



## PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

Robert McCullough  
SE Uplift Neighborhood Coalition  
3534 SE Main St.  
Portland, OR 97214

January 7, 2016

Dear Robert,

Thank you for your letter. We understand the neighborhood's ongoing desire for a community center at the Washington-Monroe property, one that remains in the City's long-term plans, but awaits significant funding.

At this time, Portland Parks & Recreation does not plan on exercising its option to purchase the remaining property you reference. The Bureau has sufficient property in the neighborhood already, and purchasing additional undeveloped land would not serve more people. Further, the existing Master Plan for the site does not require the additional parcel.

Unfortunately, we are currently unable to fund the cost of the community center, last estimated at \$48 million in 2011, without a major capital bond measure, and that is likely several years out. The terms of our Memorandum of Understanding with Portland Public Schools (part of an Intergovernmental Agreement) dictate that the potential purchase of the property is contingent on Portland Parks & Recreation having funding in place for the community center. Again, we do not have that capital, and our option will expire on May 30, 2017.

Like you, we are disappointed at the financial circumstances that are holding up this project, which as you indicated, has been long-promised and eagerly anticipated. You mention a public/private partnership to assist this project. We would be delighted to consider such an endeavor, and encourage you to cultivate possible partners as your capacity allows.

Though this may not be the response you were hoping for, we hope it gives you some further understanding on the factors that are at play.

Sincerely,

Mike Abbaté  
Director

Amanda Fritz  
Commissioner

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Amanda Fritz, Commissioner  
Mike Abbaté, Director



*Sustaining a healthy park and recreation system to make Portland a great place to live, work and play.*