4/02/2019 Talking Points.

1. Last August the Mayor visited Hillside and assured us community centers would not be closed during his term in office.
2. The proposed changes do not create a sustainable model for Parks. Instead, it accelerates a death spiral of cuts, job loss, fewer services, less revenue, followed cuts, job loss, fewer services, less revenue. Repeat.
3. Endorsing such a plan is to support the decline of our city and its livability.
4. This process is not informed by the results of studies commissioned in last year’s budget to address Park’s financial challenges and create options for future budgets.
5. Hillside History: Land and buildings were purchased by the neighborhood in the 70’s after a multi-year funding campaign. The site was improved by the community, as required by the city, before being giving to the city.
6. Hillside is the only community center in NW Portland. The nearest alternatives in SW and St Johns are both 7 miles away. Those centers are already at or near capacity and slated for program reductions.
7. Over the last decade we worked with Parks personnel to make Hillside break even. After decisions by the City changed personnel costs in Parks, Hillside needed support from General Funds. Those decisions are now the pretext to close Hillside.
8. Hillside’s pre-school and children’s programs are self-sustaining, and could be larger and more profitable if Parks would allow site flexibility.
9. City staff argue that there are “partners” who will lease the building for use by the community. It is not clear whether any partner could afford the city’s lease terms.