

Friends of the South Park Blocks is excited to publish its first newsletter since its founding as a Friends group three months ago. You are receiving this newsletter as you have expressed an interest in the group's objectives and were considering volunteering your time. Below is a brief summary of major past activities.

Join Friends of South Park Blocks - Friends of South Park Blocks (FoSPB) is recognised by Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) bureau to help improve safety in the park, work with park rangers, identify maintenance issues and help with landscaping and event planning. Anyone with an interest in improving the park and the neighborhood is welcome to join FoSPB.

Foot Patrols - South Park Block foot patrols were inaugurated February 24, 2012 with five patrolers joined by Mike Boyer from the Office of Neighborhood Involvement and Bob McCoy the PP&R Forest Park Ranger. Foot patrols have been held weekly on an ad hoc basis when at least three trained patrolers are available.

Foot Patrol Training - A second foot patrol training will be held in March / April. Foot patrol training, conducted by Art Hendricks the head of PP&R security and Mike Boyer, is required by the city before patrolling. Please let David or Gunnar know if you are interested.

Neighborhood Outreach - Gunnar and David met with Portland Art Museum's Security Chief Nolan Hibbard. Plans are to meet with the Chief of Campus Public Safety Office at PSU. Ongoing outreach will be to businesses, churches, condominiums, apartments and social service agencies linked to the park. Please let us know if you have access to building managers, business managers, boards of directors etc. to provide FoSPB information. A FoSPB flyers will soon be available for bulletin boards.

Downtown Parks Contacts - Gunnar and David meet with Director Park Cultural & Event Programming Coordinator Alicia Hammock. Event scheduling, security, maintenance and PP&R resources were discussed. Director Park is very heavily used for scheduled events as compared to SPB Park, although SPBP can get some spillover when Director Park is over booked. Safety and security issues such as drug use / sales, skate boarding move freely between the two parks. The restroom at Director park is one of the only public facilities in the neighborhood.

Google Docs - A Google Docs share site has been set up for FoSPB members to schedule foot patrols, record foot patrol notes and time logs, view meeting minutes and reference documents.

Contacts

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If you like to join us please contact either David or Gunnar using the contact information above. We are interested in hearing from you even if you currently do not have the time for volunteering but have ideas and concerns regarding the park and its immediate neighborhood.