the commercial core. As new businesses attract foot traffic, the need to improve safety for pedestrians is increasing. Foster corridor neighborhood and business associations have been advocating for safety improvements at least since the 2003 Foster Road Transportation & Streetscape Plan was adopted. Now this project is finally becoming a reality. It will improve safety for all users in the corridor (pedestrians, bicyclists, drivers, and transit riders) and make the street a more attractive place to spend time, supporting neighborhood businesses.

As the Lents Town Center (SE 82nd to SE 122) adds residential units and businesses open their doors, the roads that connect us with central Portland will become busy. Since expanding automobile capacity is not a viable option, the Neighborhood and City should support and implement enhancements to alternative modes of transportation across SE Portland. Bicycle wayfinding could make confusing routes into the city more legible and sidewalks (e.g. SE Ellis between Foster and SE 92) could provide universal access. It would also be great if evening service were added on the 10 bus line. If sitting back on the Max whizzing by clogged traffic on I-84 or enjoying a ride into town on a Neighborhood Greenway would catch on, even drivers would benefit from reduced congestion.

How many of these opportunities and challenges are confined within our neighborhood boundaries and how many are interlaced across southeast Portland? What are the ways that our neighborhood associations, business communities, and residents can join our voices together to work for positive change? What is the next step?

The Transportation Committee welcomes new members. Please get in touch if you are interested.

Communications Committee

Committee Members:

Barbara Bader, Christo Brehm, and Sabina Urdes

Contact:

sabina.lents.na@gmail.com, lentsneighborhood@gmail.com

Purpose and Scope: The goal of the Communication Committee is to support the LNA Board through strategic communication practices in order to form strong relationships with outside entities, organizations, elected officials, and the LNA General Membership. We also work on LNA's social media presence and promotional materials for activities and events.

Meetings:

- If scheduled, meetings are currently set for the 4th Sunday of the month, location TBD.

Activity Report:

Committee activity during the past month has consisted of:

- **Bylaws:** Sabina has begun the process of re-writing our bylaws and submitted an initial draft of the first half of the bylaws at the Board meeting on 3-8-18. At the time, Sabina also turned in a proposed process and timeline for re-writing and approving the new Bylaws, which includes forming a Bylaw Committee on April 12, running the proposed bylaws by community members, committees, and the general membership between May and August, and, hopefully, adopting the new set of Bylaws by September 1, 2018. We will make the timeline available on our website by the end of March.
- **Social Media Guidelines:** Sabina has re-submitted to the Board on 3-8-18 proposed new set of social media guidelines for Facebook, divided into guidelines for Moderators (Board Members) and guidelines for our page followers. It includes things like criteria for approving or rejecting a comment, moderators signing their replies to messages and comments when replying as the LNA page, criteria for blocking a user, protocol for blocking someone or removing a post, and more. The Board is expected to bring input at the next Board Meeting on 4-12-18.
- **Website:** The Board decided at the 3-8-18 Board meeting that we will be seeking out web maintenance help from a professional web developer to try to improve the functionality and look of the website.
- **Facebook page:** Committee members have been alternating publishing posts on the LNA Facebook page that are relevant to the neighborhood community.
- **Office hours:** Sabina occasionally holds office hours to listen to our neighborhood's community members so that the LNA Board can be responsive to community needs and issues. If you'd like to schedule an appointment, please email Sabina:
sabina.lents.na@gmail.com

Community members from the Lents Neighborhood are welcome and encouraged to join the Communication Committee, serve as members, and serve in leadership roles.

Equity and Inclusion Committee

Scope of work:

The Equity and Inclusion Committee aims to provide avenues for People of Color, New Portlanders, and People with Disabilities to engage in neighborhood activities and LNA meetings and events, as well as help LNA members meet diverse communities and engage with them in their own places and forums.

Chair: Cora Potter

Activity report:

Last meeting: 3-20-18

- Discussed Lents Strong/ROSE/Meyer Memorial Trust Housing work groups
- Discussed upcoming bylaws revisions process. The Equity and Inclusion committee would like to be involved in any bylaws revisions to ensure they are meeting the goals of providing a welcoming environment for all.
- The next E&I meeting will be a bag stuffing party. We will be assembling the welcome packets for the new apartment residents.

