



## Community Involvement Committee

July 8, 2009

**Committee Members Present:** Paula Amato, Judy Bluehorse Skelton, Liz Gatti, Judith Gonzalez Plascencia, Anyeley Hallova, Brian Heron, Jason Long, Shirley Nacoste, Linda Nettekoven, Lai-Lani Ovalles, Stanley Penkin, Rahul Rastogi, Ryan Schera, Howard Shapiro, Angie Thompson, Jon Turino

**Absent:** Amy Cortese

**Staff:** Susan Anderson, Christine Appleberry, Deborah Stein, Kim White

**Guests (on agenda):** Afifa Ahmed-Shafi (Portland Office of Neighborhood Involvement)

**Visitors:** Gary Marschke

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### Agenda

- Welcoming remarks
- Self introductions
- The Portland Plan: a brief overview and Q+A
- Defining the CIC's charge
- Related City efforts for promoting inclusive public involvement (Afifa Ahmed-Shafi, ONI)
- Next Steps:
  - Convene subcommittee to work with Howard on refining a draft charter
  - Meet as a full committee on Wednesday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 8:30-10:30, Rm. 2500A

**Welcome** – Howard Shapiro and Susan Anderson

Howard opened the meeting with a brief welcome, followed by an introduction of Susan Anderson, Director of Portland's Bureau of Planning and Sustainability.

Susan explained that the goal of the committee is to create a story that Portlanders can help write, develop, and support; one that speaks to our collective desire for a prosperous and healthy community. Some see the Portland Plan as simply an update of the City's Comprehensive Plan, but it is much more than that. Staff has been and will continue to look to the values expressed by Portlanders through the VisionPDX process and will merge those values with fact-based information to inform the project. She stressed that the job of the CIC is to gather input from and represent a diverse group of people, not just through the neighborhood association process but in multiple ways.

She listed those managers in the bureau (BPS) that will play a role in the Portland Plan process:

Eric Engstrom, principal planner – will take the lead for getting the plan done.

Deborah Stein, supervising planner – will lead the outreach/communication portion of the plan

Steve Dotterrer, principal planner – will lead on content of the plan

These three will report to Joe Zehnder, Chief Planner.

Howard closed the introduction by saying how happy he was to see how few committee members know each other. He realizes this will change as the committee works together, but it reflects how successful the selection committee was in bringing new people to our process. He briefly explained that he wants this committee to have an impact on the process by distilling the public involvement efforts of the Portland Plan and providing that information to the Planning Commission. He expressed that the committee's job is to make sure that the next generation of Portlanders loves living here as much as we all do, and that the Portland Plan will be a roadmap for getting us there.

## **Self-introductions - All**

Most of this first meeting was given over to the committee members and staff to introduce themselves, including describing why they are passionate about Portland and what inspired the committee members to volunteer for this effort. (Bios of the committee members will be posted on the Portland Plan website within the next several weeks:

[http://www.portlandonline.com/portlandplan/.](http://www.portlandonline.com/portlandplan/))

## **Overview of Portland Plan Process – Deborah Stein**

Deborah explained that she hoped that one of the committee's jobs would be to help staff be as inclusive as possible in the process and to allow us to get everyone's "fingerprint on the plan." She sees the Portland Plan as a 20-year blueprint that will need to take into account such overarching themes as income disparity, climate change, and changing demographics. Outcomes from the VisionPDX project will be used as a cornerstone, and we will want to stray true to the values expressed through that process.

In addition to our desire to update the Comprehensive Plan, there's a state requirement to do so. We envision a three-year process, with year one focused on developing a Concept Plan—through formal and informal conversations with Portlanders—which will be used to inform the more detailed work of updating the Comprehensive Plan maps and documents. The hope is that the completed Concept Plan will describe a general growth strategy for the City and will include desired outcomes, action items, measures, etc. as well as ways to monitor the City's progress in achieving its goals.

