



**Hosford-Abernethy Neighborhood Association Board
HAND Board Meeting
May 12, 2026**

Attendees:

HAND Board members		
Name	Title	Present?
Chris Eykamp	Chair	X
Mark Linehan	Treasurer	X
Michelle Sprague	Communications chair	X
Barbara Stross		X
Karen Girard	Secretary	X
Peggy McDaniel	SE Uplift Board representative	X
Jill Riebesehl	SE Examiner liaison	X
Phil Cox	Land Use	X
Kim Nurmi		X
Kayla Kennett		X
Andrew Wilker		X

Guests: Alex Balestra, Becca, Avery Berchek, Jon Bolden, Bill Crawford, Christopher DeAngelis, Jen Eykamp, Alicia Garcia, Vincent Haskin, Fischer Jemison, Sam Latza, Lauren McCune, Linda Nettekoven, Carl Nurmi, Diane Odeh, Alexander Parmley, Cesar Ramirez, Jack S., Scotty, Tom Sollitt, Joanne Stainbrook, Linda Steinle, Juno Suárez, Tom Van Raalte, Steve Weeks

Chris opened the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Approval of April HAND Board Meeting minutes and treasurer's reports

- Mark moved to approve the April minutes and treasurer's report. Phil seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Future of Neighborhood Associations letter

- Office of Civic Life - administers the neighborhood association system; need to update the guidelines.
- The process for updating the neighborhood guidelines ([Updating Rules for Neighborhood Groups](#)) does not meet the Office of Neighborhood Involvement standards developed jointly with neighborhood associations in 2005.
- Board members drafted a [letter](#) to city elected officials and city administrators on behalf of HAND outlining our concerns with the process.
- Jill made a motion that HAND send letter. Peggy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Bottledrop siting letter

- Board members drafted a [letter](#) to City Council expressing safety concerns with the location and encouraging officials to delay the bottledrop siting process to give the neighborhood time to find an alternate site, possibly also in HAND.
- Mark made a motion to send the letter. Peggy seconded the motion. 2 no votes; 6 yes votes; 2 abstentions. The motion passed 6-2.

Caruthers update, approve permit funds

- The dead-end piece of SE Caruthers between 7th and under Grand overpass has been closed permanently by PBOT. There is an opportunity to create a community space at the site.
- Avery Berchek is leading the Caruthers Plaza Workgroup and provided an update. The workgroup's goal is to serve as facilitators of discussions among users of the area, other interested organizations, and agencies.
- A block party at the site is tentatively scheduled for July 11th. Karen made a motion to spend up to \$200 for any necessary permits to hold the block party. Andrew seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ross Island presentation

- Heather King (Co-Executive Director, Willamette Riverkeeper) and Mary Stites (Staff Attorney, NW Environmental Defense Center) provided an update on Ross Island and potential restoration efforts.
- HeronPark LLC - consortium of private entities has proposed to purchase Ross Island, and a CAD built in the lagoon to receive non-hazardous sediments from the Portland Harbor Superfund Site.
- Portland Harbor Superfund site - largest superfund site in the US; will be the largest cleanup in the US. 7% of waste has to go to a special landfill in Arlington; 93% of waste can be deposited in a CAD.
- Formed the Ross Island Collaborative to ensure that HeronPark LLC reclamation plan is implemented in a safe and scientific way.
- For more information: [City Club of Portland - Ross Island: An Urgent Call to Action](#)

Elections

- Elections for the HAND Board occur at the May meeting. Terms are for two years. There are 20 seats on the HAND Board; the 2025-26 board was made up of 11 people members, with nine vacant slots.
- Six board members' terms expire May 2026:
 1. Phil Cox
 2. Karen Girard (not running for reelection)
 3. Peggy McDaniel
 4. Kim Nurmi
 5. Jill Riebesehl
 6. Andrew Wilker
- 10 people contacted Chris to indicate interest in running for a board seat. Chris opened the nominations for other candidates. No additional candidates came forward. The 10 new candidates are:
 1. Avery Berchek
 2. Bill Crawford
 3. Alicia Garcia
 4. Vinny Haskin
 5. Lauren McCune
 6. Linda Nettekoven
 7. Alexander Parmley
 8. Cesar Ramirez
 9. Juno Suárez
 10. Steve Wecks
- Mark made a motion to adopt the slate of candidates. Barbara seconded the motion. 1 person voted no so the slate was not adopted.
- All HAND members can vote for board members.
- Chris canvassed attendees for each candidate. Every candidate was elected to the board. Terms 2026-2028:

○ Avery Berchek	○ Kim Nurmi
○ Phil Cox	○ Alexander Parmley
○ Bill Crawford	○ Cesar Ramirez
○ Alicia Garcia	○ Jill Riebesehl
○ Vinny Haskin	○ Juno Suárez
○ Lauren McCune	○ Steve Wecks
○ Peggy McDaniel	○ Andrew Wilker
○ Linda Nettekoven	
- Officer elections (Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity Director) will take place at the June HAND meeting.

SEUL Updates (Diane Odeh)

- SE Uplift is the district coalition that supports HAND and 18 other neighborhood associations
- June 2nd 6:00-7:30 (online): [new board member training](#) for neighborhood association board members
- All board members should sign up for the [SEUL Hey Neighbor newsletter](#).

Abernethy Updates

- Carnival - Friday, May 15th, 5:30-8:00; 5:00-5:30 is for preschool-age kids
- Bike Bus - two routes - 60-100 kids participate

Announcements**Public comment**

- All attendees are invited to participate in discussions at HAND Board meetings. If you have a general comment to share, just let the chair know and time will be made available for you.
- To join the HAND listserv to receive information about HAND meetings and general announcements, send an email to handannounce+subscribe@googlegroups.com. It is not a high-volume listserv and there are usually only 1-3 announcements per month.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Karen Girard