Next meeting: April 16, 6:30-8 PM at Reedway Place Community Room [8940 SE Reedway](#).

Contact info: cora.potter@gmail.com

Land Use Committee

Scope of work:

The Land Use Committee is authorized to respond to land-use cases on behalf of the association and to request input from the General Membership, as needed. They collaborate to respond to time-sensitive land-use cases and developer meeting requests. Each project is unique, so the scope of activities around that project vary based on the size, impacts and past neighborhood responses to similar projects.

Chair: Cora Potter

Activity report: none provided

Typical meeting time and location: Meets on an ad hoc basis. Meetings occur when there is a time sensitive land-use case to review.

Contact info: cora.potter@gmail.com

2018 Lents Fair Committee

Scope of Work: Planning the annual Lents Street Fair, which takes place in August, focusing on inclusion and diversity through our vendors, talent, and service providers, as well as developing inclusionary partnership with groups around Southeast Portland and specifically within Lents. We strive for a cost neutral event and request funds from our community to support us. We have a T-shirt contest and a music selection event. We have fun. We need you and your input!

Committee Chair: Robert Schultz

Board Liaison: Michael Collins

Members: Robert Schultz, Michael Collins, Sabina Urdes, Mary

Typical Meeting Frequency, Days, Times:

We are on hold pending some research into alternative management of the event.

Participation:

Done largely through sharing apps, E-mail, phone calls, in person meetings, at committee meetings, and the day of the event. If you have time to offer this event, we will find something for you to do that will support the event. All participants will be invited to a post event gathering to provide feedback on the event and the process.

Contact:

Robert Schultz: e-mail Lentsfair@gmail.com or show up at LNA meetings to speak in person.

Updates:

Written by Robert Schultz:

At this point, it is likely that the event will not be hosted by the LNA. Reasons:

1. No funds dedicated to the event by the LNA.
2. Not enough support from the LNA for the event. As seen at the last board meeting, select board members have been holding back support of the event. As seen in the last 2 general meetings, not enough LNA members willing to volunteer.
3. Lack of community support based on history of LNA alienating groups in the community.
4. Current poor reputation of the LNA impacting the ability to raise funds and develop partnerships.

The Fair may still happen but not as an LNA event. With board approval, Robert Schultz opened discussions about other groups taking on the event: Lents Grown (refused for lack of funding and capacity), Venture Portland (no reply, lack of interest), and even Green Lents, (no strong interest or follow up).

If, suddenly, interest peaks and a financial commitment is made by the LNA, we could easily make this happen, though there is a time critical component for the summer schedules and other planning components. If you are interested in helping out, email the Fair Committee at Lentsfair@gmail.com.

Finance Committee

Scope of work:

To perform an internal review of finances, financial procedures, and make proposals.

Chair: Ray Hites

Activity report:

The Finance Committee was formed on 2-8-18 to help the Board organize its financial records, perform an internal audit, increase transparency of LNA's funds, and make recommendations on how we can improve our financial practices.

No progress report available at this time.

Contact info: lentsneighborhood@gmail.com

Grievance Committee

Scope of work: The purpose of the grievance committee is to serve as liaison between the Board and community members who submit grievances in an effort to ensure that community members feel heard and their concerns are addressed properly.

Update:

The Grievance Committee was formed at the Board Meeting on 3-8-18 and is currently comprised of three members, including the LNA Chair. The Committee meets with anyone who submits grievance(s) to hear them out and then make a recommendation to the Board at the following Board Meeting on how to proceed with their grievances.

So far, the Committee has scheduled grievance meetings for 4-6-18 and 4-7-18 with four different grievants and will be making their recommendations to the Board at the 4-12-18 Board Meeting.

Typical meeting time and location: This committee is not currently open to the public. To ensure everyone's privacy, the Committee meets only with the community members who are submitting grievances.

Contact info: lentsneighborhood@gmail.com, sabina.lents.na@gmail.com