The Concept Plan will identify and look at large themes that have been voiced through the process so far (e.g., "20-minute neighborhoods") and will combine numbers, background data, and stories to express what these themes mean to Portlanders. During the development of the Concept Plan it will be important to use both traditional and nontraditional ways to communicate information to staff and from staff. Several current ideas include staff presentations at the more traditional forums (e.g., neighborhood and business associations) and less traditional ideas such as using a software game to educate the public on the process and allow them to "plan" urban form changes and immediately see the intentional and unintentional impact that those decisions might have.

## **Questions & Answers - all**

Q: Many communities prefer to be approached more directly than is typical with City outreach efforts. Will the committee be tapped to help reach these social, cultural, or ethnic groups?

A: We will first tap the bureau's district liaisons to use the relationships they've established in their districts to do some of this work. We would then ask the CIC for their help where there is time for them to provide it. Additional ideas have included recruiting neighborhood "ambassadors" – citizens willing to go out and prompt neighbor-to-neighbor talks, using discussion guides. Other ideas have included an interactive website and opportunities to connect with the community through the Office of Neighborhood Involvement.

Q: How do you plan to handle the language barrier?

A: We have a contract for some translation service, but funds are fairly limited. It's a commitment we want to make, but we will likely have to find creative ways to fund the effort.

Q: There was a question about the role that district liaisons play in the community. One member attends his NA meeting regularly but didn't recall seeing their district liaison at any of the meetings in the past year.

A: In addition to attending neighborhood, business, and coalition meetings, they attend other gatherings in their districts. They work to build broad-based relationships throughout their districts to act as the "eyes and ears" on the street for the bureau. Staff will let the CIC know who the liaisons

are talking to and who we might be missing. We hope that this is also an area where the CIC can serve as watchdogs.

**Q:** How will crafting of the engagement process affect implementation? Is implementation part of the CIC's charge?

**A:** Not directly. The work of the CIC will filter up to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will then take this information and make it part of their recommendation to City Council, effectively requesting implementation of the plan.

#### General Comment - Community Connections Map

Anyeley Hallova suggested that one resource that could be helpful for staff and committee members would be a map of the CIC's individual connections to the broader community. She has used such a map in past projects and found them helpful. There seemed to be interest in learning more about this so she offered to provide a template of the map for others in the group to use in creating their own.

#### **Defining the CIC's charge – Howard**

Howard distributed a draft of a committee charter for consideration. There was some group discussion about the language, particularly about incorporating the group's desire to gather and interpret Portland's "story." After a bit of discussion, it was decided that a task group would meet to work on the larger ideas for the charter and save wordsmithing until a fuller draft could be developed. Volunteers for this task group are Liz Gatti, Brian Heron, Stanley Penkin, Rahul Rastogi, Ryan Schera, and Howard Shapiro. They will communicate by email and through at least one task group meeting before the next CIC meeting on July 29.

#### **Related City efforts for promoting inclusive public involvement – Afifa Ahmed-Shafi (ONI)**

There was little time left for Afifa to explain how the Office of Neighborhood Involvement can assist us in our public engagement work. She will come again to explain in more detail and answer questions, but she did want the group to know that "you are not alone" in your efforts. In addition to ONI's work in the community and their experience with best practices, there is a city advisory committee (Public Involvement Advisory Committee) that is comprised of an equal balance of City staff and community representatives that may also be able to provide guidance with our work. More on this at a later meeting...

#### **Next Steps**

- Convene subcommittee to work with Howard on refining a draft charter
- Anyeley Hallova will provide a Community Connections map template for others to use if they choose.
- A draft of CIC bios was distributed. Please review your bio and provide changes to Kim White, [kwhite@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:kwhite@ci.portland.or.us). This will be posted by the next meeting to the Portland Plan website: <http://www.portlandonline.com/portlandplan/>.)
- Christine Appleberry will email everyone a CIC roster with contact information (sent 7/8/09)
- At the Mayor and Commissioner Fritz's request, two more committee members will be added to the CIC, one representing the Portland Business Alliance and one representing the neighborhood coalitions. We hope to have these committee members in place for our next meeting.
- Meet as a full committee on Wednesday, July 29, 8:30-10:30 a.m., Rm. 2500A.