

This is the Friends of South Park Blocks second newsletter since its founding as a Friends group. You are receiving this newsletter as you have expressed an interest in the group's objectives or were considering volunteering your time. Below is a brief summary of major recent activities.

Join Friends of South Park Blocks

Friends of South Park Blocks (FoSPB) is recognized 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 have been conducted at least weekly since February 2012. Foot patrols are initiated by any FoSPB trained Foot Patroller. If you have time for a foot patrol, send an email to all of the trained patrollers to set up a time. PP&R has asked us to have a minimum of three trained patrollers for each patrol.

Foot Patrol Training

A second foot patrol training was held in April 19, 2012. Foot patrol training was conducted by Mike Boyer of the Portland Office of Neighborhood Involvement and Art Hendricks the head of PP&R security. Five new PP&R Park Rangers and two Portland Police bike Patrollers attended the training to introduce themselves. Please let David or Gunnar know if you are interested in future training.

Neighborhood Outreach

Gunnar and David met with Portland State University Campus Security Chief Phillip Zerzan. A meeting was also held with Ladd Tower building Manager Zach Johnson. We have had discussions with the PSU Facilities Maintenance Supervisor to gain ideas for Park lawn improvement. 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. FoSPB fliers are available for bulletin boards.

Park Maintenance

PP&R Maintenance staff met with FoSPB members in the Park to discuss specific maintenance issues. Issues discussed included Lawn rehabilitation in shaded areas of the park, lawn mowing, lawn watering, sculpture and monument care, bench care, gardening training for FoSPB members. We will be meeting with the organization that is in charge of sculptures and statues in the Park, the Regional Arts and Culture Council.

Park Security

The Downtown Park night security contractor will be changing to Pacific Patrol Services June 1. PP&R Park Rangers are now patrolling the downtown parks in the daytime; say hello to the Rangers if you see them. Portland Police bike officers are still on patrol in the downtown area and in the South Park Blocks during daytime hours.

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. Information will be sent out soon with ID and password.

Upcoming events

Stay tuned for further announcements on specific dates for the events below.

Art and sculpture walk – May

Gardening Work Party – May

MOAB training – Week of June 5.

Safety Summit – End of June / July

Monthly Meetings – Last Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm, Eliot Tower – 3rd. floor meeting room (5.29., 6.26.)

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.