



WE HAVE NEWS

The Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Organization

City Planning staff announce public meeting on long-debated historic designation for Munjoy Hill



Congress @ Morning streets, 1917. Taken from the porch of 34 Congress St., parade marchers march through the Munjoy Hill neighborhood. *Photo via Portland Press Herald. Taken by Rufus Cutler Libby courtesy of Susan Hill Sykes*

On Monday afternoon special notices will begin arriving in mailboxes throughout Munjoy Hill. Those notices relate to the nearly year-long efforts of City Planning and Historic Preservation staff to conduct an assessment of

properties throughout Munjoy Hill for the purpose of potential historic districting.

On Tuesday, April 30th at East End Community School, City staff will present an overview of potential historic district boundaries for Munjoy Hill. The meeting will include an overview of the architectural survey and analysis which will support Planning staff's final proposal. The meeting will also include details into the process itself.

You may recall the Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Organization partnering with Greater Portland Landmarks last summer to help fund efforts to conduct an assessment of properties, including those which may be historically significant or contributing to the historic significance of one of Portland's most storied neighborhoods. That assessment supported the months-long efforts of Planning staff to arrive at what we expect will be a final proposal for some form of historic designation for parts of the Hill.

Any proposal must first meet passage by the City's Historic Preservation Board before heading to the City Council.

While we helped fund much of the initial work, we have not viewed staff's work and are told some work continues. Nothing will be unveiled until the April 30th public meeting.

The rapid growth and gentrification of Munjoy Hill lead to a temporary halt to demolitions last year, an effort driven by District 1 City Councilor Belinda Ray. That process ultimately led to the City of Portland Planning & Development and Historic Preservation staff to expedite their work toward an initial proposal for historic designation. The progress on this work comes after months of staff shortages and large, ongoing simultaneous City projects which City staff have continued to work on.

Historic designation of all or parts of Munjoy Hill has been the topic of much debate for several years, intensifying as the neighborhood's density and structural evolution gained momentum.

In the coming months, the Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Organization will be coordinating public meetings and informational sessions with Councilor Ray and City Planning staff. We also plan on direct surveying of all residents throughout Munjoy Hill in our efforts to engage, involve and better represent everyone in the community. We also look forward to continuing our partnerships with the City of Portland and Greater Portland Landmarks in community outreach and finding common ground on any changes or decisions which might come from this process.

In the meantime, stay tuned and as always, we'll work to update our members as soon as we know more.

When: April 30, 2019
Where: East End Community School
Time: 6:30 - 8:30pm

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