

Fulton Closure Update

Fulton Community Center is still under threat of closure by Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R). People's efforts over the last two months have had an effect but Fulton is not yet out of the danger zone. About 100 contra dancers, dressed in red, turned out at the one public meeting held by PP&R on Jan. 9th. Hundreds of letters, emails and phone calls have been received by PP&R, the city commissioners and the mayor.

All city bureaus submitted budgets with 4%, 6%, and 8% cuts. PP&R initially put Fulton closure in all three cut levels. *The strong reaction of the contra community, along with the other users and supporters of Fulton, caused them to take it off the 4% cut level.* However, it remains in the 6% and 8% levels. Our work is not done.

The budgeting process is now in the hands of the mayor and city council. There are public meetings coming up that will provide opportunity for people to show their support of Fulton. **Remember to wear RED so that we will be identified for the throng that we are.**

— March 5, 6:30pm-8:30pm - Community Budget Forum (public input meeting)
Montgomery Park Ballroom, 2701 NW Vaughn St.

— March 21, 6:30pm-8:30pm - Community Budget Forum (public input meeting)
Cleveland High School Cafeteria, 3400 SE 26th Ave.

— 1st Wednesday of each month there is a meeting of the Parks Board from 7:30 **AM** to 9:30 **AM** at City Hall in the Lovejoy Room

— April 5th 3:00 to 5:00 the PP&R budget will get presented to the council - Council Chambers, City Hall

— April 30th the mayor releases his proposed budget

— May 17th 6:00 to 8:00 Budget public hearing (location TBA)

— May 30st City Council votes on the budget - Council Chambers, City Hall

— June 21st Council votes to adopt the budget - Council Chambers, City Hall

For more information go to: <http://www.portlandonline.com/omf/index.cfm?c=26061>

Two reasons were given for closing Fulton. One is it has the "fewest visits overall." Others have pointed out that Fulton has fewer visits only because it is small. A more fair tracking of visits per square foot puts it in line with the other community centers.

Reason two was that Fulton “has high general fund subsidy.” Those who have studied PP&R’s numbers find that Fulton is actually above average for percentage cost recovery. All 12 community centers lose money. Southwest Community Center loses over a million dollars a year. In straight dollars, Fulton’s \$75,000/year subsidy is the second lowest of all.

It’s not about the money.

The continuing work by all the individuals who want to keep Fulton open may yet combine to save this unique hall for the enjoyment of all its users. Press on.

Keep those cards, letters and emails coming to all the players:

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