Portland Plan Sponsors Quarterly Meeting Tuesday, November 30, 4-6pm City Hall, Rose Room 1221 SW Fourth Avenue

In Attendance:

Sponsors:

Chris Deffebach (Metro)

Karen Gray (Parkrose School District)

Bruce Warner (Portland Development Commission)

Richard Springer (West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District)

Steve Rudman (Housing Authority of Portland)

Lolenzo Poe (Portland Public Schools)

Neil McFarlane (TriMet)

Alan Lehto (TriMet)

Liz Smith-Currie (Multnomah County Commissioner Deborah Kafoury's Office)

Mary Moller (Office of President Wim Wiewel, Portland State University)

Staff:

Mayor Sam Adams (City of Portland)
Joe Zehnder (Bureau of Planning and Sustainability)
Deborah Stein (Bureau of Planning and Sustainability)
Steffeni-Mendoza Gray (Office of Government Relations)
Amy Ruiz (Office of Mayor Sam Adams)
Kali Ladd (Office of Mayor Sam Adams)
Raihana Ansary (Office of Mayor Sam Adams)

Welcome and Introductions: (Mayor Adams)

We want to implement the Portland Plan without assuming a lot of additional cost to the City and by using existing resources.

Drivers of change are strategies. "How?" is the new "What?" We need to emphasize how we will achieve our objectives.

The Cradle to Career Initiative is an example of an education driver of change.

The 20-minute strategy is also a driver of change. We need to address the food desert issue throughout the City. One possible recommendation is a RFP for neighborhoods.

Discussion of State and Federal Legislative Agenda (Steffeni-Mendoza Gray)

Status Report on Portland Plan (Joe Zehnder)

The Draft Portland Plan will be available for public review at the end of July 2011. It will go before Council for adoption by the end of 2011.

Overview of Initial Draft Education Strategy (Joe Zehnder)

Discussion of Education Strategy (All)

General comments about the strategy:

Lolenzo Poe: It's significant that we are looking at data and outcomes.

Kali Ladd: Students need support inside and outside of school—the responsibility for student success cannot rest on the shoulders of educational institutions alone. Karen Gray: The Cradle to Career Initiative represents unprecedented alignment among partner agencies and organizations. A new governance model was agreed on today, with Portland Schools Foundation at the helm. A Living Cities grant provides funding as well as national recognition.

Karen Gray: Looking at the draft Education strategy, it's clear that partners need to focus on fewer things and stick to priority goals. These priority goals fit into the Portland Plan.

Kali Ladd: Indicators will evolve (become more specific) over time. We've learned that we haven't been tracking the most telling data. Liz Smith-Currie added that there may be existing data from the Annie Casey Foundation that could be useful.

Karen Gray: There are a lot of smaller organizations out there as well that may be included in the discussion.

Kali Ladd: Facilities issues are often overlooked yet there are huge impacts on achievement.

Karen Gray: I'm concerned that the Education strategy is too "Portland Public Schoolscentric" and does not apply broadly enough to other school districts. The GIS maps in the PowerPoint that Joe shared only show Portland Public Schools. In its next draft, the strategy should call out the issues that are common to all Portland school districts and actions should cover the city, not be concentrated in any one district.

Steve Rudman: We need to address student mobility through housing stability. Rent subsidies offer a significant intervention that can demonstrably boost student achievement.

Karen Gray: Parkrose is going out for a bond in May 2011 to replace a middle school.

Overview of the 20-minute Neighborhood Strategy (Joe Zehnder)

The City of Portland has 158 miles of corridors and main streets of which a third is being fully utilized.

Walkability is not only influenced by the existence of sidewalks and infrastructure but by economic development and topography.

Discussion of the 20-minute Neighborhood Strategy (All)

Neil McFarlane: Building sidewalks has really resonated in TriMet discussions. It is broader than a City strategy and should be talked about at the regional level.

Steve Rudman: I agree but it is difficult to implement. Need to take into consideration that East Portland is the largest supplier of workforce housing in the city. The bike/ped focus is strong in Portland but basic improvements in outer East Portland need to be addressed.

Neil McFarlane: Improving sidewalks is critical to support infill development.

Chris Deffebach: Since the 20-minute neighborhood encompasses many elements, there are multiple ways/solutions to improving it: sidewalks, housing, services, etc.

Karen Gray: It'd be great if the City and Metro focused on enhancing Gateway as a regional center. Basic improvements need to be made before services relocate in areas.

Neil McFarlane: Other partners possible—even Wal-Mart could be approached to build sidewalks.

Bruce Warner: how will the Portland Plan be packaged for City Council consideration? What is the set of Comprehensive Plan map changes, /investment details, etc.? Joe Zehnder replied: The first product for City Council to approve are the strategies. Upon approval, it will be another 18 months for the update of the Comprehensive Plan, as one of several Portland Plan implementation measures. The Comprehensive Plan will include prioritization areas and projects. Capital improvements prioritization will be addressed during the budget season at the end of the year in 2011.

Next Steps:

Joe Zehnder and the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability will follow-up with Portland Plan Sponsors individually to get more input/feedback about how to work with their respective agencies and organizations around strategies as well as how to improve them.

The next Portland Plan Sponsors meeting will likely take place sometime in February 2011.