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Interview with Corinna Kimball-Brown, Portland Collective
Housing, 2011 (audio)

Corinna Kimball-Brown

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PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY
SUSTAINABILITY HISTORY PROJECT
INTERVIEW INDEX

INTERVIEWEE: Corinna Kimball-Brown

Interviewer: Chris White

Date: March 3, 2011

Location of Interview: PSU Library

Research Assistant: Tony Smith

Interview Series: Documenting Sustainable Practices in the Pacific Northwest

Recording Equipment: DIGITAL RECORDER (WINDOWS MEDIA AUDIO FILE) WITH AN
EXTERNAL, OMNIDIRECTIONAL MICROPHONE

Time	Notes
00:42	7-8 years living in Portland, moved to Portland to attend Reed College
01:00	Attended Reed College for 1.5 years, 8 year break, resumed studies at PSU in Fall 2010
01:25	Studies Geography with GIS minor
01:44	Became involved with Portland Collective Housing in 2003
02:38	Motivation for involvement: non-hierarchical collective-management, and self-management as well as politics of housing
02:56	Parents have history of community involvement (e.g. anti-gentrification groups in Boston)
03:32	Has lived at the SE house for 5.5 years
03:39	6 people occupy the house; low turnover/high stability in residence
04:14	Most difficult aspect of the non-profit status was receiving the status: first application was outright denied, length of approval time and review process was long, banks were difficult to deal with
	Maintaining the 501C3 status is much easier than initially receiving it

04:42	
04:54	Choosing the non-profit: assets cannot benefit an individual if the house/non-profit dissolves, no taxation
06:06	The simplicity of the 501C3 played a major role in deciding to use that particular model
06:19	Involvement with National Co-Op movement: At the beginning PCH became a member of NASCO
06:34	NASCO originated with student-housing co-ops but has expanded to include non-student housing as well
07:07	NASCO provides a lot of help in the loan process
07:26	Local business co-ops are a source of support for co-op housing
07:49	Community aspect of collective living is enticing

Time Notes

07:54	Sustainably speaking collective housing utilizes space and energy resources more efficiently
08:40	Negative aspects of communal living: personality conflicts & major falling-outs
09:28	Turnover can be a problem because it upsets the existing responsibilities/collective memory of the house
10:14	No specific effects on school life, particularly no major distractions
10:36	Monthly meeting details for PCH
11:04	Importance of low-income housing: Witnessed friends being evicted, price gauging, landlord issues, house-flipping
11:52	Important to maintain affordable housing within the city center; in opposition to gentrification
12:28	Personal Conflicts: mediation and conflict resolution not often used but is available

13:02	In her time as Chair of the Board for PCH her role has been as a financial planner, refinanced to pay for major repairs (new roof & insulation)
14:29	Consensus decision making: Feels good to come to a unanimous conclusion rather than a majority/minority
15:09	Votes are sometimes held when consensus cannot be reached
15:26	Large part of living with the group is accepting/coming to terms with compromise
15:56	Better communicator as a result of living in a collective situation
16:39	Defines Sustainability: “society that can provide for its own needs while not compromising the needs of future generations”
17:04	Personally, PCH embodies social/economically sustainable practices
17:54	Generally the amount of trash generated by the house (6 people) in one week is a kitchen-size trash bag
18:19	Sustainability is a major goal; specifically focused on social and economic sustainability
18:38	Environment sustainability is also a concern: have made the houses more energy efficient
18:59	Interested in grants for alternative clean energy options (rain water capture & solar perhaps)
20:04	Individual progress is tied to the community as a whole (city wide as well as locally)
20:34	Achievements: refinancing, obtaining money for repairs, seeing the collective house come together as a whole
21:15	Pronunciation Corrections
